

Spring 2008



Hampshire &
Isle of Wight

Flora News

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

Dear Flora Group Member,

The Flora Group committee members hope that you had an enjoyable time botanising last year and we look forward to seeing you at some of the events in 2008.

This year our AGM will be held at Fleet Pond on Saturday 31 May 2008. If you would like to join the Committee, please let Catherine Chatters know prior to the AGM. Catherine's address and telephone number are given at the end of this newsletter. As usual, we are always keen to receive your suggestions for events and activities. Please raise your suggestions at the AGM or pass your ideas to any of the Committee members.

We are always keen for more people to provide contributions to Flora News on any relevant botanical topics. If you have enjoyed any of the Flora Group events and would like to write a report on it for Flora News, we would be very pleased to receive it. Please send your articles, notes or reports to Catherine.

Forthcoming Events

There is normally no need to book a place on Flora Group events beforehand, unless the text specifically requests it. A contact 'phone number is only given in case you wish to know more about the event. The leader can be expected to turn up whatever the weather (although it may then be mutually agreed to cancel the event)!

Saturday 9 February 2008, 10 am – 4 pm.

Leader: Christine Taylor

Herbarium Workshop, Hampshire County Museums Service, Winchester

All places for 26th January are now taken, but there are still vacancies on this second date. This meeting will give members a chance to learn herbarium pressing and mounting techniques, and to see how useful a public herbarium collection can be.

The provisional programme for the day is as follows.

10am - 10.15am	Coffee and introductions.
10.15 - 10.45am	Why, what and how to collect. (Martin Rand)
10.45 – 12 noon	HCCMAS herbarium, types of plant material, storing and handling collections, introduction to mounting herbarium specimens. Making paper capsules.
12.00 – 12.30pm	Demonstration of pressing & drying, positioning, laying out and mounting plant specimens.
12.30 – 1.00pm	Lunch (bring your own)
1.00 - 3.00pm	Practical work – pressing and mounting specimens using a variety of techniques and different types of plant material.
3.00 – 3.15pm	Coffee
3.15 – 3.30pm	Introduction to plant database.
3.30 – 4.00pm	Where to get herbarium supplies, and round up session.

Because of restricted space in the museum collection, numbers will be strictly limited to 8 on a day. **To book your place** and receive directions, please contact Martin Rand by phone (023 8036 0395) or email (vc11recorder@hantsplants.org.uk) with as much advance notice as possible.

There will be a charge for this meeting. The full price of £10 will cover refreshments during the day, a booklet 'Looking after Plant Collections', notes on what and how to collect, and a comprehensive set of materials to take away for mounting your own specimens. Alternatively £2 will cover refreshments during the day and the booklet and notes only. The fee is payable on the day but please let Martin know which option you require, as kits will need to be made up in advance.

Saturday 23 February 2008, 10.30am – 3pm

Conservation work party for *Arabis glabra*, Tower Mustard. Joint meeting with Plantlife and Kingsley Wildlife Group.

Leader: Tony Mundell/Dominic Price

This is one of Hampshire's rarest plants but it is getting overwhelmed by scrub. Join us to help cut away some encroaching brambles and scrub. **Meet initially at 10.30am at Kingsley Centre car park beside the B3004 at SU788382**, opposite the church. This will enable us to minimise the number of cars going on to the site itself (at SU778 377). Join us for just an hour or two but bring sandwiches if you want to stay a little longer.

We will certainly finish no later than 3pm. Some tools will be provided, but bring at least stout gloves if you can.
Contact: Tony Mundell 01252 614516.

Saturday 1 March 2008

Mapmate Workshop, Southampton University

Leader: Martin Rand

This one-day 'hands on' training session is based on Day 1 of a 2-day course given by Bob Ellis and Martin Rand to BSBI county recorders. It will provide beginners, as well as those who currently make fairly basic use of Mapmate, with the skills to use it effectively and get more out of it for day-to-day use. It is aimed mainly at those who will submit botanical records to the BSBI recorders; these records will then go to benefit the Hampshire Wildlife Trust, the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre and their users.

The course will cover data entry (including shortcuts for efficient entry); reporting; basic map design; data exchange and data backup. As a prerequisite you need to be familiar with the Windows user interface and how to navigate your way around using mouse and keyboard.

The Wildlife Trust has generously undertaken to cover most of the costs of the day, but there will be a charge of £7.50 per person for the day, **payable in advance**, which will include hot drinks. Attendees should bring their own food.

Numbers will be strictly limited to ensure everyone gets personal attention. All initial booking enquiries to Martin Rand, please, who will then advise you on arrangements for the day and sending your remittance.

Martin Rand, 21 Pine Road, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, Hants SO53 1LH.

Tel: 07957 361015

Email: vc11recorder@hantsplants.org.uk

Saturday 12 April 2008, 10.30 am

Leader: Martin Rand

Hampshire Rare Plant Register Survey, Martin Down

Following the very successful meeting in 2006 to check up on the many scattered historic sites for Dwarf Sedge (*Carex humilis*) in western Hampshire, we are ending this species survey with a heroic if rash attempt to map the distribution on its stronghold, Martin Down, at a 100-metre scale. As light relief, there should also be an opportunity to look at the few Pasque Flower (*Pulsatilla vulgaris*) plants here.

Meet at the car park at the end of Sillen Lane, Martin, SU057191. **No booking needed**, in fact the more the merrier, but please bring any of the following you possess: GPS, mobile telephone, compass, clipboard. Routes can be graded according to stamina and inclination but the more energetic can expect to cover several kilometres. Bring picnic lunch, suitable footwear and appropriate clothing for the day, given that this can be an exposed site. Further details from Martin Rand, phone 07957 361015 or email vc11recorder@hantsplants.org.uk.

Saturday 26 April 2008, 10.30 am

Leader: Martin Rand

Joint BSBI / Hampshire Flora Group Meeting

Hampshire Rare Plant Register Survey, New Forest

This meeting is to update records of *Pulmonaria longifolia* for the Hampshire Rare Plant Register. Many records in the central New Forest are old, and it has declined considerably in some sites since the 1960s. On the other hand new site management initiatives in some of the woodland Inclosures may revive some populations.

Attendees will be despatched in small groups to widespread sites across the central and southern Forest with the aim of getting the record up to date and observing site condition. Bring GPS, mobile phone and clipboard if you have them. Further details from Martin Rand, phone 07957 361015 or email vc11recorder@hantsplants.org.uk. Numbers not limited, but please **book in advance** as he would like some idea of numbers and available vehicles for planning purposes.

Saturday 31 May 2008, 10.30am – 4pm

Flora Group AGM and Visit to Fleet Pond

Meet at Fleet Pond Car Park SU825553

Leader: Tony Mundell/Colin Gray (Fleet Pond Society)

The car park is accessed across a railway bridge off the A3013 at SU830555 and then driving west to the end of the bumpy track adjacent to the railway. Bring a packed lunch and suitable footwear for very wet marshy ground. Weather permitting we will spend the day slowly walking around the full perimeter of the pond and have permission to botanise in the adjacent grazed marshes normally closed to the public, which have a rich flora. Following our usual tradition, the (very brief!) AGM will be held al-fresco as we munch our sandwiches.
Contact: Tony Mundell 01252 614516.

Sunday 1 June 2008, 10.30am.

Leader: Martin Rand

Sowley Marsh, New Forest coast

By kind permission of the owner, this is an opportunity for Flora Group members to see a stretch of the fascinating New Forest coast that is not normally accessible to visitors and is botanically little recorded. Time and conditions permitting, we may also be able to look at some of the very interesting arable flora in this area.

Further details from Martin Rand, phone 07957 361015 or email vc11recorder@hantsplants.org.uk. **Please book at least two weeks in advance** as he will need to give the owner some idea of numbers and vehicles.

Saturday 7 June 2008, 10.30am.

Leaders: Jonathan Crewe and Martin Rand

**Joint Dorset Flora Group / Hampshire Flora Group /
Wiltshire Botanical Society meeting
Martin and Pentridge Downs**

The "serious" part of this meeting is to cover all known sites in the area for Early Gentian (*Gentianella anglica*) and hopefully, with the aid of many eyes, to better the counts of just a few plants seen on Martin in the last couple of years. Naturally, on these downlands at this time of year, there will be many other delights and distractions, including a chance to see Burnt-tip Orchid (*Orchis ustulata*).

Meet at the car park at the end of Sillen Lane, Martin, SU057191. **No booking needed**, in fact the more the merrier, but please bring any of the following you possess: GPS, mobile telephone, clipboard. We shall split into two groups, one working the south-eastern part of Martin Down and going on to Pentridge Down (6-7km), the other covering the north-west part of Martin Down and Vernditch (variable, 7-8km but with a chance to "sit out" on part of the route). Bring picnic lunch, suitable footwear and appropriate clothing for the day, given that this can be an exposed site. Further details from Martin Rand, phone 07957 361015 or email vc11recorder@hantsplants.org.uk.

Sunday 29 June 2008, 10.30 am – 4 pm

Pilot Hill and surrounding area (Facombe, near Hurstbourne Tarrant)

Organiser: Peter Billingham

Meet at car park opposite side of road from Jack Russell pub in Facombe (SU390579), from where you will be directed to another car park.

Pilot Hill (SU 398597) is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), which has become accessible only over the last 2 years as a result of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act. It is part of the Facombe Estate and situated in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It is classic, uncultivated chalk downland, swathed, amongst many other species, with Horseshoe Vetch and supports Adonis and Chalkhill Blue Butterflies. Most outstanding is a huge population of Fragrant Orchid, in both pink and white forms. We will also look at some nearby woodland.

From the car park in Facombe to Pilot Hill is about 2 miles walking and, with diversions, total walking distance is likely to be some 6 miles. The sides of Pilot Hill are steep, so appropriate footwear should be worn and a walking stick would be helpful for those that might need one (like your organiser). Bring lunch.

To get to Facombe: Take the A343, Newbury Road, north from Andover. Just before reaching the speed de-restriction sign on the north side of Hurstbourne Tarrant, fork left along a minor road, then after about 1.5 miles turn right and follow the road for a further 2 miles to Facombe. In Facombe, take the first turn left and the Jack Russell is about 100m on the right. Meet in the car park opposite the pub, where further directions will be

given. Contact: Peter Billingham on 01264 736359

Saturday 5 July 2008, 10.30am – 4pm

Visit to Noar Hill

Meet on grass verge near Charity Farm at SU737321

Leader: Tony Mundell

Noar Hill is a wonderful site, bursting with many different Orchids and other interesting wildflowers. This event is aimed mainly at beginners, so we will potter very slowly and find out what plants are there and how they are identified. Bring a packed lunch. There will be plenty of time to take photographs.

Contact: Tony Mundell 01252 614516.

Sunday 3 August 2008, 10.30am – 4pm

**Joint meeting with Surrey Botanical Society to visit
Bourley Bottom and Bricksbury Hill near Aldershot**

**Meet at car park off Bourley Road, between
Tweseldown Racecourse and Aldershot, at
SU831510**

Leader: Tony Mundell

This will be quite a long walk up and down steep hills, crossing the Hampshire /Surrey border, but we will take it very slowly. The habitats include ponds and heathland with spectacular views from the top of Caesar's Camp. Bring a packed lunch.

Contact: Tony Mundell 01252 614516.

Saturday 20 September 2008, 10.30am.

Leaders: Dominic Price and Martin Rand

Joint Plantlife / Hampshire Flora Group meeting

**Hampshire Rare Plant Register / Plantlife Survey,
East Beaulieu Heath**

This meeting is to check out sites for Marsh Clubmoss (*Lycopodiella inundata*) in and around East Beaulieu Heath, where a number of older records have not been re-confirmed recently. There will also be an opportunity to hunt for some older records of Pillwort (*Pilularia globulifera*), Hampshire-purslane (*Ludwigia palustris*) and Slender Marsh-bedstraw (*Galium constrictum*). After the meeting, those unfamiliar with the area can be shown a nearby site for Coral-necklace (*Illecebrum verticillatum*).

Meet at the Forestry Commission car park at Dibden Inclosure (SU406055), which is reached by a gravel track turning N from the B3054 Beaulieu road just SW of the roundabout and junction with the A326 Hythe by-pass. **No booking needed**, but please bring any of the following you possess: GPS, mobile telephone, clipboard. Further details from Martin Rand, phone 07957 361015 or email vc11recorder@hantsplants.org.uk.

Bryophyte identification guide

Members who attended the bryophyte training day at Selborne on 17 November 2007 will be pleased to know that Dr June Chatfield has now managed to obtain the BBC Wildlife bryophyte identification guides. If you would like a copy please contact June direct on 01420 82214 or send a SAE (11cm x 22cm) with two 1st class stamps to Anglefield, 44 Ashdell Road, Alton, GU34 2TA.

Reports of Recent Events

Stony Moors 15 July 2007 - a report by Neil Sanderson

This meeting aimed to look at the progress of the large scale habitat restoration at calcareous mire of Stony Moors (SZ2199). This has been undertaken by Forest Enterprise in the last few years. The mire is the largest and most impressive of the marl influenced spring fed mires in the New Forest, with parts of the mire strongly calcareous and tufa depositing, along with transitions into acid valley bog vegetation. Parts of the mire had remained in good condition, but the integrity of the site was seriously threatened by two related factors. A deep channel was being eroded up into the mire from a canalised section down stream in Holmsley Inclosure; the nick point of this channel was advancing rapidly into the upper undamaged section of the mire. In addition, most of the lower section of the mire had been invaded by Sallow and Pine scrub and the rich open mire communities replaced by poorer secondary woodland communities.

The Flora Group helped to highlight the perilous condition of this mire and cleared a trial area of Sallow scrub of the mire in the winters of 1998/9 and 1999/2000 (Flora Group Newsletter Autumn 2000). This remained open and high quality rich fen vegetation recovered (Flora Group Newsletter Spring 2006). Recently Forest Enterprise took up the challenge of restoring this mire. Under LIFE 3 they drew up a restoration plan and in 2004 and 2005 carried out all of the planned work. The scale of this was remarkable: all the recent scrub has been cleared, leaving extensive areas of regenerating open rich fen set with scattered dry islands supporting retained ancient woodland. In addition, the over-deepened channel was completely in-filled at the upstream end and in the lower section the bed was raised by installing debris dams and washing gravel down stream.

Our meeting was carried out under the threat of rain, but we avoided the worst, and walked the whole site. To achieve the latter I employed the stratagem of shepherding the group to the far end of the mire, leaving the whole length between the group and the cars. This had the advantage of first walking through the rich grasslands of the "heathland brown field site" by the WWII airfield runway site on Plain Heath.

Here the more acidic, but very floristically mixed up, grasslands alongside the runway site produced the usual abundance the Near Threatened (NT) Wild Chamomile *Chamaemelum nobile* as well as Allseed *Radiola linoides* (NT). Some useful comparisons could be made with several Eyebright and Violet species present. The NT *Euphrasia anglica* was in abundance and could be told from the common *Euphrasia nemorosa* not just by peering at its glandular bracts using a lens but, from head height by the conspicuous overall paler green colour of the plants. *Viola riviniana* was widespread, but I

also located patches of both the NT *Viola canina* and the Vulnerable *Viola lactea*. With these I tried to convince people of my contention that these species are actually easier to do after flowering, as the leaves are mature by then and the leaf shape differences more marked.

On the actual runway a stronger calcareous influence from broken concrete could be seen with Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium acaule*, Hairy Violet *Viola hirta* and Wild Thyme *Thymus polytrichus*. Some magnificent Knotted Pearlwort *Sagina nodosa* was found here and the declining moss *Calliergonella lindbergii* (*Hypnum lindbergii*) noted in winter damp hollows.

North of the campsite a broken up dispersal pad produced Small Cudweed *Filago minima* and Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor* along with the Nationally scarce lichens *Cladonia cariosa* and *Peltigera neckeri* and the local lichen *Peltigera canina*. Worrying, however was the presence of the nasty invasive exotic Pirri-pirri-bur *Acaena novae-zelandiae*. This was passed on to FE and added to their long list of problem species sites on the Forest.

We then reached the main area of recently cleared mire. This was looking very good and the cleared mire surface now supported mature looking short rich fen vegetation. Several specialist species which had disappeared under the scrub had reappeared including Few-flowered Spike-rush *Eleocharis quinqueflora* and Marsh Arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris* and the mosses *Palustriella falcata* (*Cratoneuron commutata* var. *falcata*) and *Scorpidium cossonia* (*Drepanocladus cossonia*) widespread. Other species present included Quaking-grass *Briza media*, Star Sedge *Carex echinata*, Tawny Sedge *Carex hostiana*, Flea Sedge *Carex pulicaris*, Hoary Willowherb *Epilobium parviflorum*, Slender Club-rush *Isolepis cernua*, Bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, Pale Butterwort *Pinguicula lusitanica*, Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis*, Marsh Valerian *Valeriana dioica* and the moss *Campylium stellatum*. Quite encouragingly I was unable to locate the area cleared earlier by the Flora Group. The recently cleared areas had matured so much that this area, still obvious in 2005, had become obscured.

After lunch we reached the eastern edge of the former scrub invasion front. Here the original mire could still easily be picked out by the abundance of Black Bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans* and Great Sundew *Drosera anglica*. Neither of these showed any sign yet of spreading into the cleared areas. Other species that appear not to have spread back are Meadow Thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, Lesser Bladderwort *Utricularia minor*, the moss *Scorpidium scorpioides* and the liverwort *Preissia quadrata*. The latter is a fine looking plant that was doing very well here, in probably is only extant lowland site. Although it has not spread east, it is much more frequent here than before the adjacent scrub was cleared. Monitoring whether these species eventually spread into the cut areas would be a useful exercise. Also seen here was the striking Large Marsh Grasshopper *Stethophyma grossum*, now more or less confined to New Forest and Dorset mires.

An exploration through the western upper section of the mire was rewarded with Lesser Water-plantain *Baldellia ranunculoides* (NT) in a track ditch and a single plant of Broad-leaved Cottongrass *Eriophorum latifolium*.

We ended by walking up towards Magpie Green into more acidic mire, with the regionally rare Bog Moss *Sphagnum contortum* frequent in the transition between alkaline and acid mire. The day was called when a strong colony of *Pilularia globulifera* was spotted where a stock crossing cut through a soakway. Finally back at the car park Gareth pointed out a population of the Endangered Pennyroyal *Mentha pulegium* in road ditches just by the campsite.

Trip to The Warren and Combe Hole on 29 July 2007 – a report by Tony Mundell

Although this area has been designated as Open Access land under the CROW Act, before the meeting we tried hard, but unsuccessfully, to trace the land owner in order to request permission for the visit. As our group of 15 HFG members initially walked down the track towards the site, some of us spotted a couple of people and a Land Rover at The Warren. I suspected that this could include the owner, so I rushed ahead to speak to them. In fact one turned out to be Guy Jordan, who manages the shooting rights for the owner, the Earl of Huntingdon. To my surprise the other person was John Topp, who was well-known to me, as he had led a holiday that I had been on, botanising in Spain. It turned out that they were personal friends. Anyway this paid off as we got permission to also explore some of the adjacent arable field margins.

We notched up a respectable species list for the chalk grassland, including the hybrid between Ladies Bedstraw and Hedge Bedstraw (*Galium x pomeranicum*). There was also a very curious form of Hoary Plantain (*Plantago media*) with very long narrow leaves. With hybrids on the brain I wondered if it might even be a hybrid with Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) that grew next to it, but I was persuaded that this was extremely unlikely.



Flora Group at Combe Hole by Tony Mundell

Clustered Bellflower (*Campanula glomerata*) was in fine form but sadly we failed to re-find Round-headed Rampion (*Phyteuma orbiculare*). A few plants of this had been recorded in 2004 near the base of the chalk hill

at The Warren and I was keen to confirm it, as this is well away from its known distribution in Hampshire. The slopes were extremely steep and it was quite a struggle for some to climb up The Warren then descend down into Combe Hole. Peter Billingham, for one, was forced to abandon the mountain climbing but told me that on the way back he was rewarded with sightings of three raptor species; Buzzard, Kestrel and Red Kite.

After resting for lunch, lazing in the (rare) summer sun, it was quite an effort for the others to get going again, but we eventually moved on to explore the arable field margins nearby. Undoubtedly the plant of the day was found in this habitat. It was a clump of the very rare Spreading Hedge Parsley (*Torilis arvensis*). This is an arable weed that has severely declined in Britain in recent years, mainly due to the use of farming herbicides. Because of this decline the latest (2005) Red Data List classes it as Nationally Endangered. There is quite a scattering of old records for it across Hampshire, but this contrasts with the last



Spreading Hedge Parsley (*Torilis arvensis*) by Tony Mundell

10 years, where, until the recent discovery, there were records for only three locations. It was growing beside an uncommon grass, Smooth Brome (*Bromus racemosus*) – a voucher specimen was later confirmed as this by Dr Tom Cope.

It seemed odd that only a single clump of Spreading Hedge Parsley was present, so following on from the HFG meeting

Sarah Ball, who lives nearby, decided to search other field edges nearby over the following few days. This eventually resulted in a substantial colony of around 50 clumps being found.

A list of the finds made on his land was subsequently sent to the Earl of Huntingdon, William Hastings-Bass.

Coward's Marsh 18 August 2007 – a report by Martin Rand

11 people showed a reckless disregard for the weather forecast and assembled at the entrance to Coward's Marsh, in the Avon valley north of Christchurch. It was decided that with the promise of heavy rain for the afternoon, we would limit the trip to about 4 hours and concentrate on Coward's Marsh itself, especially as Ogber was almost completely waterlogged at the time.

Coward's Marsh is grazing common that starts on the heathy fringes of St Catherine's Hill and runs down to the Avon through flood-plain grassland that is under water for much of the winter (and, in 2007, much of the summer too!) A number of drains and streams cross the area, and

the variations in soil and water chemistry give rise to a diverse and unusual mix of plant communities.

We entered the area by the stock pens, where bare sandy ground gave us Mossy Stonecrop (*Crassula tillaea*) growing with characteristic species such as Sand Spurrey (*Spergularia rubra*) and Bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*). However we soon turned our attention to the wetland and ditches nearby, where Arrowhead (*Sagittaria sagittifolia*) was flowering and fruiting conspicuously. Here too were Lesser Marshwort (*Apium inundatum*), Marsh Yellow-cress (*Rorippa palustris*), Marsh Speedwell (*Veronica scutellata*) in its hairless form, Marsh Cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*), Floating Club-rush (*Eleogiton fluitans*), and, most pleasingly, a few plants of the nationally threatened Marsh Stitchwort (*Stellaria palustris*). Here it was possible to squat damply in one spot and examine four species of Persicaria: Amphibious Bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*), Redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*), Water-pepper (*Persicaria hydropiper*), and the dainty and nationally threatened Small Water-pepper (*Persicaria minor*), which grows here in astonishing plenty. Despite the tireless exhortations of the leader who thinks it "really ought to" be here, no-one managed to find the rare Tasteless Water-pepper (*Persicaria mitis*) which is elsewhere in the Avon Valley wetlands but has not been recorded here. The extreme variability of the Pond Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus peltatus*) under different conditions gave rise to some puzzlement but there was some typical flowering material to hand for confirmation.

A violent squall of rain had the party diving for their cagoules and leggings but fortunately at this stage of the day it proved short-lived. As we moved northwards through the marsh, the influence of more acid soils and hydrology became apparent, with Bog Pondweed (*Potamogeton polygonifolius*) and Marsh Willow-herb (*Epilobium palustre*) joining such plants as Tufted Forget-me-not (*Myosotis laxa*) in the ditches. Drier ground supported a mosaic of dry and damp acid grassland. On the driest spots, bracken swards with a little Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) supported characteristic grasses including Fine-leaved Sheep's Fescue (*Festuca filiformis*) and sedges such as Pill Sedge (*Carex pilulifera*) and Sand Sedge (*Carex arenaria*). A good stand of one of Hampshire's commoner and latest-flowering Hawkweeds (*Hieracium umbellatum*) was growing amongst the Bracken. Damper short turf had several patches of Knotted Pearlwort (*Sagina nodosa*), in full flower and admired by all. Damp heath with sparsely scattered Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*) and characteristic plants like Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*), Creeping Willow (*Salix repens*) and Oval Sedge (*Carex ovalis*) gave way to quite boggy conditions in places, with even a little Common Cotton-grass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*).

By the gate into Ogber we were able to survey the soggy thatch of a failed hay crop – Ogber is hay meadow with grazing on the aftermath – but also to admire a strong colony of Yellow Bartsia (*Parentucellia viscosa*) growing on both sides of the boundary. A ditch here, at first thought to contain only Lesser Pond-sedge (*Carex acutiformis*), soon proved to have Bottle Sedge (*Carex*

rostrata), the robust and almost hairless form of Hairy Sedge (*Carex hirta* var. *sublaevis*), and some fruiting spikes one of which was taken into custody on suspicion of being Slender Tufted-sedge (*Carex acuta*).

From here we made our way back along a ditch leading to the River Avon. Nodding and Trifid Bur-Marigold (*Bidens cernua* and *B. tripartita*) growing in close proximity gave a chance for comparison. The river subsequently yielded the fertile Blue Water-speedwell (*Veronica anagallis-aquatica*) while the ditch had the equally fertile Pink Water-speedwell (*V. catenata*) and the sterile hybrid between them (*V. x lackschewitzii*). The ditch and adjoining marsh also produced quantities of the Red Data List Tubular Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe fistulosa*), and good examples of the very robust form of Marsh Bedstraw, probably referable to the genetically distinct *Galium palustre* subsp. *elongatum*, which is a great feature of nearby Ogber. Duckweeds seen included Common Duckweed (*Lemna minor*), the alien Least Duckweed (*Lemna minuta*), Greater Duckweed (*Spirodela polyrhiza*) and a second stand of the Ivy-leaved Duckweed (*Lemna trisulca*) but even by the main river we were unable to find Gibbous Duckweed (*Lemna gibba*) seen here in the past – the Avon was running fast and high.

Despite the high water levels and a miserable headwind now bringing in continuous rain, a little grapnel action in the river soon produced an interesting haul that included Rigid Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), Horned Pondweed (*Zannichellia palustris*), Fennel Pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*), Stream Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus penicillatus* subsp. *pseudofluitans* var. *pseudofluitans*) and Spiked Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*). One very robust narrow-leaved Pondweed was taken away for further examination. A plant 'rather like' Shining Pondweed (*Potamogeton lucens*) but with inconspicuous marginal leaf-teeth also came out. Only afterwards did the leader realise that this was the spot from which the hybrid *Potamogeton x salicifolius* has been recorded at intervals over the last 110 years. So here is something for further investigation.

It now only remained to cross the intervening grazing marsh back to our starting point – a feat more easily spoken of than accomplished. As we staggered cursing and calf-deep over the poached and inundated land, the only botanical novelty to lift our spirits was a scattering of tufts of Brown Sedge (*Carex disticha*) spotted by Neil Sanderson. But all agreed that it had been a fascinating and rewarding trip, and those who had no previous knowledge of the site were promising themselves another visit in more favourable conditions. Although well-known to a number of local botanists, this and several other sites nearby have a rather thin computer record, and it proved a good opportunity to bring old records up to date and add quite a few new ones. Thanks are due to all those who took part and contributed to the recording effort.

Duncliffe Wood 29 September 2007 – a report by Jonathan Crewe

A total of 14 members of both Dorset and Hampshire Flora Groups met at the site on a very damp but not quite rainy day. Andrew Branson had arranged for us to park in a nearby property owned by Norman Heywood, Hon Secretary of the Friends of Duncliffe Wood, of whom more later. We set off for the site in increasing drizzle (apparently good weather for bryophytes!) and attempts to manage a formal recording card were quickly abandoned in favour of a notebook. Fortunately, Andrew's gifts as a teacher quickly helped us to forget the weather as he began to bring the diverse moss flora to life.



Hampshire Flora Group at Duncliffe Wood by Tony Mundell

The first lesson appeared to be – look for ditches and banks, where variations in moisture and light levels create microhabitats suitable for a range of mosses. According to my blotted notes the first moss found was *Eurhynchium praelongum*, Common Feather-moss, and this was followed by *Hypnum cupressiforme*, Cypress-leaved Plait-moss. This species was more or less familiar to the novices but we quickly found that it has now been split into several separate species, so not quite as simple as we had hoped.

We moved on through the wood, which rolls around the contours of the land to give excellent views in good weather, although hard to observe on the day. Some time was spent looking at ferns and discussing the subspecies of *Dryopteris affinis*, Scaly Male-fern, before returning to mosses. Andrew showed us some of the species found on the trunks of the ash and beech trees present in the wood. We also received a brief grounding in liverworts, just managing to make out the tiny form of *Microlejeunea ulicina*, Fairy Beads. A sighting of rather withered *Epipactis purpurea*, Violet Helleborine, just before leaving the woodland was an incitement to return in the summer to look more thoroughly at the vascular plants, as well as the bryophytes.

Norman Heywood very kindly gave us tea and biscuits and told us more about the wood and the work of the Friends group before we went our separate ways back into Dorset and Hampshire. Many thanks to Andrew Branson for an excellent introduction to woodland bryophytes.

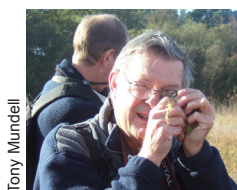
News and Views The Dutton Prize

Congratulations to Flora Group members Martin Rand and Tony Mundell for jointly winning the Dutton Prize. This annual prize for volunteers was created by the Trust to honour the work of major benefactor The Hon. Miss Joane Dutton. Martin and Tony were jointly nominated for the Prize, in recognition of the amazing amount of work they do for the Flora Group.



Martin Rand

They both serve on the committee and organise a tremendous number of events. They are particularly keen to encourage people to develop their botanical knowledge and their enthusiastic, yet patient, teaching skills have benefited so many of us. Martin and Tony also manage to find the time to be Vice County Recorders for BSBI so, through them, Flora Group has excellent links with the wider botanical community. Above all, their friendliness and enthusiasm for plants and their habitats is simply infectious!



Tony Mundell

In Memoriam - John Ounsted

Flora Group members will be saddened to learn that John Ounsted died recently at the age of 88 on 2nd December 2007. John, who lived at Woodgreen in the New Forest, was a friend and inspiration to many fellow botanists. John studied at Winchester College and Trinity College, Cambridge where he obtained a Double First in mathematics and moral sciences. John was a man of many talents; for example while still at Cambridge he taught himself Russian well enough to publish a couple of books on translations of Russian classical poetry. He became a teacher, with mathematics as his main discipline but continued to pursue his interests in bird watching and botany. His daughter, Tanya, remembers her father taking his vasculum on plant-hunting expeditions in the vicinity of their flat in Birmingham; when he returned her mother would use her watercolour paints to colour the illustrations of the plants he'd found in their copy of Bentham and Hooker. Tanya recalls her father's 'moss craze' and 'sedge craze', botanical visits to the Chilterns and wonderful camping holidays when they enjoyed lots of fresh air. Tanya remembers proof reading her father's manuscript of the Flora of Alderney. John was on the committee of the Linnean Society and was an honorary fellow of the Botanical Society of the British Isles. Anyone who knew John is very welcome to attend a Thanksgiving Service at St Boniface Church at Woodgreen in Hampshire at 2pm on Saturday 12 January 2008. John taught at Leighton Park School in Reading for 22 years where he was the Headmaster and where he was invited back to open a new mathematics block named after him. A service will also be held at Leighton Park School at 3pm on 16 March 2008; please contact Tanya Hawley on 01189 843069 for further details.

New and Interesting Lichens and Associated Fungi from Hampshire 2006 – a report by Neil Sanderson

Wessex Lichen Group

The Wessex Lichen Group has now had three meetings, two in Hampshire and one on the Isle of Wight. The meetings have been well attended and I hope successful in involving newbies in lichens. The two meetings I led were at Busketts Wood on the 26th April 2007 and at Blashford pits & Rockford Common 23rd September 2007. In both the concentration was on demonstrating lichens, rather than recording but with a start in such a rich site as Busketts Wood, then vast numbers of rare species were spotted including 14 RDB species and a further 27 Nationally Rare or Nationally Scarce species not listed in the RDB. Species of interest included the second record from the UK from Oak of the Holly specialist Near Threatened *Mycoporum lactea*, a magnificent *Rinodina isidiodes* (Near Threatened) colony on an Oak at the picnic spot, only the second for Busketts and the Vulnerable *Collema fragrans* on a Beech root. Finally on a known tree for the Endangered *Megalania laureri* Beech a white *Strigula* with large pycnidia, with 8 - 11 septate conidia 36 - 44µ long was collected. A new draft *Strigula* key suggests that this may be *Strigula tagananae*, new to Britain! The specimen has been sent to an expert and a result is awaited.

At Blashford we looked at a remarkable site developed on washed waste sand used to infill a sand pit and then sown with grass seed in 1992. It is now the richest acid soil lichen site known in Hampshire. The site provided a wonderful profusion of *Cladonia*, which I hope was a good training experience. On the day we recorded 41 lichens from the grassland, including 18 *Cladonia* species, bring the total recorded from this habitat since 2004 to 63 species, of which 23 were *Cladonia*.

The Near Threatened *Leptogium palmatum* (previously *Leptogium corniculatum*), was still doing well in its then only (see below) lowland English site. The surprise, however, was the crash of the formerly massive *Cladonia cariosa* population to a few scattered individuals. The species may be quite ephemeral, but surface acidification may also be a factor. We found a few more new species in the lichen heath, the oddest was *Cladonia caespiticia*; this does occur on the ground in the woods in the New Forest but I have never seen it in heathland this far east. The location for this oceanic species was quite damp and shaded from the west. Also new were *Peltigera canina* and *Cladonia uncialis*, both good indicators of good quality habitat, which appear to be late colonisers here. Another typical late coloniser, *Cetraria aculeata*, had also clearly considerably increased its cover since 2004/05.

The next scheduled meeting of the Wessex Lichen Group will be to Portland Bill in spring 2008 (date yet to be determined) led by Bryan Edwards. To be put on the mailing list please email Sheila Street at les@street63.fsnet.co.uk.

Leptogium palmatum

Leptogium palmatum is a Near Threatened RDB species, which was discovered at Blashford pits in 2004. This was the first confirmed record from lowland England since a 1930s record from Stonycross in the New Forest. The species has its stronghold in winter damp lightly used sandy tacks in mid Wales and Dartmoor. Since its discovery in the 15 year old site at Blashford, I have assumed there must be some surviving sites in the New Forest area; colonisation from mid Wales seemed unlikely. At the WLG meeting at Blashford we had a look at the old gravel pit at Rockford Common afterwards in hope of locating a site but with no luck.

The assumption that it was still on the Forest was confirmed on the 11th October but, as is typical, not in any targeted search and in a location where I must have stood on the species before. While carrying out a condition assessment for Natural England I recorded a plot in Parched Acid Grassland at the east of Boltons Bench, in an area disturbed by WWII buildings (SU309 080). In among an abundance of the regionally rare moss *Racomitrium elongatum* I found small plants of *Leptogium palmatum* scattered over at least a few square meters, possibly more. These Forest plants were considerably smaller than those at Blashford and sheltered between breaks in the canopy of this robust moss in a slightly trampled area of grassland. During the same project a further colony of *Leptogium palmatum* was found at Setley Pond car park (SZ3022 9921), again among *Racomitrium elongatum*. Here it was found at the edge of a heavily trampled area and was frequent over 20cm and occasional in about 1m². Again the plants were small compared to the Blashford plants. The two Forest sites suggest a habitat of growing in canopy gaps within robust mosses at the edge of trampled areas.

The mystery of the origin of *Leptogium palmatum* at Blashford is solved; *Leptogium palmatum* has survived on the open Forest as small, easily overlooked plants in very open and short dry grassland.

New Forest "Brown Field" Sites

Giving a lecture on New Forest lichens and conservation at the recent conference at Brockenhurst reminded me that not much systematic work had been done on the lichens of the disturbed grasslands developed on the areas disturbed by war time installations within the open Forest. As Martin Rand emphasised at the same conference, these heathland brown field sites (his term, I like it) are very important for declining vascular plant species. They are certainly not in the same league as the old woods for lichens but they do add to the diversity of the open Forest lichen flora, including one of the sites for the Near Threatened *Leptogium palmatum* described above. Lumps of concrete add only common concrete weeds but flints set in concrete have the county rare *Rhizocarpon concentricum*, otherwise confined to a few downland sites. More widespread downland species include occasional occurrences of *Agonimia tristicula*, *Bacidia bagliettoana*, *Bilimbia sabuletorum*, *Cladonia pocillum* and *Leptogium schraderi*. Recent fieldwork has added the Nationally Scarce *Agonimia gelatinosa* from soil on the ripped up runway of Beaulieu Airfield (Nov

2007, SU3500 & 3301). Less lime loving local species are *Cladonia cariosa* (Nationally Scarce), *Cladonia foliacea*, *Diploschistes muscorum*, *Peltigera canina*, *Peltigera neckeri* (Nationally Scarce) and *Peltigera rufescens*. Some of the most interesting records, however, have come from my herbarium. These included the Nationally Scarce *Leptogium tenuissimum*, which I had collected from Beaulieu Airfield in 1998, and had identified correctly, but had forgotten about. This is still the only record for the county. In addition, the herbarium produced a variety of diversely named small *Leptogium* species, which when run through a draft key from the new Lichen Flora came out as *Leptogium intermedium* (Nationally Scarce); recently added to the British flora and new to the County. As well as records for Plain Heath Airfield (2006 SZ21 99) and Beaulieu Airfield (2007, SU3500 & 3301) from the Forest, the species occurs in coastal habitats with records from shingle grassland on Hurst Spit (1996 SZ31 89) and a sea wall on the east side of Hayling Island at Northney Marsh (2003 SU73 03). Finally it was also recorded from north Hampshire growing in monitored Parched Acid Grassland colonising a road verge, Woolmer Link Road, Woolmer Forest (2007, SU78 31).

Isle of Wight

A contract survey of Briddlesford Copse in April and May 2007 for the People's Trust for Endangered Species produced a good crop of new species for the island.

Enterographa soledata: the most significant find, on veteran Oak in field, Wootton Bridge (SZ54 90). First record from the Isle of Wight for this BAP veteran Oak specialist species, and the 16th 10km grid square record, making this species Nationally Scarce rather than Nationally Rare.

Bactrospora corticola: on dry side of mature *Quercus x rosacea*, standard in Oak coppice, Briddlesford Copse, VC10, Isle of Wight, (SZ54 90), April 2007. A mainly northern Nationally Scarce species, which is rare in southern England.

Catillaria nigroclavata: on the trunk of a mature Aspen, on edge of overstood coppice Briddlesford Copse (SZ54 90), May 2007, Confirmed B J Coppins. A probably rather under recorded Nationally Scarce specialist of Aspen.

Chaenothecopsis nigra: lignum on standing dead Oak in long abandoned coppice on flood plain, Great Copse (SZ55 90). A Nationally Scarce specialist of standing dead trees.

Cliostomum flavidulum: on a suppressed mature *Quercus x rosacea*, in Oak dominated high forest derived from coppice, Big Wood, Briddlesford (SZ54 90). A not unexpected record of a much under recorded Nationally Scarce species of old woods.

Eopyrenula grandicula: on old Hazel in overstood coppice, Hurst Copse (SZ54 91) also Great Copse (SZ55 89), April 2007. A Nationally Scarce specialist of veteran Hazel, near its known eastern limit here.

Also new to the Island were two very under recorded species *Bacidia arnoldiana* (SZ54 91) and *Strigula taylorii* (SZ55 90) from rain tracks on Oak and Ash respectively.

New Forest Epiphytes

As usual the New Forest woods are still producing important new records. A New Year jaunt with Bryan Edwards, Andy Cross, Louise Olley and Andrew Branson to follow up the recent discovery of the Critically Endangered *Enterographa elaborata* at James' Hill produced new records for the Endangered *Megalania laureri* and *Collema fragrans* and the Vulnerable *Bacidia incompta*, all on Beech in an area suffering partial canopy collapse.

This was followed on the 20th January by the discovery of the second extant live Beech in Britain with the Critically Endangered *Enterographa elaborata* on the edge of a canopy collapse area on a damaged Beech in Denny wood. This discovery crystallised thoughts I had been having about the association between canopy collapse episodes within Beech dominated stands and rare lichen diversity. What to many looks like a terminal event to the wood is actually promoting biodiversity; that is species that are rare because of the tendency for managers to rush in and "save" such stands by rapidly regenerating them.

The last good find for the 2006/07 season, excepting the Wessex Lichen Group meeting, was the Near Threatened New Forest veteran Oak specialist species *Enterographa soledata* (SU33 07) found 31/3/07 at Matley Wood.

The new season, after the distractions of summer, started with a couple of visits to Bakers Copse in the HWT Roydon Woods reserve. This is an old growth pasture woodland formed by minimal intervention started by the creation of a landscape park from normal countryside with veteran trees in the hedges in the 18th century; just shows what is possible with time. I knew this important and unusual wood was due for a revisit and was able to snatch some lichening time during these visits: one during condition assessments (3/10/07) and one leading a bryophyte meeting for the BBS Southern Group (13/10/07). In spite of neither visit concentrating on lichens an impressive haul of new records was obtained.

The best find was two trees for the Vulnerable wound track species *Bacidia incompta*, one on a Beech and one on a very canker affected Ash. The latter is the first record from an Ash in the Forest. Also important was another new site for Near Threatened *Enterographa soledata* and the NT *Rinodina isidioides*. Other new records were the Nationally Scarce species *Cladonia incrassata* Oak lignum, *Chaenotheca brachypoda* Alder lignum, *Chaenothecopsis nigra* Oak and Alder lignum, *Lecania cyrtellina* Maple and *Macentina stigonemoides* Elder. The bryologists had a good time too and refound the only Hampshire site for the liverwort *Porella cordaeana* and found the moss *Orthotrichum sprucei*, very rare in both Hampshire and the lowlands and new to the reserve and the Lymington River catchment. Both were on riverbank trees.

Finally a dog walk in Denny Wood (6/10/07) located the second New Forest site for *Buellia hyperbolica* on an acid Oak in the canopy collapse area at Cathedral Beeches at (SU33 06). This is a Mediterranean – Atlantic species of well lit very acid bark on veteran trees (the centre of its range is in montane Mediterranean Chestnut forests) classed as Vulnerable and recorded from only three other British locations.

Sedges of the British Isles Edition 3: BSBI Handbook No 1 – a note by Martin Rand

The first thing that will strike users of the previous editions of this handbook is the change in size: half as large again in format, and over twice as long! So it's no longer quite a book for the pocket, unless your botanising garb has "poacher's pockets". There are three main reasons for the increase: for the first time, all British members of the Cyperaceae are covered, not just *Carex*; hybrids are given a very thorough treatment; and considerably more ecological information is included.

The coverage of all members of the family is especially welcome. For *Carex* species, the original excellent illustrations have been largely retained and 'sharpened up', but with some redrawing of individual elements, especially vegetative anatomical detail. Hybrids get their own entirely new drawings, as do the members of the other genera, and these are well up to the standards set by previous editions. Floral parts are particularly well covered, but sometimes one could wish for a little more vegetative detail, for instance to illustrate the sheaths of *Eleocharis*.

The treatment of *Carex* species closely follows the earlier editions. There are a few name changes, made necessary by naming precedence rules, but no radical revision of the taxonomy; fortunately this is pretty stable for British sedges. Descriptions mostly closely follow the originals. The key to fertile specimens, as well as including all other genera, has had a bit of a structural overhaul with some slight simplifications, but in general, how well you get on with it probably depends on how well you got on with earlier editions. The vegetative key has been dropped entirely, so we shall have to wait for John Poland's book to recover this benefit. One very welcome innovation is the introduction of comparative tables for hybrid sedges and their parents. Since these cannot be determined from a simple 'yes / no' evaluation of one or two characters, this approach is very necessary. They have also been applied to the whole of the *Carex nigra* group. I believe that the same treatment could usefully have been extended to some other groups, to overcome problems that beginners may have distinguishing on single characters in the main key.

A full set of distribution maps is included. These are very up to date (post-dating Atlas 2000) and have been interleaved with the main species descriptions, a page to a taxon, which makes for very clear reading. Notes on conservation status are also added. At the risk of making the book even bigger, I would have valued some brief

information on both these aspects outside Britain.

The introductory section on structure has been expanded to cover the extra genera, and information on ecology has been expanded. Both here and in the species accounts, relationships with the National Vegetation Classification are a very valuable adjunct. I'm not sure how useful people will find the cluster analysis of environmental factors without more statistical backup, but it does make for an intriguing diagram.

In short, this is a book that no-one with an interest in our native Cyperaceae can be without; it will be an indispensable companion in the field and at home. Its treatment of hybrids may well be unequalled in any other flora of the world, and should stimulate further fieldwork and study.

Jermy, A C, Simpson, D, Foley, M & Porter, M (2007). BSBI Handbook No. 1, Sedges of the British Isles, edition 3, BSBI, London. ISBN 0 901158 35 6

Available from: Summerfield Books, 3,Phoenix Park, Skelton, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 9SD
Email: info@summerfieldbooks.com

Martin Rand also has a couple of copies available at the pre-publication price of £15 to callers.

'The Wild Flowers of The Isle of Purbeck' – forthcoming publication by Edward Pratt

I am grateful for the opportunity to explain the thinking and purpose behind *The Wild Flowers of The Isle of Purbeck and Brownsea and Sandbanks* which will be published in April, because it is not a flora in the usual sense.

It arose from concern about the lack of up and coming botanists. Its chief purpose is to encourage more people into the joys of flower-hunting, and not to be put off by the number of flower species, nor by the preference of scientific names over English names.

The *New Atlas* showed that Purbeck is the richest area for its size in The British Isles in terms of numbers of native and anciently introduced species of higher plants. So what better place to see them and to learn to identify them? The book gives precise directions to the localities of less common flowers. Those who use it will not have to search a tetrad for a species, or even the 10,000 square metres of a six-figure map reference. Many localities are given to the nearest ten metres - for example "S side of road at Ailwood Farm" or "20m N of A351 by path 4". Use is made of parish public path and bridleway numbers, which are shown on the sketch maps in the book, so as to avoid longer descriptions like "path from Furzebrook road to near Cotness" which would add considerably to the length and price of the book.

The localities given are nearly all places where plants can be seen without permission having to be sought -

by public rights of way, or on land which is either open access under the Countryside and Rights Of Way Act 2000, or which is regarded as open access by the owner - like The National Trust or The Dorset Wildlife Trust. These open areas are shaded on the sketch maps. Just a few private locations are given imprecisely, in cases where the species can be seen on an annual organised walk, as on Arne Moors for example. Also no locations are given for seven species of orchid which are confined to one or two localities, because there has been some digging of rare orchids locally in recent years. So the book is not a complete record of the distribution of species in the area. The recent *Flora of Dorset* gives most such distributions.

Many readers will not be used to using map references, so eight-figure ones are only used in a few cases when there is a lack of physical reference points, chiefly on heaths. Scientific names appear with English ones in the Plant List (see sample below), but only English names are used in the Introduction.

There is however much in the book which will be of interest to those who are not beginners, for example points of distinction which work for distinguishing similar species, some descriptions of hybrids, and good numbers of locations for specialities of the area. There is also a brief epilogue, which draws on references to flowers in The Bible.

Similar books could be written for some other parts of the country. It remains to be seen whether this will be the first of a new genre of guides. Many people come to holiday in Purbeck and Sandbanks for their beaches, or to walk the Coast Path, but some other parts of the area are almost deserted, even in the height of the holiday season. They await discovery.

Example of entry in the Plant List -

Hairy Birdsfoot Trefoil - *Lotus subbiflorus* (*L. hispidus*)

Native. Occasional. Dry, bare sandy soil. May to August

Nationally Scarce

Norden, just NE of roundabout on track. Ower, by SW side of bridleway 7 10m N of crossing of bridleways 7 and 8, and here and there by bridleway 8 from same crossing to Game Copse. Godlingston Heath, 10m NW of gate on N side of bridleway 36 opposite E end of bridleway 35. Studland Heath, N side of Knoll Beach Road just W of coach park. Shell Bay, NW corner of car park. Lilliput, on triangle where Minterne Road, Alington Road and Bingham Avenue meet. Luscombe Valley, on bank at junction of Shore Road and Brudenell Avenue. Sandbanks, in lawn 10m S of entrance from Banks Road to small triangular garden S of junction of Banks and Shore Roads. Branksome Dene Chine, above promenade 100m NE of chine.

Not in all sites every year. See photo on page ...

There will be a pre-publication offer on www.bramblebybooks.co.uk from 5 February 2008.

A brief history ecological history of Greywell Moors – by Andrew Branson

Imagine if you will, a chill June morning in 1899, two people are picking their way between grazed tussocks of Greater Pond-sedge, a little distance away a group of cattle watch them, casually keeping their distance. The lady is heading resolutely for a more open patch of ground. In the slight haze across the glistening, bluish leaves of Bottle Sedge, she can make out the creamy white heads of a cottongrass. It looks slightly more compact than the others but it is in a treacherous part of the moors that even the cattle avoid. Her companion catches up and they both survey the scene. The slight rise and fall of the vegetation is picked out by yielding domes of bog-mosses, one or two crowned with rosettes of sundews. Between them, snaking drifts of bladderworts betray their presence by the primrose-yellow of their inflorescences. The sudden rasping call of a snipe breaks the silence and they move forward, testing each footing with their walking sticks. In a series of almost balletic moves they reach their prize: a small patch of trembling vegetation held above the almost liquid peat by its own root mass. The spindly, nodding plants are, indeed, different from the other cottongrasses – they have found Slender Cottongrass, *Eriophorum gracile*. The lady is Charlotte Ellen Palmer, from Odiham, and her companion is Bernard King; both are good friends of the doyen of British botany at the time, G Claridge Druce. They are also long-time friends and, in the case of King, a relative, of Frederick Townsend who, although he had already published his *Flora of Hampshire*, was still accepting records, which were eventually to be published in an enlarged second edition in 1904. Their gathering from that morning is still in the herbarium named after Druce at Oxford University.

The site is Greywell Moors, just downstream from the headwaters of the River Whitewater, although you will find it listed under a series of other names, from King John's Bog (part of the site is overlooked by the ruined keep of 'King John's Castle', at the edge of North Warnborough), to Odiham Marsh, Greywell Bog, Greywell Marsh and, more recently, Greywell Fen. During the 1880s and 1890s, Charlotte Palmer and her friends catalogued an array of classic fen plants from along this stretch of the River Whitewater: Round-leaved Sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, Marsh Cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris*, Water Avens *Geum rivale*, Bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, Southern Bladderwort *Utricularia australis*, Lesser Bladderwort *U. minor*, Marsh Arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris*, Early Marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata*, Southern Marsh-orchid *D. praetermissa*, Marsh Helleborine *Epipactis palustris*, Blunt-leaved Rush *Juncus subnodulosus*, Flat-sedge *Blysmus compressus*, Broad-leaved Cottongrass *Eriophorum latifolium*, Brown Sedge *Carex disticha*, Distant Sedge *C. distans*, Long-stalked Yellow-sedge *C. viridula brachyrhyncha* (as *C. flava*) and Marsh Fern *Thelypteris palustris*.

Local people must have viewed the explorations of the Victorian botanists with suspicion, and not a little amusement. These headwaters of the Whitewater must have for many centuries appeared to be a rather wild,

untamed place. Part of the wetland complex had been used as a trout hatchery, the local mill-owner grew watercress in some of the spring-fed pools, but most of the peaty quaking edge of this part of the Whitewater was avoided by locals, who told stories of 'will-o'-the-wisps' that could be seen across the moors, and how cattle would disappear without trace in its swampy darkness. A painting of the village of Greywell from the late 19th century shows this stretch of the valley to be an open landscape, grazed by cattle despite the dangers (these spring-fed mires and grasslands were valued for the early spring 'bite' they provided for the villagers' livestock), with what look like peat pits, open ponds and streams, amongst a scattering of trees and shrubs.

The key to the richness of this river valley is the rising groundwater. To the south are the great billowing chalk downs of central Hampshire, to the north are the impervious clays of the London Basin. This geological junction forces up the groundwaters from great aquifers buried deep in the chalk. A walk along Greywell Moors, even at the height of summer, can be a tricky business, as the valley is dotted with deep spring-fed pools, some only a metre across. A slowing of the river's gradient as it passes Greywell allowed the infant river to slow and form a braiding pattern (now almost lost through management) enabling the formation of fen vegetation, and over the centuries causing a deep layer of peat to develop. However, the constant flow of water from the springs means that the top layers of soil are kept aerated as water percolates through the peat towards the river. As the water bubbles out of the ground, in places it deposits calcium carbonate, locking up the available phosphate, which, despite the apparent richness of the site, means that for many plants it is a nutrient-poor environment. This paradox allows some of the 'small sedge' communities to survive, despite being surrounded by a modern farmed landscape that is drenched in fertilisers.



Dr Francis Rose and Hampshire Flora Group at Greywell Moors

There are very few places in southern England where this combination of physical and chemical factors occurs. The famous fens at Cothill, near Abingdon, is another, as are a few fen-rich areas in the headwaters of the Test. It is no surprise, then, that when the Rothschild list of sites for possible reserve acquisitions was drawn up at the start of the First World War, Greywell was included. Sadly, at around the same time, the local water

company recognised the potential of the watery richness of Greywell, and a pumping station was duly built right in the heart of the site. Local stories say that some of the wells dried overnight, but it seems that the southern, upstream, part of the site still held its riches. But we only have the findings of Miss Palmer and her friends to give us a tantalising glimpse of what the whole area must have been like 100 years ago.

Miss Palmer continued to make records into the first years of the 20th century (including the rare Lesser Tussock-sedge *Carex diandra*), but it wasn't until the 1930s that a new generation of botanists began to explore the area. The first on the scene was E C 'Ted' Wallace, a stalwart of field botany in the mid 20th century. Although based in Surrey, he was a frequent visitor to north Hampshire. His skills also encompassed bryophytes (he was a leading member of the British Bryological Society for many decades), and amongst his discoveries at Greywell was a suite of rare 'brown mosses' characteristic of these calcareous fens. These golden-coloured spiky and sickle-shaped mosses included *Drepanocladus cossonii* (as *D. revolvens*), *Campylium elodes*, *C. stellatum*, *Calliergon giganteum* and *Palustriella commutata* (as *Cratoneuron commutatum*) – the last three are still there. Ted also recorded the continuing presence of Slender Cottongrass well into the 1960s. Other fenland plants such as Great Fen-sedge *Cladium mariscus* were also recorded, and stories of the treacherous nature of certain sections of the fen continued, with visiting botanists being warned of the dangers of trying to traverse the quaking mires. When Greywell Moors was declared a Hampshire Wildlife Trust reserve in 1989, such was the association of Ted Wallace with the site that it was named in memory of him. However, it was two of Ted's early protégés, Francis Rose and Alan Crundwell, who had continued to record the site, with a detailed knowledge stretching over 50 years. Sadly, for much of the second half of the 20th century, this was a record of decline. After the 1960s, the encroaching woodland and the dumping of spoil from road improvements meant that some of the wetter areas, even at the heart of the site, were gradually drying out. Like many other fens in England, an early casualty of neglect and natural succession was the rare Slender Cotton-grass. By the early 1980s, the open fen had been reduced to a few peripheral enclaves kept open by small bands of volunteers, wielding bow-saws and strimmers. However, Greywell still continued to surprise. One intriguing plant that was discovered by Francis Rose in 1980 was a hybrid of the Yellow-sedge *Carex flava* and Long-stalked Yellow-sedge *C. viridula brachyrrhyncha* (*C. x alsatica*). The great puzzle was that the nearest site for *Carex flava* was Malham Tarn, some 250 miles north. Did its presence indicate that parts of the fen complex had remained open since the Devensian period after the last glaciation, some 8-10,000 years ago? Sadly, it seems that the solitary clump of this hybrid was lost during the 1990s and recent researchers, eager to compare its DNA, have failed to find it. In the mid 1980s, whilst exploring the site with myself and Bob Gibbons, Andy Byfield spotted a spray of *Mezereon Daphne mezereum* by the river path, and later searches have discovered a thriving population amongst Privet *Ligustrum vulgare* and Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* saplings along one section

of the fen.

Much excellent work by the Wildlife Trust, particularly during the 1990s, has opened out large sections of the fen, which, with subsequent cattle grazing, has allowed some of the rich fen communities to spread out from their refuges. Recent surveys and visits have confirmed that many of the special communities are doing well on the reserve, but need constant annual clearance and grazing by intrepid Highlands and other rare cattle breeds to keep the fen sections open. *Carex diandra* in recent years has been found growing in apparently new sites along the valley, the seeds perhaps being carried on the hocks of passing cattle. This perhaps echoes a former method of dispersal. When the Trust first looked at the management of the reserve, we asked a local farmer how it used to be farmed before the war, and he told us how, as a boy, he used simply to move his family's cattle along the valley from North Warnborough all the way up to the springs at Greywell and back again.

One unexpected result of the excavations for the Greywell pumping station has been the colonisation of the spoil around the buildings and filter beds. Having a community more akin to a dune slack than a Hampshire river valley, the grasslands in places now have spectacular displays of Marsh Helleborine (including the pale *ochroleuca* variety), Dense-flowered Fragrant Orchid *Gymnadenia densiflora*, and several other orchids, including hybrid swarms of marsh-orchids *Dactylorhiza*, and the occasional Twayblade *Listera ovata* and Bee Orchid *Ophrys apifera*. The unusual nature of the spoil and its surroundings produces a wonderful mix of plants, such as Yellow Loosestrife *Lysimachia vulgaris* growing amongst Autumn Gentian *Gentianella amarella*, Blue Fleabane *Erigeron acer* and carpets of Marsh Pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*. Just like a dune slack, Creeping Willow *Salix repens* grows on one bank. These grasslands are now also part of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust's reserve.

Beyond the reserve is a large, summer-grazed meadow, one area of which has a superb series of open fen communities with carpets of low sedges and brown mosses, shot with splashes of the purple flowers of Marsh Lousewort *Pedicularis palustris* and hidden patches of Dyer's Greenweed *Genista tinctoria*. This also may have once had Slender Cotton-grass (and held Broad-leaved Cottongrass *Eriophorum latifolium* until a decade ago), but, sadly, most of the meadow is now far too dry for such plants and you have to travel several fields further along the valley to North Warnborough Greens before another, subtly different, but equally exceptional floral display comes in to view. But that's another story. . .

Spartina (cord grass) in Hampshire : A New Twist – a note by Prof. Andrew Leitch

We all think about plant extinctions, but species births also occur. One of the classic examples of this is the formation of *Spartina anglica* (Common Cord-grass) which is thought to have formed in Hythe, Southampton about 150 years ago. It arose following the introduction

of the American species *Spartina alterniflora* which came into the estuaries by ships from the United States. This crossed with our native species *Spartina maritima*. The hybrid, called *Spartina x townsendii*, still occurs in a great swathe in the Hythe marshes but it is sterile. Probably by accident, the chromosome number of one plant of this hybrid doubled and the resulting plant was fertile. This was the first plant of the new aggressive species, *Spartina anglica*. This species out-competed its parents and is now, by far, the most dominant species in the muddy estuaries of South East England. It has also been taken around the world both by accident (e.g. in ships' ballast) and by design (e.g. to stabilize mudflats).

Recent research at Queen Mary College, University of London by Professor Andrew Leitch and his student Simon Renny-Byfield is revealing surprising new data showing that the American cousin (*Spartina alterniflora*) is crossing with the new species *Spartina anglica* to make yet another new genetic variant. This latter discovery suggests that there is ongoing movement of genes between the original parental species and our new vigorous species *Spartina anglica*.

Sorbus species and hybrids in Yoell's Copse : a note by John Vigay

Some interesting discoveries have been made in Yoell's Copse, a small isolated wood of 5 hectares of Ancient Semi-Natural woodland to the west of Horndean, saved in the 1980s from development and purchased in 1997 by Horndean Parish Council and now a Local Nature Reserve.

Of special interest is the abundant number of healthy Sorbus species, in particular *Sorbus aria* (Whitebeam) and *S. torminalis* (Wild Service) growing in close proximity and giving rise to a small number of the natural hybrid *Sorbus x vagensis* (*S. aria* x *S. torminalis*). Both of the parent species flower and produce fertile fruit. They



Sorbus x vagensis by Martin Rand

have grown into tall healthy trees from coppice stools of considerable age. Hybrid trees were first noted by John Rowe when he surveyed the wood in 1986; the greater part have recently been cut down or coppiced but still survive. Last year (2006) a fine specimen of *S. x vagensis* was recorded in a

central position near the north boundary with five mature and two small trunks growing from an old coppice stool and rising straight up to the woodland canopy over 60 feet up, surrounded by beech, ash and the two parent *Sorbus* species. This season the hybrid has produced a good crop of berries. All features closely match the description in the Plant Crib (1998). The tree could well

be over 200 years old, when the original cross must have taken place. The present trunks could be between 80 and 120 years old, dating from the last time coppiced and calculated against other *Sorbus* trees of similar girth that have been felled and by counting rings. An attempt is being made to germinate and grow from this crop.

Another interesting feature of the wood is that the main dominant tree is *Quercus petraea* (Sessile Oak) with quite a number of hybrid oaks - *Q. x rosacea*. Whereas in other local copses only *Q. robur* occur, there are very few in Yoell's Copse. Some of the hybrid oaks produce very large leaves, many over ten inches in length!

Another interesting discovery made on a recent visit by Martin Rand and Tony Mundell was an unusual cut-leaved variant of *S. torminalis*. Initially there was speculation that this might be a hybrid with *S. aucuparia* (Rowan), which also occurs in small numbers in the wood, but it appears to be a variant of *S. torminalis*. A very similar variant was described by Oliver Rackham in some woods in south east Essex (Hockley Woods near Rochford) where the variants have spread more from suckers than by seed and represent clones. These Essex woods also have a large percentage of *Q. petraea* and there are some close similarities with Yoell's Copse. *Q. petraea* is even more local in the eastern counties but the Wild Service is described as being commoner than anywhere else in England. The species also occurs frequently in Kent where the tree had many valuable uses, described so well in John Evelyn's "Sylva"

The local geology and soil no doubt play a big part in this unusual mix of tree communities; the Reading Beds clay with some lenses of sand overlaying chalk and broken tabular flint at variable depth appear to make good soil conditions for both *S. aria* and *S. torminalis*.

The characteristics of this small copse appear to be unique in Hampshire and worthy of further study, there are many other secrets that this wood may unveil and caution is needed in deciding on the best management to preserve its fragile and rather complex ecosystem. I look upon the copse as a living time capsule and maybe it deserves to be upgraded to an SSSI.

Further notes on the Horndean Sorbus by Martin Rand

The hybrid *Sorbus x vagensis* (literally, 'Wye Whitebeam') has been known since 1934 in the Wye valley, since when it has been recorded in a restricted area largely on Carboniferous Limestone on both sides of the Bristol Channel, in Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire, Herefordshire and Somerset. Here the two parent species grow together in quite close proximity. Although the ranges of the parent trees overlap widely in southern Britain, they are usually ecologically separated; and in their article earlier this year (Price & Rich (2007), David Price and Tim Rich could report only one unconfirmed record from outside the main area, at the Blean Woods near Canterbury in Kent. Since then they have been able to confirm our Hampshire record, as well as its presence in some abundance in Blean Woods.

This hybrid is of particular interest as it has given rise in various times and places to probably four and perhaps more fertile species of the 'Broad-leaved Whitebeam' (*Sorbus latifolia*) group, two of which are British endemics.



Sorbus torminalis by Martin Rand

It is reported on the Continent, where it has been known variously as *Sorbus x confusa* or *S. x tomentella*. For instance it is widespread in NE France. Detailed information on the British occurrences of all these taxa is given in Sell (1989).

Now that it is known to have a much wider range in Britain, it may well prove to be elsewhere. I think the most likely sites for it in Hampshire are, like Yoell's Copse, in narrow bands in the vicinity of the Reading Beds outcrops, where there is often a varied geology over a small distance. Promising areas include west of Fordingbridge, around Sherfield English, and in a narrow tract running from Colden Common right down to Havant Thicket. Although both parent species occur not infrequently in the New Forest, *S. aria* tends to be limited to the gravel plateaux mostly in the north of the Forest, and *S. torminalis* to the clay valleys in the south.

The cut-leaved form of Wild Service Tree has been named as *Sorbus torminalis* var. *orientalis* or even, from the Middle East, as a separate species *S. orientalis* (with little apparent justification). It has all its leaf lobes relatively deeply incised, with the lowest pair usually a free pair of leaflets. This is not always obvious from photographs, as the leaflets overlap the rest of the leaf. Since our sighting at Yoell's Copse, Barry Goater has found this form in the Beaulieu estate woodlands.

References

PRICE, D T & RICH, T G C (2007). One-way introgressive hybridisation between *Sorbus aria* and *Sorbus torminalis* (Rosaceae) in southern Britain. *Watsonia* 26: 419-432.

SELL, P D (1989). The *Sorbus latifolia* (Lam.) Pers. aggregate in the British Isles. *Watsonia* 17: 385-399.

VC11 Records compiled by Martin Rand

Robin Walls has now sent me some earlier records of *Alopecurus bulbosus* and its hybrid from the 'new' tetrad at Wick Meads, pre-dating those made at the Flora Group AGM earlier this year. I am always pleased to have updates or corrections to records; although BSBI recorders aspire to omniscience, only a few attain it.

The most significant finds of native and archaeophyte plants are picked out with a box. 'Hampshire Notable' species are marked with a ☼, except where all records given are likely to prove casual or deliberate introductions. Candidates for the notables list are shown in brackets: [☼]. A tetrad is a 2km x 2km square – the basic distribution mapping unit of the 1996 Flora of Hampshire. Records for those parts of VC8 (South Wiltshire) now in administrative Hampshire are also included.

Recorder abbreviations: AEB = Alison Bolton, AMC = Andrew Cross, APo = Dr Andrew Powling, ARGM = Tony Mundell, B&JG = Barry and Jane Goater, BG = Barry Goater, CC = Clive Chatters, DHu = Dr David Hughes, DL = David Leadbetter, DRA = Debbie Allan, EJC = Eric Clement, GC = Ginnie Copsey, JAN = John Norton, JRw = John Rowe, MR = Martin Rand, MWR = Mike Rowe, NAS = Neil Sanderson, PAB = Phil Budd, PDS = Paul Stanley, PM = Peter Marston, PW = Pat Woodruffe, RCR = Clare Rand, RFG = Ralph Goodchild, RMW = Robin Walls.

Records for the next issue by beginning of June, please.

Acanthus mollis (Bear's-breech: Kendall's Wood, Thornhill, SU468133; 01 Mar 2007; PAB. Naturalised in east of wood. **1st for SU41**

Acer cappadocicum (Cappadocian Maple): Entrance to Jewson's Site, Thornhill, SU465119; 03 May 2007; PAB. Naturalised and spreading. **New vice-county record**

Acer negundo (Ashleaf Maple): Danestream Farm, Bashley, SZ251970; 28 Jun 2007; MWR. Mature tree by footpath N of Danestream Farm, SZ2510 9705. **1st for SZ29**

Allium ampeloprasum var. *babingtonii*: Mayfield Park - Jurd's Lake Valley, SU445105; 11 May 2007; PAB. On top of bank above gardens. **1st for SU41**

Allium neapolitanum (Neapolitan Garlic): Osborne Close, Netley, SU465081; 29 Mar 2007; PAB. Several plants naturalised along entrance to Police Training College. **1st for SU40**

Allium roseum (Rosy Garlic): Greenhill Lane, Toot Hill – South, SU384177; 26 May 2007; Jason Claxton. **1st for SU31**

Amaranthus retroflexus (Common Amaranth): Old Park, St Leonards, SZ403987; 06 Sep 2007; B&JG conf. MR. Abundant in maize crop, scattered on disturbed ground. Needs Ore, SZ4197; 04 Oct 2007; B&JG. Along edge of maize field S of Blackwater House, SZ 413971. **1st for SZ49**

Ambrosia artemisiifolia (Ragweed): Nr Sturt Pond, Milford, SZ298912; 15 Sep 2007; DL. SE end of field E of Sturt Pond. Lyme Crescent, Highcliffe, SZ208935; 24 Oct 2007; DL. Disturbed ground. **1st for SZ29. Lee, SU363176; Aug 2007; C. Townsend. Back garden, Malt house Cottages, Lee, near Romsey. 1st for SU31 since 1970**

Anemone x hybrida (Japanese Anemone): Lyme Crescent, Highcliffe, SZ208935; 23 Oct 2007; DL. Disturbed ground. **1st for SZ29**

[☼] *Anisantha diandra* (Great Brome): Harbridge, SU145100; 17 Jul 2007; B&JG. In profusion on bridge over carrier stream beside rectory. **1st for SU11.** Arable, E of Carters Clay, Dunbridge, SU310247; 29 May 2007; MR & GC conf. Bruno Ryves; voucher Hb MR. **1st for SU32.** Though best known as a coastal plant in Hampshire, it is apparently spreading inland.

Armeria pseudarmeria (Estoril Thrift): South side of Overcliff Drive, Bournemouth, SZ099910; 26 May 2007; PAB. On sandy grassland on Manor Road side of Overcliff Drive. **1st for SZ09**

Aster lanceolatus (Narrow-leaved Michaelmas-daisy): Beaulieu, SU388024; 07 Oct 2007; B&JG. Large clump on west side of Rectory pond. **1st for SU30**

☼ *Baldellia ranunculoides* (Lesser Water-plantain): Ridley Bottom, SU198065; 10 Oct 2007; MR, AEB & RMW. New tetrad. Longdown SW, SU3705; 05 Sep 2007; PAB. **New tetrad**

Blackstonia perfoliata (Yellow-wort): Dean Hill Park Cpt. 01, Sidings East, SU285266; 10 Jul 2007; PW. In field near sidings. **1st for SU22 in VC11**

Briza maxima (Greater Quaking-grass): Alum Chine etc, SZ0790; 02 May 2007; RMW. New tetrad for VC11. Purbrook Heath Road, SU657083; 14 Jul 2007; Brian Fellows. N side of road. **1st for SU60**

☼ *Bromus hordeaceus* subsp. *feronii* (Least Soft-brome): Belle Vue Rd. etc, Southbourne, SZ1491; 31 May 2007; RMW conf. MR; voucher Hb MR. **New tetrad**

☼ *Bromus secalinus* (Rye Brome): Midgham Farm, SU135117; 17 Jul 2007; BG det. MR; voucher Hb MR. Frequent round field margin, west side of lane. **1st for SU11**

Campanula poscharskyana (Trailing Bellflower): Droxford Church, SU607181; 07 Feb 2007; PAB. On wall on north side of churchyard. **1st for SU61**

Cedrus atlantica (Atlas Cedar): Rownhams House Grounds, SU381168; 27 Jul 2007; PAB. 10+ self sown seedlings on main track in garden. **1st for SU31**

[*] *Cerastium arvense* (Field Mouse-ear): Twyford Down, SU492271; 29 Apr 2007; PM. 1 large flo. clump on E. side of bridleway at SU 4929 2718. **New tetrad**

Cerastium semidecandrum (Little Mouse-ear): Alum Chine entrance, SZ074902; 02 May 2007; RMW. Potential beach hut site. **1st for SZ09 in VC11 since 1930**

Chenopodium hybridum (Maple-leaved Goosefoot): Lyme Crescent, Highcliffe, SZ208935; 23 Oct 2007; DL. Disturbed ground. **1st for SZ29**

Chrysanthemum segetum (Corn Marigold): Lee-on-the-Solent, SU564001; 10 Aug 2007; JAN & DRA. SU5647 0016, embankment by promenade. (? Sown or introduced with new soil)

Claytonia sibirica (Pink Purslane): Furzy Gardens, Minstead, SU273113; 23 May 2007; RFG. Well established in ditches. **1st for SU21**

Clematis montana (Himalayan Clematis): Southampton Road Car Park, Eastleigh, SU455182; 22 Oct 2007; PAB. Several colonies along a 100m stretch of fencing by railway. **New vice-county record**

✿ *Clinopodium acinos* (Basil Thyme): East Dean sidings W, SU277267-SU279267; 09 Sep 2007; HFG / WBS survey team. Scattered plants in railway ballast. Dean Hill Park: Cpt. 01: Sidings East, SU285266; 10 Jul 2007; PW. In sidings and banks. Dean Hill Park, SU263262, SU266263; 08 Sep 2007; Flora Group survey party. Chalk bank of sidings and sidings. **1st for SU22 in VC11**

[*] *Clinopodium ascendens* (Common Calamint): Lisle Court Road, Walhampton, SZ338954; 28 Aug 2007; MWR. 2 large plants on roadside, SZ3382 9547. **New tetrad**

Convallaria majalis (Lily-of-the-valley): Tregould's Copse, SU413208; 04 Aug 2007; PAB. **1st in tetrad since 1932**

Conyza bilbaoana (Bilbao's Fleabane): A337, Brockenhurst, SU302031; 25 Sep 2007; MR. 3 tall robust plants with strongly ascending branches. Keeping Copse north, SU391012; 18 Sep 2007; B&JG conf. MR. 4 plants. A326, Applemore, SU398072; 22 Sep 2007; MWR. Roadside nr Applemore roundabout, SU3939 0728. 1st for SU30. Old Park Dump, Beaulieu, SZ404990; 13 Sep 2007; B&JG conf. MR. **1st for SZ49**

Conyza sumatrensis (Guernsey Fleabane): Beechen Lane, Lyndhurst, SU302072; 16 Jun 2007; JAN & DRA. One plant at base of wall. A337, Brockenhurst, SU302031; 25 Sep 2007; MR. 4 plants. Beaulieu, SU3802; 07 Oct 2007; B&JG. One in village beside small car park, SU30770226, one in gateway north of church car park, SU38870245. A326, Applemore, SU398072; 22 Sep 2007; MWR. Roadside nr Applemore roundabout, SU3939 0728. **1st for SU30**

Cordylone australis (Cabbage-palm): Eastern Villas, Southsea, SZ649981; 06 Sep 2007; PAB det. EJC. On top of a wall. Anns Hill Road / Warnford Close, Gosport, SZ600998; 08 Oct 2007; EJC & DRA. SZ6006 9987, apparently self-sown, with no parent plant in sight. In crack by houses, just to W of alley-way to Anns Hill Road. **1st for SZ69**

✿ *Crassula tillaea* (Mossy Stonecrop): Hovercraft Terminal, Southsea, SZ635987; 2007; PDS. Near ticket machine on N side of paved strip dividing car park E of terminal and Clarence Pier. **New tetrad**

✿ *Crithmum maritimum* (Rock Samphire): Alum Chine etc, SZ0790; 02 May 2007; RMW. **New tetrad**

Cryptomeria japonica (Japanese Red-cedar): South corner of Deerleap Inclosure, SU345085; 01 Dec 2007; PAB. Apparently self sown. **1st for SU30**

Dactylorhiza praetermissa (Southern Marsh-orchid): Dean Hill Park Cpt. 01 Sidings East, SU285266; 10 Jul 2007; PW. 6 spikes along north-facing bank in far eastern section. **1st for SU22 in VC11 since 1966**

Datura ferox (Angel's-trumpets): A27(T) junction at Broadmarsh, Havant, SU698056; 02 Oct 2007; PAB. **1st for SU60 since 1961**

Datura stramonium (Thorn-apple): Needs Ore, SZ4197; 04 Oct 2007; B&JG. One plant in edge of maize field S of Blackwater House, SZ41369739. **1st for SZ49**

✿ *Deschampsia setacea* (Bog Hair-grass): E of Devils Den, SZ207998; 01 Sep 2007; MR. Single tussock in dried peaty pan by pony track on heath, SZ2071 9981. **New tetrad**

Digitaria sanguinalis (Hairy Finger-grass): Neacroft, Bransgore, SZ188970; 21 Aug 2007; Ms P Marchant conf. MR. Kerb edge and grass verge, small close just N of Harrow Lane.

Dorycnium hirsutum (Canary Clover): East of railway level crossing, Mount Pleasant Road; SU429128; 26 Sep 2007; PAB conf. EJC, MR. In flower at base of fence on SW side of road. **New vice-county record**

Dryopteris affinis subsp. *borreri* (Borrer's G-scaled Male Fern): Newtown, Warsash, SU500052; 27 Jun 2007; MR & Hampshire Flora Group. **1st for SU50**

Duchesnea indica (Yellow-flowered Strawberry): Queens Encloure, Waterlooville, SU688103; 09 Oct 2007; JRw conf. MR; Voucher Hb MR. Vigorous patch extending for c. 3m alongside path. **1st for SU61**

Echinochloa crus-galli (Cockspur): nr Cat and Fiddle, Hinton Admiral, SZ203952; 14 Sep 2007; DL. Field W of garage W of Cat and Fiddle N of Hinton Admiral station. Lyme Crescent, Highcliffe, SZ208935; 23 Oct 2007; DL. Disturbed ground. **1st for SZ19**

Elaeagnus umbellata (Spreading Oleaster): Entrance to Jewson's Site, Thornhill, SU465119; 03 May 2007; PAB. Naturalised and spreading. **1st for SU41**

☛ *Elytrigia juncea* (Sand Couch): Belle Vue Rd. etc., SZ1491; 26 May 2007; RMW. **1st in tetrad since 1970**

[☛] *Epilobium roseum* (Pale Willowherb): Hundred Lane, Warborne, SZ327974; 14 Jul 2007; MWR. One plant by house, SZ3270 9744. **1st for SZ39**

Epilobium x floridulum (*Epilobium parviflorum x ciliatum*): Dean Hill Park, SU263262; 08 Sep 2007; Flora Group survey party det. PDS; voucher Hb MR. In ballast of sidings by buildings, both parents present, SU2634 2629. **1st for SU22**

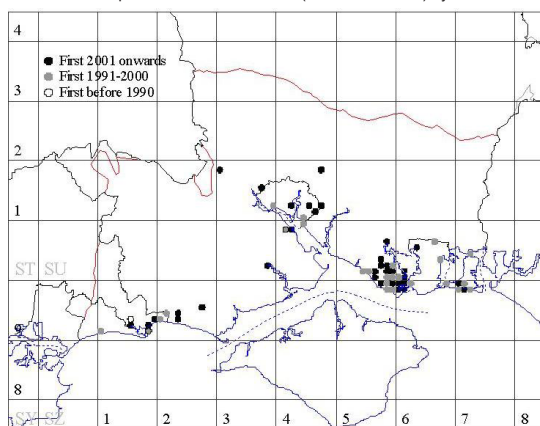
Epilobium x vicinum (*Epilobium ciliatum x obscurum*): Dean East Sidings, SU282266; 09 Sep 2007; MR & PDS; voucher Hb MR. On railway siding ballast. **1st for SU22**

☛ *Eriophorum vaginatum* (Hare's-tail Cottongrass): Town Common, Christchurch, SZ14399675; 18 Aug 2007; NAS. c. 1m square in wet heath on edge of acid pool in ancient blowout, SZ14390 96753 ±5m. **1st in tetrad since 1966**

☛ *Erodium moschatum* (Musk Stork's-bill): Stem Lane, New Milton, SZ231948; 27 Nov 2007; Ms J Hirshfield det. MR. 22 plants along inside verge of path on E side of Stem La just off Gore Rd between Gore Rd and railway bridge. First seen mid October. Det. from specimen collected 9 Nov 2007. **New tetrad.** Christchurch Bay Road, Barton on Sea, SZ235930; 21 Oct 2007; MWR. Patch on grass verge, S end of Christchurch Bay Road, SZ2354 9306. **New tetrad.** Everton Road, Hordle, SZ272953; 28 Apr 2007; MWR. Numerous plants on grassy roadside, SZ2722 9534. **New tetrad.** NW of Hythe Marina, SU420088; 14 Jan 2007; PAB. **New tetrad.** Bellevue Road, Southampton, SU422128; 04 Sep 2007; PAB. **New tetrad.** Fareham Civic Offices, SU582067; 15 Oct 2007; PAB. On grass bank west of office block. **New tetrad.**

With the continuing spread of this species as a ruderal / verge plant, it no longer qualifies as 'County Scarce' and will be put forward for removal from the next issue of the Hampshire Notables list. However I am still interested in records in order to chart its expansion of range.

Distribution map of *Erodium moschatum* (Musk Stork's-bill) by Martin Rand



Escallonia macrantha (Escallonia): North side of Overcliff Drive, Bournemouth, SZ098910; 26 May 2007; PAB. **1st for SZ09 in VC11**

☛ *Euphorbia paralias* (Sea Spurge): Lepe Foreshore Country Park, SZ464987; 17 Apr 2007; CC. Two just within NNR fence immediately after the first yellow pipeline triangles at Stansore Point. **1st in tetrad since 1960**

Euphrasia nemorosa (Common Eyebright): Moonhills Copse, Beaulieu, SU4002; 01 Sep 2007; B&JG. Occasional along side of main track. Surprisingly, **1st in SU40 since 1970**

Euphrasia nemorosa x micrantha: Dur Hill Down, SU198013; 01 Sep 2007; MR. Needs confirming but population found was too small to make a gathering. Both parents present in close vicinity

☛ *Festuca arenaria* (Rush-leaved Fescue): Alum Chine etc; SZ0790; 02 May 2007; RMW. **1st in SZ09 since 1965**

Festuca rubra subsp. *megastachys*: Wick Hams, Southbourne, SZ165913; 19 May 2007; Hampshire Flora Group det. EJC. SZ1651 9130. **New vice-county record**

☼ *Filago vulgaris* (Common Cudweed): Longwood Warren, SU534263; 24 Jul 2007; GC. **New tetrad**

Filipendula vulgaris (Dropwort): Rownhams Churchyard, SU384170; 25 Jul 2007; Jason Claxton det. PAB. **1st for SU31**

Fraxinus ornus (Manna Ash): Hilsea Lines, Hilsea (eastern end), SU6604; 02 Oct 2007; PAB. 60 on north embankment of Port Creek between 660044 and 664043. Hilsea Lines, Portsmouth, SU6504; 06 Sep 2007; PAB det. EJC; voucher Hb MR. 100 on north side of creek at SU655046 - naturalised on sea wall. First recorded here in 2001 by D P J Smith. New tetrad and possibly first evidence of naturalisation in Britain.

Fritillaria meleagris (Fritillary): Lakeside Park, Eastleigh, SU447177; 06 Apr 2007; Bernard Webster conf. PAB. One plant amongst natural vegetation. **New tetrad**

Fumaria densiflora (Dense-flowered Fumitory): East Dean Sidings W, SU275267; 09 Sep 2007; HFG / WBS survey team. One small plant at SU2751 2670. Dean Hill Park, SU265263; 08 Sep 2007; Flora Group survey party. Frequent on abandoned arable to S of railway. Dean Hill Park Cpt. 30, SU267264; 08 Sep 2007; MR. Many plants on disturbed ground at SU2654 2632. **1st for SU22 in VC11**

Galinsoga quadriradiata (Shaggy Soldier): Old Park, St Leonards, SZ403987; 06 Sep 2007; B&JG. Common in maize crop and on disturbed ground. **1st for SZ49 in VC11**

Galium mollugo subsp. *erectum* (Upright Hedge-bedstraw): Beacon Hill, Exton, SU605224; 06 Jun 2007; MR & GC. **1st for SU62 (and at site) since 1958**

Galium palustre subsp. *elongatum* (Great Marsh-bedstraw): Ogber, SZ157959; 15 Aug 2007; MR & DHu

☼ *Galium parisiense* (Wall Bedstraw): Farlington Marshes HWT reserve, SU688053; 27 Aug 2007; Farwell, G; voucher Hb MR. Some small patches of just outside the north-east entrance to Farlington Marshes Nature Reserve. Most of the plants were fruiting but still quite fresh and readily identifiable. All plants growing on slightly scuffed, short grassland below a stand of Teasel just north of the raised bank ca 15 metres from reserve entrance. **1st for SU60**

Gazania rigens (Treasureflower): North side of Overcliff Drive, Bournemouth, SZ098910; 26 May 2007; PAB. **1st for SZ09**

Geranium macrorrhizum (Rock Crane's-bill): Town Common Car Park, Avon Causeway, SZ137975; 15 Apr 2007; PAB. **1st for SZ19**

Hedera helix subsp. *hibernica* (Atlantic Ivy): Hengistbury Head, SZ176909; 19 May 2007; MR & Hampshire Flora Group. **New tetrad**

Helianthus annuus (Sunflower): Moonhills, Beaulieu, SU398022; 01 Sep 2007; B&JG. A few plants in maize field. **1st for SU30**

Hemerocallis fulva (Orange Day-lily): Wick Ferry etc, SZ1592; 07 Mar 2007; RMW. **1st for SZ19**

Hieracium sabaudum (Hawkweed): Keeping Copse, Beaulieu, SU405007; 22 Aug 2007; MR & BG; voucher Hb MR. Scattered in dry woodland near public track and informal car park. **1st for SU40 since 1961**

Ipomoea purpurea (Common Morning-glory): A27(T) junction at Broadmarsh, Havant, SU698056; 02 Oct 2007; PAB. 20+ plants near entrance to former Broadmarsh car park. **1st for SU60**

☼ *Juncus foliosus* (Leafy Rush): Cadnam Common west of Newbridge, SU294152; 09 Sep 2007; PAB. 2 plants. **New tetrad**

Kickxia spuria (Round-leaved Fluellen): Dean Hill Park Cpt. 24: Tracks and Rail; SU267264; Jun 2007; PW. **1st for SU22 in VC11 since 1951**

Lactuca serriola f. *serriola* (Prickly Lettuce): Hilsea Lines, Hilsea (eastern end), SU6604; 02 Oct 2007; PAB. 4 on north side bank of Port Creek. This form with lobed (runcinate-pinnatifid) leaves is not often seen in Hampshire nowadays.

Lamium amplexicaule (Henbit Dead-nettle): Honeycombe Chine, Boscombe, SZ113912; 17 May 2007; PAB. Disturbed ground near car park west of chine. **1st for SZ19 since 1970**

☼ *Lamium hybridum* (Cut-leaved Dead-nettle): Brookwood Cemetery, Eastleigh, SU447194; 02 Apr 2007; PAB. **New tetrad**

Lobelia erinus (Garden Lobelia): Colden Common, SU476216; 06 Aug 2007; PM. Self-sown beside wall at SU4764 2160. **1st for SU42**

Lonicera involucrata (Californian Honeysuckle): Jesmond Road, Highcliffe, SZ209935; 18 May 2007; DL det. EJC. Woodland between Lymington Road and Jesmond Avenue. **New vice-county record**

Lonicera pileata (Box-leaved Honeysuckle): Kendall's Wood, Thornhill, SU467132; 01 Mar 2007; PAB. Naturalised in centre of wood. **New vice-county record**

Luma apiculata (Chilean Myrtle): Nr Wharncliffe Road, Highcliffe, SZ212932; 10 Sep 2007; DL det. EJC. Cliff below Wharncliffe Road. **New vice-county record**

Mahonia aquifolium (Oregon-grape): Beaulieu Rectory Pond, SU389025; 05 Jul 2007; B&JG. In hedgerow, E side of pond, SU38920247. **1st for SU30**

Malcolmia maritima (Virginia Stock): Kilminster Way, Highcliffe, SZ206936; 28 Feb 2007; DL. 1st for SZ29. Western Road to Hildene Footpath, West End, SU468141; 13 May 2007; PAB. **1st for SU41**

Melilotus indicus (Small Melilot): Caird Avenue, New Milton, SZ251947; 30 Sep 2007; MWR. 3 plants, waste ground by Tesco, SZ2516 9471. **1st for SZ29**

Mentha pulegium (Pennyroyal): W of Titchfield Abbey, SU535065; 07 Jul 2007; Gareth Knass det. AMC. Edge of improved pasture dominated by Holcus and Agrostis. **1st for SU50 since 1899, but an undoubted introduction.**

Misopates calycinum (Pale Weasel's-snout): a large stand of plants with whitish flowers veined with deep pink was recorded by David Godfrey on disturbed coastal slopes by Boscombe Pier, SZ112912. Specimens seen have glandular-pubescent upper stems and the flowers are only slightly larger than typical *M. orontium*. At present MR and EJC cannot make their minds up whether this is *M. calycinum* or a pale-flowered form of *M. orontium*.

✿ *Misopates orontium* (Weasel's-snout): Rookham Copse, SU695230; 17 Jun 2007; GC. 100+. **New tetrad and 1st for SU62 for many years.**

Nicandra physalodes (Apple-of-Peru): Nr Avenue Road, Lymington, SZ321958; 05 Aug 2007; MWR. Several plants by garden, just off Avenue Road, SZ3217 9583. **1st for SZ39**

Nicotiana glauca (Sweet Tobacco): East Cliff, Bournemouth, SZ110911; 17 May 2007; PAB. 1st for SZ19. Old Park, St Leonards, SZ405988; 06 Sep 2007; B&JG conf. MR. **1st for SZ49**

Nicotiana x sanderae (*N. glauca* x *forgetiana*): A27(T) junction at Broadmarsh, Havant, SU698056; 06 Sep 2007; PAB. **1st for SU60**

Oxalis exilis (Least Yellow-sorrel): Harrison's Cut, Shirley, SU398142; 11 May 2007; PAB. **1st for SU31**

Panicum miliaceum (Common Millet): Moonhills, Beaulieu, SU398022; 01 Sep 2007; B&JG. Abundant. **1st for SU30**

✿ *Papaver hybridum* (Rough Poppy): Dean Hill Park, SU265263; 09 Sep 2007; HFG / WBS survey team. Disturbed ground at SU2654 2632. **1st for SU22 in VC11**

✿ *Parentucellia viscosa* (Yellow Bartsia): Ogber, SZ154956; 15 Aug 2007; MR & DHu. In excess of 100 plants around track and gateway into Ogber at SZ1545 9562. Cowards Marsh, SZ154956; 18 Aug 2007; Hampshire Flora Group. Three W of gate to Ogber at SZ1545 9564. New site and 1st in tetrad since 1965. Oxey Marsh, Lymington, SZ331934; 24 May 2007; MWR. 60 in shortish grass by brackish ditch inside sea wall, SZ3314 9345. 1st in tetrad – though MR recalls seeing a few plants at this spot in the 1980s, so it clearly has the ability to persist in this slightly unusual environment. Calshot, SU476017; 25 Jul 2007; GC. Locally abundant in damp horse pasture by public footpath to shore, SU4764 0177. **New site**

Passiflora caerulea (Blue Passionflower): Ocean Village sea wall, Southampton, SU432111; 14 Sep 2007; PAB. Naturalised on stonework. **1st for SU41**

✿ *Petroselinum segetum* (Corn Parsley): Normandy, Lymington, SZ331938; 17 Aug 2007; ARGM; Voucher Hb ARGM. Group of several plants on sea wall at SZ3315 9385. **New tetrad**

Phalaris arundinacea var. *picta* (Variegated Reed Grass): Abbots Well, Beaulieu, SU395030; 01 Sep 2007; B&JG. **1st for SU30**

✿ *Phegopteris connectilis* (Beech Fern): Highland Water Inclosure, SU249087; Aug 2007; Simon Currie. **1st record at site since 1976**

Pilosella aurantiaca (Fox-and-cubs): Beaulieu, SU38810248; 05 Jul 2007; B&JG. On wall, N side of B3054. **1st for SU30**

✿ *Pinguicula lusitanica* (Pale Butterwort): Longdown North, SU360084; 05 Sep 2007; PAB. **New tetrad**

Pistia stratiotes (Water-lettuce): Hatchet Pond, SU367017; 29 Sep 2007; APo & EJC. 20-30 plants, SU36772 01708. - Also seen by AEB. A pernicious introduction. Forestry Commission have been prompted to remove it, although it is unlikely to survive frost [MR]

[✿] *Polygonum rurivagum* (Cornfield Knotgrass): Beaulieu, SU387023; 19 Jul 2007; BG. A few plants along N side of B2054 through village. **New tetrad**

Polypogon viridis (Water Bent): Lymington Road, Highcliffe, SZ201934; 21 May 2007; DL. Pavement nr Golf Club. Old Milton Road, New Milton, SZ239943; 11; 21 Oct 2007; MWR. One plant at garden wall / pavement junction, SZ2395 9437. 1st for SZ29. Calshot Village, SU474016; 23 Aug 2007; PAB. Junction of B3053 with Tristan Close. 1st for SU40. West Street, Fareham, SU572062; 19 Oct 2007; MR. Frontages of nos. 219 - 225a. **1st for SU50**

Portulaca oleracea (Common Purslane): Pinetops Close, Pennington, SZ304954; 23 Sep 2007; MWR conf. EJC. 3 plants, roadside and gutter, near Pinetops Nurseries, SZ3049 9546. **1st for SZ39**

☛ *Potentilla anglica* (Trailing Tormentil): Hurn Forest, bottom to SW, SZ1230.9944; 04 Jul 2007; NAS. Cleared damp bottom at SZ12302 99443 ±8m. Hurn Forest, Crabs Field, SZ1285.9844; 28 Jun 2007; NAS. In SD12 grassland at SZ12846 98441 ±5m. Large patch. **1st for SZ19 since 1970**

☛ *Potentilla x mixta* (*P. anglica x reptans*): Browndown Ranges SSSI, E, SZ584989; 02 Jun 2007; BSBI Field Meeting; SZ5848 9891. **1st in tetrad since 1952**

☛ *Pulicaria vulgaris* (Small Fleabane): Holland Bottom, SU171115; 08 Sep 2007; PDS. Verge of lane where churned up by vehicles, c. 200 plants. **New site**

☛ *Pulmonaria longifolia* (Narrow-leaved Lungwort): North Lane, Beaulieu, SU383040; 20 Mar 2007; MR & GC. E bank of lane above ditch at SU3833 0404. 12 flowering plants + 20 non-flowering. Hides Hill Lane, Beaulieu, SU382038; 20 Mar 2007; MR & GC. N bank of lane: 9 plants at SU3823 0385, 4 plants at SU3825 0388, 14 plants at SU3827 0385. Hartford, SU384044; 04 Apr 2007; PM. 2 plants (1 in flo.) just inside fence at Hartford Gate A at SU 3843 0444. **1st in tetrad since 1966**

☛ *Raphanus raphanistrum* subsp. *maritimus* (Sea Radish): Park Shore, SZ407964; 04 Oct 2007; B&JG. Two plants at SZ40769648. **1st in tetrad since 1976**

Rosa x andevagensis (*Rosa canina x stylosa*): Dean Hill Park, SU264263; 08 Sep 2007; Flora Group survey party det. PDS; voucher PDS. One bush beside railway track at SU2640 2634. Dean Hill Park, SU265263; 09 Sep 2007; HFG / WBS survey team det. PDS; voucher PDS. Beside railway at SU2659 2630. Dean Hill Park, SU266263; 08 Sep 2007; Flora Group survey party det. PDS; voucher PDS. Single bush on sidings bank at SU2663 2632. Dean Hill, SU267263; 08 Sep 2007; Flora Group survey party det. PDS; voucher PDS. Sidings bank at SU2677 2632. **1st for SU22**. Both parents are present at this site. Both directions of cross appear to be present. Several other hybrids from this site await conclusive determination.

☛ *Rosa rubiginosa* (Sweet-briar): Dean Hill Park, SU264263; 08 Sep 2007; Flora Group survey party. Banks of railway at SU2642 2631. Dean Hill MOD Area, SU266262; 09 Sep 2007; HFG / WBS survey team. One beside railway at SU2660 2629. Dean Hill Park Cpt. 24, SU267264; 08 Sep 2007; Flora Group survey party. 1 bush beside railway track at SU2642 2631. East Dean Sidings W, SU2726; 29 May 2007; MR & GC. East Dean sidings W; SU274266; 09 Sep 2007; HFG / WBS survey team. At SU2748 2667. East Dean, West Sidings of Dean Hill Park, SU275267; 09 Sep 2007; HFG / WBS survey team; voucher Hb ARGM. Specimen from SU2757 2670, but other bushes nearby. Dean Hill Park Cpt. 01 Sidings West, SU277267; 09 Sep 2007; HFG / WBS survey team. Plant at SU2795 2670. East Dean sidings W, SU279267; 09 Sep 2007; HFG / WBS survey team. At SU2795 2670. **1st for SU22**.

☛ *Sagina maritima* (Sea Pearlwort): Lee-on-the-Solent, SU564002; 10 Aug 2007; JAN & DRA. SU5640 0022, cracks of promenade. **New tetrad**

☛ *Sagina nodosa* (Knotted Pearlwort): Cowards Marsh, SZ151951 – SZ153953; 15 Aug 2007; MR & DHu; 18 Aug 2007; Flora Group meeting. Rare to locally frequent, track sides, grassland and ditch side. **1st in tetrad since 1983**

☛ *Sagina subulata* (Heath Pearlwort): Hurn Forest, track to SW, SZ124993; 04 Jul 2007; NAS. On old track from SZ12519 99326 ±6m to SZ12461 99312 ±6m. Frequent. **New tetrad**

Salix x multinervis (*S. aurita x cinerea*): Bog south of Ferny Crofts, SU3720.0555; 28 Aug 2007; NAS & AMC. Tall bush in bog woodland. **New tetrad**

Salix x smithiana (*S. cinerea x viminalis*): Lymore Lane, Lymore, SZ295930; 27 Aug 2007; MWR det. R D Meikle. Bush 4-5m, edge of thick hedge/copse, SZ2952 9304. Det. R D Meikle 1 Oct 2007 (= *S. x holosericea*). **New tetrad**

Sanguisorba minor subsp. *muricata* (Fodder Burnet): Dean Hill Park, SU264263; 08 Sep 2007; Flora Group survey party. On margins of abandoned arable. **1st for SU22**

Sasa palmata (Broad-leaved Bamboo): Dock Lane, Beaulieu, SU397019; 01 Sep 2007; B&JG. **1st for SU30**

☛ *Schoenus nigricans* (Black Bog-rush): Burley Common Moor, SU2060.0465; 23 Aug 2007; NAS. Frequent in base enriched runnels in bog. **1st in tetrad since 1960**

☛ *Scleranthus annuus* subsp. *annuus* (Annual Knawel): Hurn Forest, by road to Fir Grove Farm, SU1083.0043; 03 Aug 2007; NAS. On gravel on verge of forest road, NW side on main road either side of junction with ride SU10826 00432 ±10m. Hurn Forest, ride verge in the north, SU1098.0124; 21 Jul 2007; NAS. Hurn Forest, ride east of St Leonards Peat South, SU11090091; 10 Jul 2007; NAS. Former timber stacking area. **New tetrad**

Sorbus intermedia (Swedish Whitebeam): Beaulieu Abbey Church, SU388025; 05 Jul 2007; B&JG. **1st for SU30**

[☛] *Sorbus x vagensis* (*S. aria x torminalis*): Yoell's Copse, Horndean, SU687129; 14 Oct 2007; MR, J Vigay et al det. R. Price and T G C Rich; vouchers NMW and Hb MR. Two at SU6877 1297, both cut to or near ground level, one now putting out strong shoots. SU689129. Large maiden, fruiting, at SU6892 1298. First tentatively recorded by JRw in 1986. **New vice-county record**

☛ *Spiranthes spiralis* (Autumn Lady's-tresses): Chewton Lodge, Highcliffe, SZ219938; 16 Aug 2007; D. Caals. Dozens on front lawn. **New tetrad**

☼ *Stachys arvensis* (Field Woundwort): Moonhills, Beaulieu, SU398022; 01 Sep 2007; B&JG. Frequent. New tetrad. Maize field S of St Leonards Rough; SZ399985; 06 Sep 2007; B&JG. Occasional. New tetrad. Old Park, St Leonards, SZ403988; 06 Sep 2007; B&JG. New tetrad. Kent Street, Northam, SU431123; 26 Jul 2007; PAB. New tetrad. N of Jervis Court Farm, Upper Swanmore; SU577175; 07 Apr 2007; MR & RCR. Occasional plants in unploughed stubbles. New tetrad. Winters Down, nr Corhampton, SU595213; 19 Aug 2007; Geoff Farwell, 50+ rather small plants and 4 larger plants along the bridleway on the north headland of a field currently under grass at Winters Down north-west of Corhampton. New tetrad. A27(T) junction at Broadmarsh, Havant, SU698056; 06 Sep 2007; PAB. **New tetrad.** On the Hampshire evidence alone, it is hard to believe this species deserves a presence on the national Red List as in decline.

Stipa tenuissima (Feather Grass): High Street, Gosport, SZ617998; 08 Oct 2007; EJC & DRA; photographic record. SZ6177 9986, three small plants, to 15cm high, at front of 2 High St, & one by no. 4. Established? Gosport Ferry / A32, SZ622998; 08 Oct 2007; EJC & DRA. SZ6225 9983 S side of E end of High Street. 3 seedlings to 5cm high, W side of A32, in crack in paving close to the road, & one other plant 17cm high by litter bin on the N side. **1st for SZ69.**

Thalictrum flavum (Common Meadow-rue): Hurn Forest, nr Keys Copse, SZ1193.9930; 04 Jul 2007; NAS. In secondary carr on mire, a few plants. In ditch in floodplain, a few plants. **1st in tetrad since 1954**

☼ *Torilis nodosa* (Knotted Hedge-parsley): Southbourne Coast Road, Bournemouth, SZ157911; 26 May 2007; RMW. Grass verge, SZ1575 9115. Fairly typical grass verge in this area, with a certain amount of blown sand. Mowing and trampling provide the habitat for scarce annuals. Westlands, Bransgore, SZ182978; 2007; Ms P Marchant. Several plants growing in the gutter of the close and on the edge of the grass verge. **1st for SZ19 since ?1880**

☼ *Trifolium glomeratum* (Clustered Clover): Wentworth Close, Bournemouth, SZ125914; 10 Jun 2007; RMW. Steep banks either side of road. Stourwood Avenue, Bournemouth, SZ134913; 29 May 2007; RMW. Associate of Polycarpon tetraphyllum. New tetrad. Hilside Drive, Christchurch - near Orford Close junction, SZ138958; 08 Jun 2007; PAB. **New tetrad**

Trifolium subterraneum (Subterranean Clover): Alum Chine entrance, SZ074902; 02 May 2007; RMW. Potential beach hut site. **1st for SZ09 in VC11**

Verbascum phlomoides (Orange Mullein): Longwood, SU540248; 22 Jul 2007; GC det. V. Johnstone. 50+, site of demolished Longwood House. **1st for SU52**

Vinca difformis (Intermediate Periwinkle): Smugglers Lane North, Highcliffe, SZ199937; 01 Jan 2007; DL det. EJC. On verge of N side of South End, W of Smugglers Lane South. **New vice-county record**

☼ *Viola canina* subsp. *canina* (Heath Dog-violet): Hale Purlieu, SU210191; 21 Apr 2007; PM. 3 large clumps flo. well at SU 2011 1911, SU 2012 1911 and SU 2013 1911. **New tetrad**

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VC12 Records compiled by Tony Mundell

Once more here is a set of my personal selections from the records received recently. As usual I have omitted the 'SU' to save space, and I remind you that inclusion of a record does not imply there is public access as some of these records were obtained during surveys at the owner's invitation

In the previous Flora News I commented on a rather bizarre record for a fine stand of hundreds of plants of Marsh Mallow (*Althaea officinalis*) on the edge of Chineham Business Park, well away from its usual brackish coastal estuary habitat. It later transpired that this was the result of the land owner sowing wildflower seeds there.

The saga of the spread of *Illecebrum verticillatum* (Coral Necklace) in north Hampshire is still continuing. Catherine Chatters attended a meeting in Long Valley Aldershot to see steps taken by the army to attempt to reduce the silt run-off from the military High Speed Test Track (the silt is carried by a stream and deposited a few miles away in Fleet Pond). On the bare wet sand where these army works had taken place, there was a carpet of Coral Necklace, no doubt spread locally by the vehicles used. Ian Ralphs has also reported it from Broxhead Common, but on the opposite side of the A325 from previous records.

Its spread in VC12 since it was first noted in 2005 has been very rapid, but it is confined to areas of bare wet sand, and it cannot compete at all in a closed sward. In south Hampshire it was first noted at Titchfield Haven in 1920 and in the New Forest (where it is now quite well-scattered) in 1925. If it is to be regarded as a native species these are very recent dates in terms of botanical recording, but it has been known in Cornwall since it was first recorded in Britain in the book *Pinax Rerum Naturalium Britannicarum*, by Christopher Merrett, published in 1666 (this was basically the first printed list of all the plants, birds etc then known in the country). Between 1891 and the present it has been known at up to ten sites in Berkshire, all of them only just north of the Hampshire border.

There is an interesting record for Coral Necklace in Hanbury & Marshall's 1899 Flora of Kent describing specimens of it collected in Kent. However the authors rejected it with the comment; "Boggy places four miles SW from Dover.... This may be a village in one of south-western counties, though we do not know of any other Dover than the Kentish town...There is no likely station in the Dover neighbourhood". However, I recently found out from David Pearman that there are two specimens from Kent, correctly identified and collected in 1846, which are still in the Edinburgh herbarium. In fact Hanbury & Marshall made a transcription error because the location was not "...four miles SW from Dover" (which would be in the sea) but actually "...four miles SW from Doves Fm". Doves Farm is in TQ7834, which puts the site at the south end of Bedgebury Forest. This demonstrates the value of keeping herbarium specimens!

As briefly noted in the report on the HFG meeting at The Warren & Combe Hole, a few days after that event Sarah Ball and I found many more plants of the very rare arable weed *Torilis arvensis* (Spreading Hedge Parsley) not far from the single plant found during the meeting. We also found a group of aberrant plants of *Tripleurospermum inodorum* (Scentless Mayweed) that had white petals (rays) but lacked any central yellow florets. This sterility seemed to be caused by a fungal rust infection as the white petals had minute black dots held on microscopic stalks. One sterile plant apparently had no black dots and I took a piece of it home to examine, but the same black dots erupted within 24 hours.

One of the more exciting records listed here is *Sagina subulata* (Heath Pearlwort). There are quite a few sites for it in the New Forest, but the 1996 Hampshire Flora gives it as "probably extinct in VC12". Another surprise is a new site at Farnborough for *Galium parisiense* (Wall Bedstraw). This is a very rare native plant, classed as Nationally Vulnerable in the current Red Data List. It was also found this year in short grass just outside Farlington Marshes HWT Reserve in VC11, and relatively recent articles in BSBI News have noted it growing on kerbstones at the edge of a car park area in Gosport in 2005, and as a persistent lawn weed in central London which had been sown with grass seed six years previously. This suggests that it is spreading as an alien and may possibly have arrived in grass seed at the Farnborough site (though there is no history of grass seed being used there).

Adonis annua (Pheasant's-eye) 18 plants still persisting in field corner Alresford 5739 3304 (exactly where recorded by Ted Lousley in 1936!), Tony Mundell 28 Aug 2007.

Agrimonia procera (Fragrant Agrimony) 30 plants on both sides of track at 7955 3735, just north of public footpath from Oxney Farm to the A325, Ian Ralphs 13 Sep 2007, specimen conf. Tony Mundell.

Anagallis arvensis forma carnea (Pink form of Scarlet Pimpernel) Gander Down 553280, Ginnie Copsey 3 Aug 2007.

Anisantha diandra (but now ***Bromus diandrus var. diandrus***) (Great Brome) One plant at side of path through oil-seed rape crop, Nether Wallop, Barry Goater 24 Jul 2007, a piece was sent to Dr Tom Cope who wrote to me on 16 Aug 2007 that this name should now be ***Bromus diandrus var. diandrus***.

In the previous Flora News I had listed three scarce Bromes from an area NE of Upper Farringdon. One of these was ***B. commutatus***, but Dr Cope says he has now 'sunk' this name and included it within ***B. racemosus***.

Bromus racemosus (Smooth Brome) West of Field Barn Farm, near Kingsclere, 5147 5726, growing beside *Torilis arvensis*, HFG meeting 29 Jul 2007, specimen det. Dr Tom Cope 16 Aug 2007. Arable field edge NW of Field Barn

Farm, near Kingsclere 5151 5787, Tony Mundell & Sarah Ball 2 Aug 2007.

Bidens cernua (Nodding Bur-marigold) 8 plants in SE corner of Anton Lakes, Andover 362464, Miles Hodgkiss 19 Sep 2007.

Buxus sempervirens (Box) A long line of intermittent bushes running for about 300m parallel to and 100m east of a track in Bradley Wood between 460516 to 458517, Peter Billingham 8 Apr 2007. A large patch on edge of woodland strip, east of old A34, Whitchurch 464514, Peter Billingham 19 Apr 2007. Several large bushes by track to Combe Hill, Netherton 383600, Peter Billingham 15 May 2007.

Carex disticha (Brown Sedge) Patch c.7m x 4m in unmown corner of playing field, Cove Meadows 8532 5549, Chris Hall 23 May 2007.

Centaurea nigra* var. *radiata (Long-rayed variety of Hardhead) Burghclere disused railway 4735 5910 and 4725 5945, Peter Billingham 15 Aug 2007. Also at Old Burghclere Lime Quarry 4720 5723, Peter Billingham 15 Aug 2007 and at Netherton Bottom, Hurstbourne Tarrant 387 553, Peter Billingham 3 Aug 2007. Also at The Warren, near Hannington 5159 5668, HFG meeting 29 Jul 2007.

Cephalanthera damasonium (White Helleborine) Old Burghclere Lime Quarry 472573, 30 plants covering a wider area than previous years, including four at base of slope in NE corner, Peter Billingham 26 May 2007.

Clinopodium vulgare (Wild Basil) Three white-flowered plants amongst normal ones at Beacon Hill, Burghclere 460573, Mervyn Grist & Mike Wildish 17 Aug 2007.

Crambe hispanica (Abyssinian Mustard?) A thin sprinkling of plants over whole field of wheat stubble, east of Danebury Ring, near Nether Wallop 336 376, John Moon 18 Sep 2007. Apparently this is a relatively new crop being grown for its oil (see BSBI News 101, p.35). So presumably the plants found arose from the seed from a previous crop. The article referred to suggests that *C. hispanica* is a synonym for *C. abyssinica*, but John Moon has pointed out that if you type *Crambe hispanica* into Google then the first reference is a fairly authoritative Dutch paper whose abstract suggests that it is not a synonym for *C. abyssinica*.

Cyclamen hederifolium (Sowbread) Plentiful along 3m of road verge at Northington 5566 3748, Tony Mundell 28 Aug 2007.

Cynodon dactylon (Bermuda Grass) In central reservation of A3 near Petersfield, with scattered patches from 736241 to 742247, Paul Stanley 4 Oct 2007. Driving past (northwards) Paul was not absolutely certain that it was not the similar *Digitaria sanguinea*. Tony Mundell used binoculars from the footbridge on 14 Oct 2007 and could see the plants and, although not certain, favoured the *Cynodon*.

Daphne laureola (Spurge Laurel) Over about 150m in woodland strip, east of old A34, Whitchurch 464514, Peter Billingham 19 Apr 2007.

Dipsacus pilosus (Small Teasel) 65 plants beside and on a woodland path running down the west side of Coldrey lake near Bentley 7712 4404, and more on the bank-side higher up, Sue Clark 24 Jul 2007.

Echinops bannaticus (Blue Globe-thistle) Tichborne 5676 3061, Ian & Ginnie Copsey 3 Aug 2007.

Euphorbia exigua (Dwarf Spurge) In a bare patch in a desert of wheat in Dinah's field, Hurstbourne Tarrant 387533, Peter Billingham 23 May 2007.

Fallopia dumetorum (Copse Bindweed) Single plant amongst bracken on west side of Laundry Lane, Heckfield 7304 6030, Fred Rumsey 28 Jul 2007.

Filago lutescens (Red-tipped Cudweed) Doing well with some very large handsome plants, Fleet 813563, Fred Rumsey 30 Jul 2007. At several sites on Broomhurst Farm, Fleet, 7 at 8106 5631, 28 at 8106 5630, 110 at 8107 5633 and 250 at 8109 5631, plus at least 150 on the roadside site mainly at 8126 5635, Tony Mundell 7 Aug 2007.

Galeopsis angustifolia (Red Hemp-nettle) Still present at Old Burghclere Lime Quarry 4723 5723, Peter Billingham 15 Aug 2007. Single plant re-found at Kentsboro 308402, amongst *Sonchus arvensis*, John Moon, Sep 2007.

Galeopsis tetrahit (Common Hemp-nettle) White form with normal plants beside Wayfarer Path 434574 to 438574, Miles Hodgkiss 22 Sep 2007.

Galium parisiense (Wall Bedstraw) About 30 plants on sandy verge of Tyte Track, Eelmoor Marsh, Farnborough 8387 5366, Tony Mundell 16 Jul 2007, specimen conf. R M Burton Aug 2007. A more intensive search at this site by Chris Hall on 30 Jul 2007 showed even more plants in eight places over a distance of some 75m from 8380 5369 to 8389 5365.

Galium x pomeranicum (Ladies Bedstraw x Hedge Bedstraw) Single plant close to both parents on an ant-hill at Noar Hill 74254 31879, Tony Mundell et al 25 Jul 2007. Another single plant on an ant-hill at The Warren, near Hannington 5162 5672, HFG meeting 29 Jul 2007.

Genista anglica (Petty Whin) The detailed locations of 25 plants were accurately mapped by Peter Vaughan in late April to early May at Bartley Heath.

Gentiana pneumonanthe (Marsh Gentian) Total of 1,236 plants counted at Bartley Heath, mainly in 728534 and 729534 but also some in 727533, 727534, 727535, 728533, 728535, Peter Vaughan et al 25 Aug 2007, with one white-flowered one at 7282 5338.

Geranium lucidum (Shining Cranesbill) Small clump on footpath between houses at Hurstbourne Tarrant 382530, Peter Billingham 23 May 2007.

Geranium robertianum (Herb Robert) White form beside footpath in Odiham 745512, Sheila Bates 19 Jul 2007.

Hydrocharis morsus-ranae (Frogbit) Single plant at Shortheath Pond, Ian Ralphs 4 Sep 2007.

Hyoscyamus niger (Henbane) Scattered along unsprayed headland strip at Wooton St Lawrence 5745 5390 to 5752 5385 with an outlier at 5757 5379, Tony Mundell 2 Aug 2007.

Illecebrum verticillatum (Coral Necklace) Doing well at the Long Valley site at Aldershot 838524, Fred Rumsey 30

Jul 2007. On bare sand at Long Valley where work by the army had been undertaken to control silt erosion, Catherine Chatters 17 Sep 2007, confirmed at 8353 5188, 8355 5192 and 8355 5196, Tony Mundell 5 Oct 2007. On central block of Broxhead Common east of A325 and west of B3004, again in an ephemeral sandy pool in a track where it enters the wood at 8002 3709, Ian Ralphs 4 Sep 2007.

Legousia hybrida (Venus's Looking Glass) Numerous plants beside footpath in unsprayed eastern headland of field south of Coombe Farm, Old Alresford 580349, Geoff Farwell 12 Aug 2007. An exuberantly flowering clump in an unsown strip by footpath N of the Harroway, NE of Andover 418489, Ian & Ginnie Copsey 5 Oct 2007.

Legousia speculum-veneris (Large Venus's Looking Glass) Over 100 plants on NE margin of field S of Upper Wooton 574539, Ginnie Copsey & Mary-Jane Badley 29 Jul 2007.

Malva neglecta (Dwarf Mallow) One plant in corner of large cultivated field close to road near Pinglestone Farm 577334, Geoff Farwell 12 Aug 2007.

Misopates orontium (Weasel's Snout) 30 on Broomhurst Farm, Fleet, 810 563, Tony Mundell 7 Aug 2007.

Narcissus pseudonarcissus* ssp. *pseudonarcissus (Wild Daffodil) The native subspecies in Burghclere Cemetery 470610, Peter Billingham 13 April 2007.

Nepeta cataria (Catmint) Plentiful along headland strip around an arable field at Alresford where first found by Geoffrey Farwell on 12 Aug 2007. Confirmed by Tony Mundell on 28 Aug 2007, with 65 plants counted at 5800 3503 and over 200 more between 5802 3505 and 5805 3509 along same headland.

Nymphoides peltata (Fringed Water-lily) Small patch in Tundry Pond, Dogmersfield 7751 5243, Tony Mundell 13 Aug 2007.

Ophrys insectifera (Fly Orchid) Old Burghclere Lime Quarry, 18 at 472573, one at 4713 5724 and 76 at 4710 5723, Peter Billingham 26 May 2007.

Orchis ustulata (Burnt-tip Orchid) A good year with 145 counted at Ladle Hill 478567, Mervyn Grist & Mike Wildish 13 Jul 2007.

Origanum vulgare (Marjoram) Albino form in NW corner of meadow at Pilot Hill, Faccombe, 3988 5957, Mervyn Grist 8 Aug 2007.

Ornithogalum angustifolium (Star of Bethlehem) 20 at Netherton Bottom, with main batch of 16 at 3868 5550, Peter Billingham 8 May 2007. Also four near houses on track leading to Old Burghclere Lime Quarry 472573, Peter Billingham 12 May 2007.

Papaver hybridum (Rough Poppy) At least 5 plants beside footpath in unsprayed eastern headland of field south of Coombe Farm, Old Alresford 580349, Geoff Farwell 12 Aug 2007.

Phalaris aquatica (Bulbous Canary Grass) Abundant throughout a small triangular field at Wooton St. Lawrence 5755 5382, presumably originally sown to attract pheasants, Tony Mundell 2 Aug 2007.

Phyteuma orbiculare (Round-headed Rampion) The single plant at Noar Hill 7396 3189 is much larger than when first found in 2004, and when seen by Pamela Lee, Tony Mundell et al on 25 Jul 2007 it evidently had earlier raised 4 flower spikes, though 3 of them had been eaten off, making the plant difficult to find. The difficulty of finding a single vegetative plant must explain why we could not find it in 2006. The same may be true of the few plants reported in 2004 at The Warren, near Hannington 515566. I would dearly like this latter record confirmed as it is so distant from the plant's known Hampshire distribution. Unfortunately HFG members could not re-find it on 29 Jul 2007, neither could Sarah Ball & Tony Mundell on 2 Aug 2007.

Platanthera chlorantha (Greater Butterfly Orchid) Windmill Hill Down, Ibthorpe, three at 3715 5336, plus six at 3676 5327, Peter Billingham 30 May 2007.

Potamogeton berchtoldii (Small Pondweed) Small patch in Tundry Pond, Dogmersfield 7757 5242, Tony Mundell 13 Aug 2007.

Primula x polyantha (False Oxlip) Three plants in open rough grassy area beside track in Bradley Wood 455520, Peter Billingham 8 Apr 2007.

Quercus x rosacea (Pedunculate Oak x Sessile Oak) Immature leaves first noted at Tangley 3348 5226 on HWT walk led by John Moon on 21 Apr 2007. Later specimens from two trees here confirmed by Tony Mundell 10 Jul 2007.

Ranunculus auricomus (Goldilocks Buttercup) Woodcote Churchyard 433549, Peter Billingham 19 Apr 2007.

Ranunculus trichophyllus (Thread-leaved Water Crowfoot) In small pond beneath minor power lines at Bartley Heath 73059 53344, surprisingly still flowering on 3 Oct 2007, Tony Mundell.

Rosa rubiginosa (Sweet Briar) Single bush beside footpath across meadows, Warren Hill, Hartley Wintney 7675 5819, first noted in flower Bill Helyar, Paul Sterry & Tony Mundell 22 Jun 2007, confirmed in fruit Tony Mundell 11 Sep 2007. In hedge outside Odiham school 7412 5085, Tony Mundell 7 Nov 2007. In several places around the lakes at Rooksbury Mill Reserve, Andover 3557 4473, 3561 4472 and 3565 4468, Tony Mundell 10 Nov 2007.

Sagina subulata (Heath Pearlwort) Ewshot Heath, south of Beacon Hill at the angle where two tracks meet at 8214 4997, Chris Hall 8 Aug 2007.

Salix aurita (Weeping Willow) Several bushes, clearly originally planted as they are in a row beside the bicycle sheds at the QinetiQ car park, Farnborough 8440 5418 and thriving in a remarkably inappropriate dry sandy habitat, Tony Mundell & Dr Fred Rumsey, specimen confirmed Desmond Meikle 13 Oct 2007.

Salix x subsericea (*S. cinerea* x *S. repens*) Several bushes with strictly upright habit, well over 2m high with very long slender stems and densely silky leaves, planted with other shrubby species in grassy strip beside an arable field, SW of Kingsclere 5151 5787, Tony Mundell & Sarah Ball 2 Aug 2007, det. Desmond Meikle 15 Oct 2007.

Salix triandra (Almond Willow) Specimen collected by Martin Rand during Hants Flora Group meeting at North Warnborough Meadows 731520 on 10 Jun 2007, det. Desmond Meikle 15 Oct 2007. On north side of Water Lane,

beside River Anton, Upper Clatford 3564 4418, Tony Mundell 7 Nov 2007.

Saxifraga granulata (Meadow Saxifrage) 18 plants at Netherton Bottom, Hurstbourne Tarrant 387553, Peter Billinghamurst 8 May 2007.

Scandix pecten-veneris (Shepherd's Needle) Over 150 plants along side of path across rape field, and extending into crop, at Nether Wallop 300357 at the site located in 2006 by John Moon, plus over 50 plants along the east margin of a wheat field nearby at 294354, both Barry Goater 24 Jul 2007. After a phone call from Barry, Tony Mundell immediately followed this up, and also on 24 Jul 2007, counted 250 plants at the latter site extending between 2943 3550 and 2944 3539, whilst plants at the former site extended from 2999 3577 to 2998 3581.

Sedum telephium (Orpine) In field-side margin of Laundry Lane, Heckfield 730603, Fred Rumsey 28 Jul 2007. In hedgerow at Elvetham Lane, Elvetham c.594575, Tony Mundell 11 Sep 2007.

Serratula tinctoria (Saw-wort) Hundreds if not thousands in central reservation of A287 just N of M3 at 7217 5321, Peter Vaughan 26 Aug 2007. Several at Bartley Heath 7290 5354, Tony Mundell 25 Aug 2007.

Silaum silaus (Pepper Saxifrage) Burghclere disused railway 4725 5945, Peter Billinghamurst 15 Aug 2007.

Silene noctiflora (Night-flowering Catchfly) 10 in unsprayed arable headland, Alresford 5800 3503, Tony Mundell 28 Aug 2007.

Tilia cordata (Small-leaved Lime) A row of six, planted along hedgerow in Hares Lane, Hartley Wintney 7705 5777, Tony Mundell 11 Sep 2007.

Torilis arvensis (Spreading Hedge Parsley) A patch c.0.5m x 0.3m on arable field edge at 51470 57264, c.17m east of track junction, west of Field Barn Farm, near Kingsclere, HFG meeting 29 Jul 2007. 50 more clumps found nearby 5178 5777 to 5175 5778, Sarah Ball & Tony Mundell 2 Aug 2007.

Utricularia australis (Bladderwort) Several pieces floating near the bank in several locations at Shortheath Pond, Ian Ralphs 4 Sep 2007.

Valerianella dentata (Narrow-fruited Cornsalad) At least ten plants on uncultivated headland strip around arable field at Alresford 5799 3501, first reported by Geoffrey Farwell 12 Aug 2007, confirmed Tony Mundell 28 Aug 2007.

Verbascum speciosum (Hungarian Mullein) Huge well branched plant beside A325 at Bucks Horn Oak, Alice Holt 8067 4110, Tony Mundell 28 Jul 2007. One plant at S end of Appleshaw 306484, Miles Hodgkiss 6 Nov 2007, determined Tony Mundell.

Veronica polita (Grey Field Speedwell) Ibthorpe Village 3785 5385, Peter Billinghamurst 13 Aug 2007.

Viola odorata var. *imberbis* (Scented Violet) On verge of track running NW-SE at Ibthorpe 364536, also by track at Ibthorpe 366542, both Peter Billinghamurst 2 Apr 2007.

Viscum album (Mistletoe) Growing on *Acer saccharinum* (Silver Maple) in Odiham churchyard 7401 5089, and on ***Sorbus aucuparia*** (Rowan) at Odiham Cemetery 7431 5085, Sheila Bates & Tony Mundell 7 Nov 2007.

Compiled 10 Dec 2007,

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Flora News is now available via email - please contact Natalie if you would prefer to be sent the next newsletter by email.



Flora Group fern training event by Catherine Chatters



Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this edition of *Flora News*.

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