

FLORANews



Newsletter of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's Flora Group

Autumn 1999

Dear Flora Group Member

During the Flora Group's AGM held at Rushmore and Conholt Downs in May, a number of suggestions were put forward for future events and training sessions. Since then the Flora Group Committee have been making arrangements for identification training days covering grasses, sedges and rushes, ferns and roses. In the meantime we hope to see you at some of the events planned for the coming autumn and winter seasons.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 5 September 1999 - 10.45am Joint event with Sussex Botanical Recording Society

The Sussex Botanical Recording Society have invited us to join them for a joint field meeting in SU 72, the aim being to add vascular plant records for Atlas 2000. Part of the day will be spent in the West Sussex part of the recording unit. Dr Nigel Johnson and Dr Gwynne Johnson have kindly offered to lead the other half of the day which will be spent in the Hampshire part of the square. Meet at 10.45am at SU 776239 in the layby on the northern side of the A272. Bring a packed lunch.

Saturday 30 October 1999 - 2.00pm Talk by Dr Francis Rose: 'Plants of Hampshire'

This event will be held at Swanwick Study Centre at SU 505098. There is easy access from junctions 8 and 9 of the M27. Contact Debbie Wicks at the Trust office for further details and to book a place. Tea and coffee provided

Saturday 13 November 1999 - 2pm
Bishopstoke Community Centre,
Church Road, Bishopstoke
Atlas 2000 Third Exhibition meeting
(For details please refer to section of
newsletter relating to Atlas 2000 in South
Hampshire.)

Saturday 27 November 1999 - 10.30am Red-tipped cudweed conservation task at Fleet

Leader: Chris Hall

Once again Chris Hall has kindly agreed to lead a work party to help conserve the population of red-tipped cudweed *Filago lutescens* on the road verge at Broomhurst Farm. This cudweed is one of Britain's rarest wild plants and without management at this site it would not survive as it would become over-run by gorse and brambles in a few years. Come along to help manage the site and contribute to the survival of one of Hampshire's special plants. Meet at 10.30am at the entrance to Broomhurst Farm off the B3013 north of Fleet (grid reference SU 812563). Tools will be provided but bring a garden fork if you have one. It is likely that the necessary work will be completed during the morning.

Saturday 23 January 2000 - 10.30am Scrub clearance in the New Forest

Leader: Neil Sanderson

Neil Sanderson and Clive Chatters have recently monitored the results of the work undertaken by FG members at Stony Moors during January 1999 and have reported that the response of the flora has been excellent with very fine fen communities emerging. Neil has kindly offered to lead another half-day scrub clearance task to benefit the flora of base-rich patches in New Forest valley mires. Once again the work will be aimed at conserving restricted species such as bog

sedge *Carex limosa* and slender cotton grass *Eriophorum gracile*. Meet at the Stony Moors car park (grid reference SZ 211993) near Holmsley Campsite at 10.30am. Expect cold weather and wet conditions underfoot. Tools will be provided but bring your own if you wish. If you require more information, please contact Neil on 01703 844442.

Biodiversity Action Plan Workshops:

- 1 Saturday 5 February 2000:
11.00am-2.00pm
New Forest Museum - Lyndhurst
- 2 Saturday 12 February 2000:
11.00am-2.00pm
Swanwick Study Centre SU 505098
- 3 Saturday 19 February 2000:
11.00am - 2.00pm
Greywell Village Hall

You may recall reading about the Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan in the previous Flora News (Spring 1999). Volume 1 of this Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was published last autumn and lists 114 flowering plants which are of conservation concern in Hampshire. The Wildlife Trust has taken responsibility for co-ordinating work on the species element of the Hampshire BAP and FG members have a valuable role to play in this process. If you are interested in discovering how you can help to implement some of the BAP targets, come along to one of the workshops arranged during February to find out about various species survey and monitoring projects and to offer expert input to feed into the growing BAP database. To enable as many FG members as possible to attend one of the workshops, separate events have been arranged in different parts of the county. Please bring a packed lunch; tea and coffee will be provided. The meetings may be followed up with a reserve visit if so desired. If you would like to find out more about the Hampshire BAP, please contact Debbie Wicks at the Trust office.

ATLAS 2000

Atlas 2000 Progress Report - North Hampshire

Well, here we are heading towards the final stages of Atlas 2000. There has been plenty of rain, hail, lightning bolts and even the occasional tornado to dodge. The rabbits seem to have been particularly adept at digging traps in the long grass too, but hopefully some last minute attention is being given to those nondescript little sedges and small-flowered *Epilobiums* that we all love so much.

Please ensure your records reach me by mid-October at the latest so that I can add them to my final lists. We can then all sit back and congratulate ourselves on a job well done, await publication of the book, catch up on the gardening until the next project.

Mike Wildish

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Illustration by Sarah Murphy

Atlas 2000 Progress Report - South Hants

The end is in sight. We are on course to make final submissions of records from S Hants in October and the totals for individual squares are large. I think that the new Atlas, when published, will again demonstrate that Hampshire is the richest county in the country. The work by individual recorders has been enormous and a staggering number of records have been made in just three years. The database now contains 182,000 records covering 1836 species, aggregates and sub-

species. However it is still missing some species, particularly hybrids and you may have records for these, post 1987. Some of the plants have not been seen for many years, but if any records are available then they will be extremely welcome. The number refers to the page in the Flora of Hants.

Species Name	FofH
<i>Alopecurus aequalis</i>	282
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> ssp. <i>foemina</i>	143
<i>Antennaria dioica</i>	240*
*[Last seen in 1930s]	
<i>Arenaria balearica</i>	115
<i>Aster laevis</i>	242
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	242
<i>Astragalus glycyphyllos</i>	169
<i>Avena sterilis</i> ssp. <i>ludoviciana</i>	278
<i>Calystegia sepium</i> ssp. <i>roseata</i>	
<i>Carduus x stangii</i>	229
<i>Carex x ducellieri</i>	266
<i>Carum verticillatum</i>	194
<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	231
<i>Cerastium pumilum</i>	116
<i>Chenopodium berlandieri</i>	111
<i>Chenopodium chenopodioides</i>	111
<i>Chenopodium opulifolium</i>	111
<i>Chenopodium vulvaria</i>	111
<i>Cicerbita macrophylla</i> ssp. <i>uralensis</i>	2
<i>Clinopodium calamintha</i>	207
<i>Drosera x obovata</i>	128
<i>Elytrigia x laxa</i>	285
<i>Elytrigia x obtusiuscula</i>	285
<i>Elytrigia x oliveri</i>	285
<i>Equisetum variegatum</i>	93
<i>Festuca ovina</i> ssp. <i>hirtula</i>	
<i>Filago arvensis</i>	240
<i>Filago pyramidata</i>	240*
*[Beaulieu Heath 1957]	
<i>Galeopsis speciosa</i>	205
<i>Hordehymus europaeus</i>	286
<i>Hypericum x inodorum</i>	125
<i>Impatiens noli-tangere</i>	188
<i>Juncus x surrejanus</i>	258
<i>Lilium martagon</i>	291
<i>Lysimachia thyrsiflora</i>	142
<i>Malva parviflora</i>	127
<i>Malva pusilla</i>	127
<i>Mentha requienii</i>	209
<i>Montia fontana</i> ssp. <i>variabilis</i>	
<i>Potamogeton trichoides</i>	253
<i>Potamogeton x salicifolius</i>	251
<i>Potentilla x suberecta</i>	161
<i>Prunella x intermedia</i>	206
<i>Prunus x fruticans</i>	165
<i>Ranunculus penicillatus</i>	
ssp. <i>pseudofluitans</i> var. <i>vertumnus</i>	
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	248

Species Name	FofH
<i>Rumex acetosella</i> ssp.	
<i>acetosella</i> var. <i>tenuifolius</i>	122
<i>Rumex x lingulatus</i>	123
<i>Rumex x schreberi</i>	123
<i>Salix x forbyana</i>	131
<i>Salix x mollissima</i>	130
<i>Salix x rubra</i>	131
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	190
<i>Scutellaria x hybrida</i>	205
<i>Senecio fluviatilis</i>	245
<i>Senecio x ostenfeldii</i>	246
<i>Senecio x subnebrodensis</i>	246
<i>Sisymbrium loeselii</i>	132
<i>Sium latifolium</i>	191
<i>Solidago graminifolia</i>	242
<i>Symphytum asperum</i>	201*
*[May have been found in Southampton. Awaiting confirmation]	
<i>Ulmus coritana</i>	107
<i>Ulmus minor</i> ssp. <i>sarniensis</i>	107
<i>Vulpia unilateralis</i>	274*
*[Farley Mount]	
<i>x Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i>	301
<i>x Dactyloglossum mixtum</i>	301

All records are welcome and in any form. A letter to me with date, grid, species and name will do and I am also interested in aliens, street weeds and casuals in arable fields.

Away Days

The Away Days have been taking place almost as scheduled and have gathered many new records for under-recorded squares. Although the clovers were a little burnt out when we were recording around Lepe, SZ49 we should be grateful we were not in SZ59 (Browdown & Lee on the Solent) which reached the highest temperature in the country so far this summer. This season seems to have been a very short one, but that's probably because it's the last recording season for Atlas 2000.

Third Exhibition Meeting

The meeting again proved popular and enjoyable and so will be held again this year. The date set is Saturday 13th November, when all the final submissions should have been made to BRC for the year. The database will be set up and so any lists can be printed and the distribution maps viewed. There will also be tea and cakes. Please bring any interesting specimens that you have had determined during the year so that other people can recognise them next year. Once again I would ask for donations to cover cost of hall.

Meeting from 2 p.m. until 4.30 p.m. at Bishopstoke Community Centre, Church Road Bishopstoke. Approach via St Margaret's Road and Sydney Road and there is lots of parking at the hall. SU467198

I will be making up the submissions during October this year so if you have any cards hidden away, or records in notebooks that are still to be transcribed, can you send them to me before October. I would like to thank the many many people who have so far submitted records and also thank you for answering my queries about dates and grid references. I would also like to thank Paul Bowman for his continuing assistance during this period.

Pete Selby.
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OBITUARY - PAUL BOWMAN

It was with great sadness we heard of the death of Paul Bowman in July. Paul was a cornerstone in the world of Natural History in Hampshire and will be much missed. He was born a Hampshire man with a lifelong interest in studying its wildlife. He is perhaps best known as the co-author of the Flora of Hampshire (1996) and as the BSBI recorder for South Hampshire and the recorder for the Southampton Natural History Society. But his interests were broader than botany; as a regular on the Scilly Islands Paul made the first British record of Black Throated Thrush.

Paul was meticulous in his work both in Natural History but also in his professional life as a Cartographer for the Ordnance Survey. He retired early from the OS having been awarded the British Empire Medal and committed himself to understanding and enjoying wildlife. His skill as a field worker was tremendous and his rigour in verifying records and confirming the precision of locations was inspirational.

There are many naturalists who owe a great debt to Paul for his encouragement and generosity. He was instrumental in helping many people on their way, both into conservation jobs, but also into a greater appreciation of the natural world.

It seems fitting that his name will always be linked to the New Forest. Along the roadsides between Cadnam and Minstead grows the hybrid horsetail *Equisetum x bowmanii*, described new to science by Paul in 1986 and still growing from strength to strength.

Clive Chatters

NEWS AND VIEWS

Summer Snowflake in South Hampshire

My contribution to Atlas 2000 has not been great, I found myself too busy for serious square bashing. One little project did suggest itself, after a discussion with Francis Rose, about the curious tendency for some pretty flowers to be assumed to be introductions when there is doubt about their status. There have been quite a few records of summer snowflake *Leucojum aestivum* from south Hampshire but considerable suspicion as to whether these were native. This species is both native in England and grown in gardens, so in the past there appears to have been little other than gut feelings to guide one in deciding if a colony was native or not. Many years ago, however, Kevin Hughes of Blackfield pointed out to me that the garden plant was rather different from the native plant. The native plant is larger, more floriferous, darker green and more frost hardy than the garden plant. Since then Floras now distinguish two sub-species, the native *Leucojum aestivum aestivum* and the west Mediterranean *Leucojum aestivum pulchellum*. Both Stace and Sell & Murrell state that *Leucojum aestivum aestivum* is grown in gardens but in a decade of visiting gardens I have never seen anything other than *Leucojum aestivum pulchellum*. In counties, such as Somerset (1997 Flora), where there is no doubt that summer snowflake is an introduction only *Leucojum aestivum pulchellum* has been recorded. If the native form occurs in gardens it is patently very rare and hence naturalised colonies of garden origin even rarer. Any *Leucojum aestivum aestivum* found in the wild must be taken seriously as a native colony. The Hampshire Flora does not distinguish the sub-species so it seemed a useful exercise to see if the extant south Hampshire colonies could be allocated to either sub-species. In this I was helped by Francis Rose, Tony Hare, John Norton and Clive Chatters. The survey concentrated on sites away from the River

Avon as the native subspecies has been already confirmed from this river system in Wiltshire and the spread downstream of a riparian species would be less than surprising.

The results were very interesting. The garden form was found at two sites: the very sub-urban Monks Brook, inside Eastleigh (SU 41) and by the River Meon at Droxford (SU 61). These sites are both near houses and would naturally have aroused suspicion, but the site on the Lymington River (SZ 39), which also has a house nearby, proved to be composed of magnificent plants of the native type. Other sites, which proved to have the native subspecies were: the colony on the Meon Navigation (SU 50), one on the Wallington River (SU 60) and at Badminton, Blackfield (SU 40). The site at Emsworth, south of the M27, was searched for but was not found. There was a large water garden in the area indicated and this record may have been of the garden type. A copy of our notes on the individual populations is available on request.

The map of the national distribution of this species in the new Red Data Book is very odd and confusing. It claims to show the distribution of *Leucojum aestivum aestivum* but shows introduction in counties like Somerset, where *Leucojum aestivum aestivum* has never been recorded! In south Hants, of the sites recorded by this survey, only SU 40 is shown as native, with SZ 39, SU 50 and SU 60 shown as introductions. If the latter are added, the national distribution begins to get very striking. The native form has been recorded from two areas, the catchment of the Thames and the former catchment of the 'Solent River' ie the Stour, the Avon, south of the New Forest, the Meon and the Wallington River. There is a single outlying accepted site in Devon.

One odd feature is that the wild form is much prettier than the garden form. Even more peculiar, a search on the Internet indicated that American nurseries sell *Leucojum aestivum aestivum*, not *Leucojum aestivum pulchellum*. An article in the 1993 Wiltshire Flora by Rosemary FitzGerald helps to make sense of this. Summer snowflake was first recorded as a garden plant by Gerard in 1599 and noted as being from Italy ie *Leucojum aestivum pulchellum* but the native form

Leucjum aestivum aestivum was not found until 1788. It appears the innate conservation of English gardeners has resulted in an inferior southern type of summer snowflake having been propagated in preference to the bigger northern form for centuries. In contrast Americans appear only to grow the superior northern form!

A final thought is the problematic nature of decisions on native status when no objective taxonomic or genetic criteria are present. This is a serious issue; assigning non-native status to colonies of rare plants can doom them if a threat to the habitat emerges. It clearly pays to keep an open mind and to err on the side of native status where there is doubt.

N A Sanderson

Hampshire Pond Survey

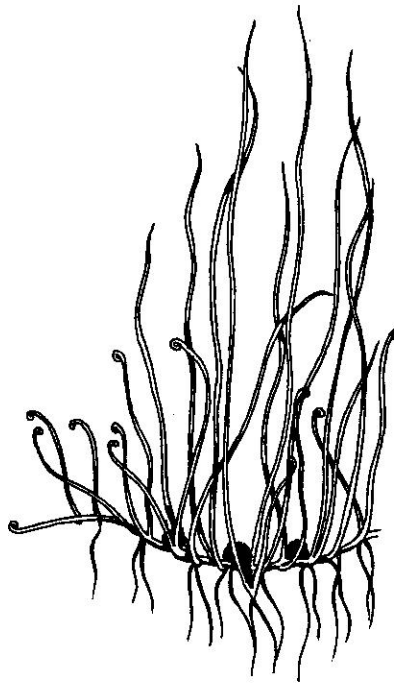
As part of the work of the Open Water Habitat Action Plan Group (part of the Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan) the need for a comprehensive county-wide pond survey has arisen. Various work has been done in past years both through the Wildlife Trust and by others. Part of the exercise will be to collate existing information and then add to this with further survey in 2000. Anyone interested in carrying out pond surveys should contact Debbie Wicks at the Trust office.

Micheldever Spoil Heaps

On 4 July 1999 a large number of FG members explored the interesting habitats at Micheldever Spoil Heaps. Before even leaving the car park we were delighted to find large specimens of cut-leaved germander *Teucrium botrys*. Other specialities recorded during the day included spring cinquefoil *Potentilla neumanniana* which we found in quantity. However, many of the special annuals were only just germinating and were very small at the time of the visit. We came across good populations of red hempenettle *Galeopsis angustifolia*, lesser snapdragon *Chaenorhinum minus* and mat-grass fescue *Vulpia unilateralis*. Geoffrey Field recorded wall bedstraw *Galium parisiense* and after the main FG event a small group led by Tony Mundell explored the woodland and discovered yellow bird's nest *Monotropa hypopitys* which had not been previously recorded at the Spoil Heaps. I have prepared a map showing the location of the more

important species recorded during the visit. If you would like a copy please send a stamped addressed envelope marked 'Spoil Heaps' to Catherine Chatters, whose address is given at the end of the newsletter.

Clive Chatters



Pillwort
illustration by Sarah Murphy

Code of Conduct

The Botanical Society of the British Isles (with support from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee) has published a "Code of Conduct for the conservation and enjoyment of wild plants". This is a very useful 12 page booklet which includes lists of plants protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Schedule 8 of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order, 1985. In addition, there are summaries on the legislation relating to the conservation of wild plants, introduction of plants to the wild, botanical collecting, photography and the harvesting of fruits, seeds and fungi. If you would like a copy of the booklet please send a stamped addressed envelope (at least 17cm x 25cm) marked "Code of Conduct" to Catherine Chatters.

Early Meadow Grass *Poa infirma* on Hayling Island

A Mediterranean species, early meadow grass *Poa infirma*, was first identified for the British Isles on Guernsey in 1914; but only confirmed as recently as 1950 from Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Since the early 1990s this range has been extended by the discovery of numerous localities in Devon and Dorset and very recently the somewhat surprising addition of Sussex.

With this latter discovery in mind a search of South Hayling Island seemed a good idea in view of a similar rich floral assemblage to that in Shoreham. Initial searches concentrated on the flora-rich dunes and shingles but after two hours of looking at mind-blowingly small *Poa annua* the search was postponed, and instead straightforward recording commenced adjacent to a south-facing wall. Almost immediately *P infirma* was spotted growing along with *P annua* on a small area of gravel adjacent to a road and the wall. A second locality was then discovered on a gravel track next to a bank and wall in the adjacent 1km square. On the basis of these two localities it was concluded that the *P infirma* seemed to be benefiting from a thermophilous micro-climate induced by manmade topography and structures with a south-facing aspect. Following this conclusion a further six localities were discovered in separate 1km squares ranging from Sinah Ferry on the west of Hayling Island to Sandy Point in the east.

Localities varied from bare patches adjacent to pavements in mown lawns, through rough tracks to sandy banks, with manmade thermophilous structures including walls, pavements and, in one circumstance, a raised manhole cover. The *Poa* seemed to avoid similar localities that were exposed to any great degree of sea breeze. Annual meadow grass *Poa annua* was the most consistent associate, but other species that occurred at some sites included *Trifolium suffocatum*, *Sagina procumbens* and exceptionally in one large, new locality for musk storksbill *Erodium moschatum*.

It has been suggested that *P infirma* is an overlooked species and this is partly true in view of small size and superficial similarity to *P annua*, combined with early flowering time. However the likelihood exists that *P infirma* has spread eastwards as far as Dorset

on the basis of global warming; but further east as the climate becomes a limiting factor, that *Poa infirma* is restricted to limited manmade locations. Certainly if this is the case then further localities can be expected to be discovered within the East Sussex coastal conurbation margin and also around Portsmouth and Gosport.

Paul Stanley and Pete Selby

NB: Since writing this article further localities have been discovered in Southampton, Lee-on-Solent, Gosport, Portsmouth and Sussex as far east as Lancing.

INTERESTING RECORDS

Dittander *Lepidium latifolium* - Stanpit 1692, G Armstrong 1995; B3335/B3354, Twyford 4723, P J Selby 1998. Probably introduced, however represent 1st and 2nd post 1930 records.

Coralroot bittercress *Cardamine bulbifera* - Park Hill Woods 5019, Mrs V Scott and Mrs A Hold 1997, 1st vc record. Probably introduced as well away from native localities in the Weald, Chilterns and Staffordshire.

Cotoneaster franchetii - Woodgreen Common 1717, J Ounstead 1998, conf J Fryer, 1st vc record.

Cotoneaster mairei - Somerley area roads.x 1207, G D Field 1998, conf Mrs J Fryer. 1st vc record.

Spear-leaved willowherb *Epilobium lanceolatum* - Chewton Common 2194, Mrs V Scott 1998, conf R P Bowman - 1st record for this scarce plant atlas species since 1969 in vc 11.

Verbascum densiflorum - Pennington 2996, Mrs V Scott 1998, det E J Clement - 1st vc record.
Balm-leaved figwort *Scrophularia scorodonia* - Burrow Island, Portsmouth Harbour 6200, Ms D Allan, conf E J Clement. Possibly the most significant addition to the county flora during 1998. The locality appears to be native as it is similar in nature to localities in the Channel Islands and West, and marks an eastward extension of its range from its next nearest locality near Swanage. In this way it is mirroring the behaviour of both *Polygonum maritimum* and *Poa infirma* which appear to be moving eastwards as a result of milder winters.

Veronica repens - naturalised on lawns of Mud Island Nurseries, North Boarhunt 5910, P D and P C Stanley 1998, 1st vc record for this mainly Scottish species. Worth looking out for as has a superficial

similarity to *Veronica serpyllifolia* and appears to be being grown in gardens more frequently.

Doronicum x willdonowii - Chewton Farm 2294, Mrs V Scott, 1998. Conf E J Clement 1st vc record.

Petasites albus - Stonyford woodland 3215, Mrs G Thornton 1998, 1st vc record.

Orobanche rapum-genistae: on old gorse bush at edge of Holly Hat on open Forest. Edge of plateau above Two Beeches Bottom, Bramshaw Wood (SU 251165). N A Sanderson 25/5/99.

Silene gallica: in parched acid grassland on road bank of Cone Road, Bordon, just outside of the Hospital (SU 79653470). Found previously by Gareth Matthes and confirmed on 19/7/99 by N A Sanderson.

Mentha pulegium pennyroyal mint. Another population has been found on the open Forest. The new populations are in Ashurst Walk SU 3408. Discovered by Elizabeth Young July 1999. This exceptionally rare plant is scattered across the New Forest where it has its national stronghold. A species that appreciates hard grazing and seasonally wet places.

Orobanche hederæ Ivy Broomrape. A group of plants found in a garden at Itchen Abbas by Jenny Sloan in June 1999. Confirmed by Mervyn Southam. A rare plant in Hampshire but more common on the Island. SU 5333.

Lotus subbiflorus hairy bird's foot trefoil. A strong population growing on spoil dug from cuttings along the Totton western bypass. C Chatters July 1999. SU 1332.



Devil's Bolete
Illustration by Sarah Murphy

NOTE ON THE STONY MOORS TASK, NEW FOREST

Four people turned up to tackle some of the shallow scrub, which has invaded calcareous seepage step to the east of the important site. Good progress was made with much of one very wet runnel being cleared after a good soaking by several of the cutters. Initial observations of the response to clearance are promising with masses of *Valeriana dioica* and *Eupatorium cannabinum* flowering. Open mossy flushed fen is developing on the sloping part and taller fen in the very wet area at the base. Much more remains to be done here and we will be returning there this winter.

Neil Sanderson

ARTICLES FOR FLORA NEWS

The Flora Group Committee will be starting work on compiling the spring 2000 edition of Flora News. We would be very pleased to receive notes or articles from Flora Group members for inclusion in the next, or any future, edition of the newsletter. If you would like to prepare something, however short, please send it to Catherine Chatters whose address is at the end of the newsletter. Thank you.

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