

# LINDISFARNE MEETING - 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021

This is the dawning of the age of .....Zoom.

Before Covid I had never heard of Zoom, but now it's become an established way of life for many people in many ways. Of course, as the WFS has to be with the vanguard of new technology, the 2021 meetings programme now includes a very interesting series of virtual meetings.

So on the 28th January, on a bleak winter's evening, nearly 90 members, a goodly proportion of the WFS membership, settled on their sofas and met Chris Metherell on Lindisfarne for a spring walk, just to enjoy being in the bracing sea air and to admire some of the island's botanical abundance.

Chris started, as he went on, showing technical mastery with a split screen aerial photograph of the island and an accompanying map, explaining that we would mainly inspect a small area called the Snook. He did point out, with a dramatic photograph of a car submerged to its roof, that anyone inspired to visit Lindisfarne should carefully inspect the tide tables. It is to be hoped that the occupants of the car had vacated, as Chris delighted in saying that ultimately the tide would be several feet higher.

We were now shown the film which Chris and Hazel had made last June. The first plant up was Northern Marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza purpurella*. An excellent start, as this orchid is particularly photogenic and Chris maintained the theme of showing plants which looked good on film. We would have loved to be sitting there with him amongst the Viper's-bugloss *Echium vulgare*. Chris gave some explanation of each plant, but as time was limited, this was relatively brief, but he went on to point out Purple Milk-vetch *Astragalus danicus*, Seaside Centaury *Centaureum littorale*, Kidney Vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*, and Common Scurvygrass *Cochlearia officinalis*, finishing with another fine orchid, Early Marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata*. Also mentioned were two plants to be looked for on a visit, Curved Sedge *Carex maritima*, last seen in a slack near the houses, and Scots Lovage *Ligusticum scoticum*, formerly quite numerous on the North Shore but now perhaps there is just one plant to be found.

A somewhat different plant discussed is the rampant Antipodean intruder Pirri-pirri-bur *Acaena novae-zelandiae* which has spread throughout the island, but hopefully, is soon to be zapped with liquid nitrogen.

All round, a great meeting. Thanks are due to Janet for introducing this new initiative and to Chris and Hazel for getting us up so close to the plants and creating the WFS meeting atmosphere. It really raised our spirits in these altogether peculiar times.

DAVID ALBON