

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It was a pleasure to be with a good number of you at the Annual General meeting on the 3rd September at Juniper Hall in Surrey. My thanks to all the organisers and to John Swindells for co-ordinating the field excursions. It was a bit late in the autumn to see many of the interesting flowers of the Box Hill area, but the walk up Mickleham Downs produced some nice finds. The Ploughman's-spikenard (*Inula conyza*) in seed was abundant and very attractive in the sunlight. We learned to distinguish Fragrant Agrimony (*Agrimonia procera*) from Agrimony (*A. eupatoria*) by the more hairy stems and the more deeply serrate leaves of the former. The leaves of Stinking Hellebore (*Helleborus foetidus*) attracted many of us off the path to look at it. Altogether a good day and I was sorry not to be able to stay for the field trip the next day. Box Hill was a favourite place for us to escape to in the summer when we were living at Kew. We went several times to see the many interesting orchids that grow there, so it was good to back there again.

In this issue of the Magazine I would especially like to recognise Pippa Hyde who has been editor for all the time I have been your President and long before. Three times a year I have enjoyed the gentle reminders from Pippa that it is time to write another President's letter. The Wild Flower Magazine is the flagship of our Society and so having it produced with such good quality is one of the ways that holds us all together.

Thank you Pippa for a job well done. I will miss your messages.

I have been travelling again in August. This time back to my favourite country Brazil. I was invited by the British Embassy in Brazil, along with four other scientists, to give some lectures in Rio de Janeiro during the Olympics. I gave one lecture on the wetland ecosystems of Brazil particularly about the mangrove forest and the seasonally flooded forests of Amazonia. The other lecture was at a brand new museum called the "Museum for Tomorrow." If ever you travel to Rio de Janeiro you must visit this modern museum, all electronic, but with an extremely strong message about what we are doing to the environment. My lecture was on "Biodiversity for tomorrow" about our need to stop the loss of species if we want the world to survive. I also lectured about my taxonomic research on the cocoa plum family (Chrysobalanaceae) at the Rio botanical garden, one of the most beautiful in the tropics. From there I travelled to the city of Belém at the mouth of the Amazon to do work in the herbarium and

Ploughman's-spikenard in seed



Photo: Sir Ghillelan Prance

make a field trip to the local mangrove forests. These forests, flooded by tidal salt water, are some of the most important in the tropics because they stabilise the coastlines and harbour an amazing amount of fish, crabs and crustaceans. This is the reason that I am currently doing as much as I can to see that mangrove forests are restored rather than destroyed. Altogether an interesting and varied trip!

GHILLEAN PRANCE

EDITORIAL

I should like to introduce myself as your new editor. My husband, Dennis and I joined the WFS in 2010 as relative novices. We were fortunate in joining a very enthusiastic branch with Stephen Clarkson at the helm and our knowledge increased in leaps and bounds over the ensuing years, although we acknowledge we still have a lot to learn. I joined the committee in 2014 and have since been catapulted into my new role. I hope to meet many of you at future meetings.

I must take this opportunity of thanking my predecessor, Pippa. Having spent a fair few hours compiling this magazine, I now appreciate how much time and effort is involved in the job – one which she has very capably done for the last 15 years. Reproduced in the magazine is the citation that John Swindells read out about Pippa at the AGM. However, I am also finding the role both challenging (mostly from the IT perspective!) and enjoyable. It has certainly been a steep learning curve.

Sheila has, yet again, produced a superb programme of events for the coming year. There should be something there to tempt you. Having taken over the reins for the last couple of years, while we have had no official meetings secretary, we are very pleased that the most recent addition to your committee, Janet John, has volunteered to take on this role. Please give her all your support.

Also included in this edition is a summary of the AGM and accounts of the meetings that accompanied it. The accounts give a real flavour of these meetings and the heated debates that ensue over some of the finer details of plant identification when separating two closely related species.

It never ceases to amaze me just how many different species are still in flower at the end of the season. Many thanks to Julie and Ian for the speedy turn-around of their reports on the autumn one day and one week hunts.

Plans for the future of the magazine

I hope you like the new format of the magazine. By changing printers, we have taken the opportunity to introduce more colour into the magazine and I should welcome pictures to illustrate articles in the future. However, to maintain the quality, the printers require these to be of high resolution.

A further change is to replace our current three issues (one bumper and two smaller) a year with four, more evenly sized, issues. The plan is to have a winter edition very much as you see it now and a summer edition, which will mainly contain the branch secretary reports. The spring and autumn editions should have a wider diversity of articles, but will include the field meeting reports. I should like to receive more articles about specific places of botanical interest or about specific species of plant. I should also like to include more aids to plant identification. I have made an attempt at this with the centre page spread in this edition. The plan is to have keys or glossaries that you might use in the field. These pages can be removed, cut and laminated. So from this issue you can have, readily to hand, a key to the four most common snowdrop species in the UK, which has been produced by Sheila Wynn. This follows on from an excellent key produced by Bill Hawkins in Spring 2012 magazine. On the adjoining page is a guide to the common inflorescence types (many thanks to Mary and Claire Smith for the idea).

One of the joys of this job is receiving articles for publication and I should like to encourage more people to contribute. We have a wealth of botanical experience within the Society, which I hope you are happy to share with others. At the end of the day, the magazine is only going to be as good as the articles that are received. It will continue to evolve and I welcome new ideas. I want to build on the excellent work of previous editors and hope that the magazine will be informative as well as enjoyable.

ANNE KELL

2017 Subscriptions

A 2017 subscription form was sent out with our last Magazine. Thank you very much to everyone who has already paid by cheque or by standing order. The subscription remains just £10 for adults plus £5 for an additional adult sharing the Magazine. Any remaining payments payable to Wild Flower Society should be sent to Sue Poyser, WFS Membership Secretary, 43 Roebuck Road, Rochester, Kent, ME1 1UE. Sue can also provide standing order forms and, of course, record books (diaries), car stickers and badges. Email: wildflowermembership@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you also to those UK taxpayers who have signed Gift Aid declarations in favour of the Society. This makes a very valuable contribution to our finances each year, but you do need to let us know if you have signed a declaration in the past but no longer pay the tax required.

ROBIN BLADES, TREASURER

DEADLINE FOR SPRING ISSUE: Copy for articles and reports to the Editor by **1st February**. Please can you give **English plant names first followed, in brackets, by the Latin names, written in italics**.

MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2017

Meetings are open to all members of the Society. Guests may also attend meetings.

Members wishing to attend a meeting should book with the leader directly unless otherwise stated in the information.

If you have any queries, contact Sheila Wynn wfsgensec@yahoo.co.uk or phone: 01200 425813

To receive monthly updates with details about availability of places or changes to arrangements in meetings and information about extra meetings, contact **WFSAlerts@outlook.com** and ask to have your name added to the mailing list.

Members who do not drive or who have difficulty reaching the starting point of events should contact the leader to see if transport might be available.

PACKED LUNCHES ARE REQUIRED AND USUALLY NEED TO BE CARRIED

Please DO NOT bring dogs to any meeting as some landowners do not like them on their property.

All those attending WFS Field Meetings do so at their own risk.

BSBI Meetings. Members of the WFS are invited to attend BSBI Recording Meetings. For details see their website: <http://www.bsbi.org.uk/meetings.html>

TWO AND THREE DAY MEETINGS

Thursday 15th – Friday 16th June: Teesdale.

Leader: Linda Robinson (VC 65 Recorder)

Thursday 15th June: Meet for a 10:30 start at Bowlees Car Park (NY908282). There are toilets and the visitor centre has a newly refurbished café for anyone arriving early and wanting a drink.

We will spend the day on the banks of the River Tees between Low and High Force, where we should see many of the Teesdale specialities.

If time, we may also go further downriver where there are some of the very rare *Alchemillas* and *Crepis mollis* (Northern Hawk's-beard).

Friday 16th June: Meet for a 10:30 start at Cow Green Car Park (NY811309)

We will spend the morning on the Teesdale NNR in the area between the car park and Cow Green Dam and then move down to Widdybank Pasture.

Plants we should see include *Viola lutea* (Mountain Pansy), *Draba incana* (Hoary Whitlowgrass), *Botrychium lunaria* (Moonwort) and possibly *Gentiana verna* (Spring Gentian), although we may be too late. **Numbers limited to 20.** To book, contact Judith Cox: grannyju123@gmail.com or phone 01642 892815.

This meeting could be combined with the meeting on Wednesday 14th June at Whitesyke mine, Garrigill and Bell's Grooves, Allenheads,

which is about 15 miles north of Middleton-in-Teesdale. See One Day Meetings list for information.

The Durham Wildlife Trust Reserve, Hannah's Meadow SSSI is 8 miles south of Middleton-in-Teesdale. These meadows are considered to be some of the least improved and most species-rich upland hay meadows in Durham. If there is enough interest, we could visit the site on Saturday.

Saturday 24th – Sunday 25th June: Exmoor.

Leaders: Graham Lavender and Ro FitzGerald

This is a joint meeting with Somerset Rare Plants Group.

Saturday 24th June: Meet at 10.00 at Bossington National Trust Car Park (SS898479) for a walk over Bossington Salt Marsh and Hurlstone Point. We should see *Allium ampeloprasum* var. *babingtonii* (Wild Leek), *Crambe maritima* (Sea Kale), *Glaucium flavum* (Yellow Horned-poppy), *Glaux maritima* (Sea-milkwort), *Lepidium heterophyllum* (Smith's Pepperwort), *Orobanche hederæ* (Ivy Broomrape), *Spergularia rupicola* (Rock Sea-spurrey) and *Trifolium subterraneum* (Subterranean clover).

Sunday 25th June: Meet at 10.00 at Robbers Bridge Car Park (SS821464). This is a traditional moorland edge-of-stream site and we should see *Drosera rotundifolia* (Round-leaved Sundew), *Eleocharis quinqueflora* (Few-flowered Spike-rush), *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* (Alternate Water-milfoil), *Narthecium ossifragum* (Bog Asphodel), *Pinguicula grandiflora* (Large-flowered Butterwort), *Scutellaria minor* (Lesser Skullcap), *Sibthorpia europaea* (Cornish Moneywort) and *Wahlenbergia hederacea* (Ivy-leaved Bellflower). The Bossington monad has over 300 species and the Robbers Bridge just over 200 within 5 mins of ample car parking.

Porlock (near Bossington) has many places to stay. Visitor Centre enquiries: 01643 863150 The Exmoor National Parks website has masses of information including details of accommodation.

Anyone hoping to attend, contact Graham Lavender:
grahamlavender@hotmail.com

Saturday 8th – Sunday 9th July: Hampshire & the New Forest

Saturday 8th July: Noar Hill Nature Reserve, Selborne, Hampshire.

Leader: Tony Mundell

Meet at 10:30 in the car park at Selborne (SU742335) (Toilets available here). We will share cars to drive on to park on the grassy verge near Noar Hill, at SU73773216. Noar Hill has a rich chalk flora, with a variety of orchids, including *Coeloglossum viride* (Frog Orchid), *Herminium monorchis* (Musk Orchid), *Orobanche elatior* (Knapweed Broomrape) as well as over 35 species of breeding butterfly. If there is time, we could also look at the adjacent hanger and arable field edges. **Numbers limited to 15.**

To book, contact Sheila Wynn: wfsgensec@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01200 425813

Sunday 9th July 2017: New Forest.**Leader: David Caals**

A 'Come and find' meeting in the New Forest to see its special plants. Meet at 10:00 at Shatterford car park (SU34670643) on the B3056 heading out of Lyndhurst towards Beaulieu. N.B. This car park is to the west of the railway bridge for Beaulieu Road Station, i.e. on your right just before reaching the railway. Do not go over the bridge to the car park directly opposite the Drift Inn. (Refreshments available there afterwards though.)

Apart from the usual suspects of acid heath and bog, we hope to see *Gladiolus illyricus* (Wild Gladiolus), *Illecebrum verticillatum* (Coral Necklace), *Crassula tillaea* (Mossy Stonecrop), *Utricularia minor*, *intermedia* and *bremii* (Lesser, Intermediate and our very own New Forest Bladderworts), *Radiola linoides* (Allseed), *Ludwigia palustris* (Hampshire Purslane), *Botrychium lunaria* (Moonwort) and *Cuscuta epithymum* (Dodder). If we are very lucky, we shall see late-flowering examples of *Dactylorhiza incarnata* ssp. *pulchella* (Early Marsh-orchid in both its red/purple livery and its less common white form) and *Platanthera bifolia* (Lesser Butterfly-orchid).

Numbers limited to 20.

Because of ticks carrying Lyme disease, you are advised to cover your legs. To book, contact David Caals: caals.sdzm@talk21.com or phone 01202 814743

Thursday 13th – Saturday 15th July: The Burren. Leader: Chris Metherell

This is a joint meeting with the British Pteridological Society. We shall be based in Ballyvaughan. It will be a 'Come and find' meeting as it won't be possible to do a recce, however Hazel and I have botanised in the area before. We hope to be able to find most of the Burren specialities such as *Dryas octopetala* (Mountain Avens), *Saxifraga rosacea* (Irish Saxifrage), *Euphrasia salisburgensis* (Irish Eyebright), *Pedicularis sylvatica* ssp. *hibernica* (Lousewort) and so forth. There will be some rough walking but we won't be climbing any mountains!

For more information and booking, contact Chris Metherell:

Chris@metherell.org.uk or phone 01670 783401, mob 07505134070

Tuesday 25th – Thursday 27th July: Isle of Skye. Leader: Ian Green

I hope to see most of the interesting species found on Skye including the *Arabis alpina* (Alpine Rock-cress) and *Koenigia islandica* (Iceland-purslane).

We will be going up several mountains and will climb to at least 700m, although it could be more, so the days will be fairly long. The longest walk I think would be to see the *Arabis alpina* which is at least a 9km round trip. There will be lots of climbs but nowhere really dangerous, although the going can be hard at times as there will be scree and rocks etc to climb up/over. Anyone coming would certainly need to be hill fit.

Numbers limited to 20.

For more information and booking, contact Ian Green: igreen67@aol.co.uk or phone mob: 07724 091 846, address: Eastview, Lachlanwells, Forbes, Moray. IV36 2RA

Friday 1st – Monday 4th September: AGM and Members' Weekend, Llandudno

On Saturday morning there will be a walk on the Great Orme followed, after lunch, by the AGM which will be held in Holy Trinity Church Hall, Llandudno. There will be meetings on Sunday at Llyn Sarnau in the Gwydyr Forest near Llanwrst and on Monday at Cors Goch National Nature Reserve on Anglesey. Full details will be published in the Summer Magazine.

ONE DAY MEETINGS

Members wishing to attend a one day meeting should book with the leader and bring a packed lunch.

Friday 3rd March: Spring Hunt, Colchester Castle Park and new meadow walk. Leader: Dr. Stephen Clarkson.

Please meet at 10:30 outside the Castle Museum in the park (TL999252). Parking is available with a charge at any of the town's car parks. The nearest car parks are Nunn's Road, Priory Street and Osborne Street. Contact Sue Grayston: suegrayston@gmail.com or phone 01473 831174

Saturday 4th March: A Spring Hunt on the dunes at Crosby, Merseyside. Leader: Julie Clarke

Meet for an 11:00am start at the Crosby Leisure Centre Mariners Rd, Crosby L23 6SX SJ307989. Contact Julie Clarke: colin.julie9@gmail.com or phone 01539 563504

Saturday 15th April: A hunt for Pasqueflowers at Therfield Heath, Royston. Leader: Dr. Stephen Clarkson.

Meet at 10:30 in the car park (TL3362540178). Other species we may see are *Thalictrum minus* (Lesser Meadow-rue), *Hypochaeris maculata* (Spotted Cat's-ear), *Iberis amara* (Wild Candytuft) and *Thesium humifusum* (Bastard Toadflax). Contact Sue Grayston: suegrayston@gmail.com or phone 01473 831174

Wednesday 10th May: Spring Ephemerals, Surrey Leader: Pat Verrall

Details will be published in the WFS Alerts nearer the time or contact Pat Verrall for further information: pkverrall@gmail.com or phone 01306 730854

Thursday 18th May: Recording in the lanes of Cheshire.

Leader: Julie Clarke Joint Meeting with the Lancashire Botany Group

The details will be published in the WFS Alerts nearer the time or contact Julie Clarke: colin.julie9@gmail.com or phone 01539 563504

Saturday 20th May: Beachy Head, Eastbourne. Leader: Gareth Bursnall

Meet at 10:30 at the Holywell Tea Rooms, at the end of the promenade, at beach level. (TV601968) There is parking in the nearby residential streets.

Bring a packed lunch and good footwear as we will be walking on shingle and uneven ground.

This is a 'Come and find' Meeting. We will start by exploring the sea cliffs where we should find *Senecio cineraria* (Silver Ragwort), *Malva arborea* (Tree Mallow) and *Matthiola incana* (Sea Stock). We will then explore the chalk downland where we should see *Allium vineale* (Crow Garlic), *Arum italicum* ssp. *italicum* (Italian Lords-and-Ladies) and much more.

Contact Priscilla Nobbs: p.nobbs17@btinternet.com or 01293 783071

Saturday 27th May: Nettlestead, Suffolk.

Leaders: Sue Grayston and Ken Southall

Meet at 10:30. There is plenty of parking at Aspen Cottage, Nettlestead. We will be walking around the nearby lanes and fields. There will be cream teas, a quiz and lots of plants. Come and see Ken's wood collection. All welcome. Contact Sue Grayston: suegrayston@gmail.com or phone 01473 831174

Thursday 8th June: Langcliffe, Settle, Yorkshire.

Leaders: Julie Clarke and Brian Burrow

Joint Meeting with the Lancashire Botany Group

Meet at 10:30 in the car park at the Hoffman Lime Kiln (SD824663) post code BD24 9NU. It is situated off the B6479 about 3/4 mile north of Langcliffe village. When level with the paper mill turn right up a lane leading under a railway bridge. Follow the lane to a junction and go right to a signed car park. The site has a good limestone flora as well as a range of species of *Hieracium* (hawkweeds). If time, we may go on to another site.

Please contact Julie Clarke: colin.julie9@gmail.com or phone 01539 563504

Saturday 10th June: Wolstenbury Hill, Clayton, Hassocks, Sussex.

Leader: Gareth Bursnall

Meet at 10:30 at the car park opposite the church in Clayton, Hassocks (TQ299140).

Bring a packed lunch and sturdy footwear as the walk includes some steep climbs and the paths may be muddy.

We will explore the lanes and then climb Wolstenbury Hill. The plants we should see include: *Lavandula angustifolia* (Garden Lavender), *Neottia ovata* (Common Twayblade), *Platanthera chlorantha* (Greater Butterfly-orchid), *Orchis mascula* (Early-purple Orchid), and hopefully, *Tephrosia integrifolia* (Field Fleawort).

Contact Priscilla Nobbs: p.nobbs17@btinternet.com or 01293 783071

Sunday 11th June: Shingle Street, Suffolk.

Leaders: Stephen Clarkson and Nicola Dixon

Meet at 10.30 at the Shingle Street car park (TM369430). Shingle Street is one of the largest areas of vegetated shingle in Britain and supports a highly specialised flora. We hope to see species typical of vegetated shingles in Suffolk such as *Crambe maritima* (Sea Kale), *Glaucium flavum* (Yellow Horned-poppy) and *Lathyrus japonicus* (Sea Pea). Site specialities include

Vicia lutea (Yellow Vetch) and the dwarf clovers *Trifolium glomeratum* (Clustered Clover), *Trifolium striatum* (Knotted Clover) and *Trifolium scabrum* (Rough Clover). We will also explore the adjoining grassland, brackish lagoons and ditches in search of a wide variety of coastal and saltmarsh plants.

Contact Nicola Dixon: nicola.r.dixon@googlemail.com or phone 07926 500162

Wednesday 14th June: Whitesyke mine, Garrigill and Bell's Grooves, Allenheads.

Leader: Lizzie Maddison

Meet at 10:30 at the Whitesyke and Bentyfield mine site (NY750424). There is car parking space next to the road. Then, in the afternoon, we will move over to Bell's Grooves, Allenheads, which is about 8 miles away. There is plenty of space to park at the bottom of Slag Hill (NY851464), from where we will walk a few metres down to the local wildlife site Bell's Grooves. There is a tea shop in the village.

These sites have interesting calaminarian species such as *Noccaea caerulescens* (Alpine Penny-cress), *Minuartia verna* (Spring Sandwort), lots of *Viola lutea* (Mountain Pansy), *Coeloglossum viride* (Frog orchid), *Botrychium lunaria* (Moonwort), *Ophioglossum vulgatum* (Adder's Tongue) and *Cochlearia pyrenaica* (Pyrenean Scurvy-grass). There is also *Cirsium heterophyllum* (Melancholy Thistle), and *Geranium sylvaticum* (Wood Crane's-bill) in the hedgerows. We also have quite rare Sphagnum, *Sphagnum riparium* although I realise not technically what we would be there for!

To book, contact Lizzie Maddison: e.maddison@btinternet.com or phone 07975 853781

The meeting above could be combined with the two-day meeting on 15th – 16th June in Teesdale.

Wednesday 28th June 2017: Sydlings Copse near Oxford.

Leader: Roger Heath-Brown

Meet at 10:00 at the Thornhill Park & Ride pick-up/set-down area (SP56640733). One can park for 1 hour for free, but we may have to leave some cars here as parking at the site is difficult. This is an extremely varied reserve with limestone grassland, coppiced woodland, fen, and acid heathland, all surrounded by interesting arable land. We might see any of *Orchis mascula* (Early-purple Orchid), *Agrimonia procera* (Fragrant Agrimony), *Himantoglossum hircinum* (Lizard Orchid), *Anagallis tenella* (Bog Pimpernel), *Lathraea squamaria* (Toothwort), and *Papaver argemone* (Prickly Poppy).

We will also visit a second site, possibly Port Meadow for *Limosella aquatica* (Mudwort), *Rumex pulcher* (Fiddle Dock) and *Torilis nodosa* (Knotted Hedge-Parsley); or the Wychwood Way for *Salvia pratensis* (Meadow Clary), *Silene noctiflora* (Night-Flowering Champion) and other cornfield weeds.

To book, please contact Roger Heath-Brown: rhb@maths.ox.ac.uk or phone 01865 361821, or (but only on 28/6/2017) 07929285424

Saturday 8th July: Coldfall Wood, Barnet, London N10.

Leader: David Bevan

This is a joint meeting with the London Natural History Society

Meet 14:00 at East Finchley underground station on the Northern line (TQ272892) or at 14:15 at the westernmost entrance to wood in Creighton Ave (TQ276900), opposite Church Vale/Beech Drive.

Coldfall Wood is a recently coppiced ancient woodland on the boundary between Haringey and Barnet in North London. The flora is rich for its urban location and includes a good range of unusual aliens in addition to the native flora. No need to book.

For any queries contact David Bevan: conserving.bevan@virgin.net

Friday 14th July: Strumpshaw Fen, Norfolk.

Leader: Dr. Stephen Clarkson

Meet at 10:30 in RSPB car park (TG341065). Entrance charge for non-members is £3.50. Concessions £2.50. Please remember bug spray. We should see lots of Orchids, *Thyselium palustre* (Milk-parsley), *Potamogeton acutifolius* (Sharp-leaved Pondweed) and *Carex x rotae*.

Contact Sue Grayston: suegrayston@gmail.com or phone 01473 831174

Saturday 15th July: Amberley Wild Brooks, Arundel, Sussex.

Leader: Gareth Bursnall

Meet at 10:30 at Amberley Station at Houghton Bridge (TQ027118). Bring a packed lunch and strong footwear as the ground could be uneven and muddy in places. We will explore the drainage ditches along the River Arun where we should see *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* (Frogbit), *Potamogeton lucens* (Shining Pondweed), *Hippuris vulgaris* (Mare's-tail), *Lathyrus sylvestris* (Narrow-leaved Everlasting-pea), *Sagittaria sagittifolia* (Arrowhead) and many more.

Contact Priscilla Nobbs: p.nobbs17@btinternet.com or 01293 783071

Saturday 15th July: Southerscales Scar and Ribbleshead Quarry, Yorkshire.

A Joint Meeting with Bradford Botany Group. More details to follow. To book, contact Sheila Wynn: wfsensec@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01200 425813

Saturday 22nd July: Langford Heathfield SSSI, North-east of Wellington, Somerset.

Leader: Stephen Parker

Meet at 10:30. Park in the layby at ST104229. It is a flat site which can be wet so good walking boots or wellingtons would be an advantage.

Langford is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) with heathland scrub, secondary and ancient oak and ash woodland. It is because of the reserve's varied habitat, which includes wet and dry unimproved neutral grassland, heath, ancient woodland, ponds, bracken and scrub that such a variety of wildlife can be found there. An extensive area of neutral marshy grassland is characterised by *Molinia caerulea* (Purple Moor-grass), *Anthoxanthum odoratum* (Sweet Vernal-grass), *Briza media* (Quaking-grass) and *Carex pulicaris* (Flea-sedge). *Cirsium dissectum* (Meadow Thistle) occurs in the northern part of the site. Other species include *Achillea ptarmica*

(Sneezewort), *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* (Southern Marsh-orchid), *Genista anglica* (Petty Whin) and *Serratula tinctoria* (Saw-wort). Langford is the only location in Somerset where the nationally scarce *Viola lactea* (Pale Dog-violet) occurs.

Contact Stephen Parker: stephenjparker1710@gmail.com

Thursday 10th August 2017: South Harting, West Sussex.

Leader: Dawn Nelson

Meet at 10.30 in the National Trust car park at the top of Harting Down on the B2141 at SU791180, Post Code GU31 5PN. I will arrange free parking. We will move on in fewer cars during the day, so please be prepared to car share if possible. There is a public loo in South Harting village at the bottom of the hill beside The White Hart Inn, and a very good shop just up North Lane if you want to buy provisions.

We should see a good range of chalk-loving plants including *Phyteuma orbiculare* (Round-headed Rampion), *Asperula cynanchica* (Squincancywort), *Hypopitys monotropa* ssp. *hypophegea* (Yellow Bird's-nest), *Polypodium interjectum* (Intermediate Polpody), *P. cambricum* (Southern Polypody), *Poa angustifolia* (Narrow-leaved Meadow-grass) and *Parthenocissus inserta* (False Virginia-creeper).

If there is enough interest I can add a half day meeting on Wednesday afternoon or Friday morning to rare lowland heath, to see a very different suite of plants hopefully including *Centunculus minimus* (Chaffweed), *Chamaemelum nobile* (Chamomile), two *Drosera* species (Sundews) and *Lycopodiella inundata* (Marsh Clubmoss).

To book, please contact Dawn Nelson: dawninthegarden@btinternet.com

Saturday 12th August: Wolves Wood to look at the Violet Helleborines and then on to Needham Market Wildlife Reserve for a beginners guide to chalkland flora.

Leader Dr. Stephen Clarkson. Please meet at 10:30 at Wolves Wood car park off the A1071 (TM0538043652).

Contact Sue Grayston: suegrayston@gmail.com or phone 01473 831174

Tuesday 15th August: Dancers End BBOWT reserve near Aylesbury.

Leaders: Gwyn and Janet John.

Meet at 10:30 at the Water Works car park (SP905089) Post Code HP23 6LB, 5 miles SE of Aylesbury. From Aylesbury head E on A41 towards Aston Clinton, turn right onto B4009, signposted Wendover and immediately left for Dancers End. After 1 mile turn right at T-junction and continue for about one mile to park at the Water Works. This is an opportunity to see the *Gentianella germanica* (Chiltern Gentian) and to enjoy other flowers on this mixed BBOWT reserve deep in the Chilterns. The reserve has woodland and chalk grassland and is the home to *Salvia pratensis* (Meadow Clary) as well as *Gentianella germanica*.

Contact Gwyn and Janet John: janetjohn004@gmail.com or phone 07836 321109

Thursday 17th August: Smithills Country Park, Bolton.

Leader: Julie Clarke Joint Meeting with the Lancashire Botany Group

Meet at 10:30 in the car park at Barrow Bridge (SD687118). The easiest way to approach this is from the A58 (Ring Road) turning off at SD694109 and driving round Moss Bank Park, passing two car parks and through the village of Barrow Bridge, rather than approaching on the very narrow lane (Longshaw Ford Road) coming from the north. Contact Julie Clarke: colin.julie9@gmail.com or phone 01539 563504

Saturday 9th September: Harwich, to see the Hog's Fennel.

Leader: Dr. Stephen Clarkson.

Meet at 10:30 in the car park at West End Road, Harwich (TM2470130131). Contact Sue Grayston: suegrayston@gmail.com or phone 01473 831174

Last week in October: Autumn Hunt.

Leader: Julie Clarke

The details will be published in the WFS Alerts nearer the time or contact Julie Clarke: colin.julie9@gmail.com or phone 01539 563504

Saturday 28th October: Autumn hunt at Woodbridge. A 'Come and find' meeting.

Leader: Dr. Stephen Clarkson.

Meet at 10:30 at the car park at Jetty Lane, Woodbridge IP12 4BA (TM271485). Contact Sue Grayston: suegrayston@gmail.com or phone 01473 831174

For details of local meetings to be arranged nearer the time, contact your branch secretary or subscribe to the Wild Flower Alerts to be kept up to date.

Harebell

Winner of
'Shoot and show' class

Photo: Jill Oakley



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT 2 p.m. ON SATURDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2016 AT THE JUNIPER HALL FIELD STUDIES CENTRE, DORKING, SURREY

John Swindells welcomed the President, Sir Ghilleen Prance, and members to the Members' Weekend in Surrey and thanked everyone who had helped with the organisation of the weekend.

Present: Sir Ghilleen Prance (President), John Swindells (Chairman), Robin Blades (Treasurer), Sheila Wynn (General Secretary), Pippa Hyde (Magazine Editor), Nichola Hawkins (Publicity Secretary), Judith Cox, Nicola Dixon and Anne Kell (Committee Members) and 51 other members.

Apologies for absence: Jan Armishaw, David Bevan, Julie Clarke, Elizabeth Elliott, Ro FitzGerald, Catherine Haines, Lorna and Derek Holland, Helen Jackson, Geoffrey Kitchener, Chris Pogson, John Poland and Rachel Rabey

Minutes of the 2015 AGM: The minutes published in the Spring 2016 Wild Flower Magazine were approved as a true record.

Matters Arising: None

Financial Matters:

Robin Blades said that the 2015 accounts were circulated with the last Magazine.

General fund receipts included donations totalling £1,290 from a long standing member. Printing expenditure included a reprint of the diary. General fund expenditure exceeded receipts by £3,314 compared with £4,709 in 2014 because of a transfer to the Grants and Development Fund. This means

that Grants and Development Fund receipts were £655 more than expenditure in 2015 compared with excess receipts of £1,926 in 2014. Total payments exceeded receipts by £2,659 compared with excess payments of £2,783 in 2014.

At the moment we are able to cover routine expenditure from routine income. The excess payments result from a planned policy of maintaining a high level of charitable grants as we aim to use the large legacy received from Dr Chicken in 2012 over a period of around five years. We supported the publication of two county floras, Derbyshire and Devon. Our grants for study days for volunteers with Wildlife Trusts continue to be one of our main projects and we made a small start to our support for the BSBI Atlas 2020 project. There have been some short articles in the Magazine from recipients of the grants.

The value of our investments at 31/12/15 was down by 0.7% compared with 31/12/14 as a result of market movements.

During 2016 the grants to Wildlife Trusts have carried on as before and we have supported some work on teaching adult novices to identify plants. We have been told to expect a higher figure for the FSC bursaries because of a change in the way they are being promoted to potential recipients. The support for the BSBI Atlas is really getting going this year with £3,700 promised for work in Ireland and northern Scotland.

The value of our investments is now

£132,452 up by 8.9% since 31/12/15. Robin thanked Sue Poyser for the excellent job she does administering our subscriptions and membership records. Membership was 628 at the end of 2015, up by 26 in the year, and is currently 606.

The meeting approved the adoption of the accounts. Tom Fowler was thanked for his work as Independent Examiner and was reappointed for another year.

Tom subsequently notified the Executive Committee that he would like to retire as Independent Examiner.

Officers' Reports

General Secretary:

Sheila Wynn thanked Pat Verrall and John Swindells for all their help with the organisation of the weekend.

She also thanked all Branch Secretaries for their hard work on behalf of the members and said how much their contribution was appreciated.

She reported that Helen Jackson has retired as Branch Secretary for Scotland, after holding the position for thirty years. Ro FitzGerald has very kindly offered to add Scotland to her increasing collection of regions in Britain and Ireland.

Doug Grant has also retired as Winter Months Hunt Secretary, a post he has held since 2008. He has been replaced by Dorothy Ross, who has been a regular contributor to the hunt for many years.

Sheila thanked Helen and Doug for everything they have done and also expressed thanks to Ro and Dorothy for agreeing to take on these roles.

At the Branch and Competitions Secretaries' meeting the day before, Lorna and Derek Holland announced

their intention to retire from their position as Spring Week Hunt Secretaries after next year's hunt.

Sheila went on to say that earlier this year, Pippa announced her resignation as Magazine Editor, a position she has held for the last 15 years. During that time she has done a marvellous job of producing the magazine, which is such a valued source of information and provides so much of interest to members.

Sheila thanked Pippa, for everything that she's done for the society over the years and commented that she will be very much missed as a member of the committee.

She then thanked Anne Kell who has offered to take on this key role.

Anne's transition to magazine editor has left a vacant place on the committee for which Janet John has agreed to stand for nomination.

This year's new Committee member, Nicola Dixon, was thanked for her contributions and ideas and also for setting up and running the email alerts system, which now has over 60 members.

Meetings Secretary:

Sheila Wynn thanked everybody who has contributed to making this year's programme of meetings such a success, especially those who were involved in the organisation and leading of the meetings. She reported that the six main meetings were very popular, all but one being almost fully booked and said that in spite of occasional inclement weather, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

She also said that there had been a good selection of one-day meetings in the programme as well as those local meetings that weren't advertised

in advance. Many of these were well-attended although, disappointingly, the numbers for others were rather low. She asked members to support their local branch meetings, even when they have moved on to Valhalla.

She reported that four two-day meetings had been fixed for 2017, with others awaiting confirmation and asked members for ideas for places to go.

John reminded members that the position of Meetings Secretary is still vacant and asked for volunteers to take on this job.

Publicity Secretary:

Nichola Hawkins reported that she had a stand at the Bioblitz event at Brompton Cemetery in London, where she set up displays of the children's activity worksheets and organised identification quizzes. She thanked Julie Clarke, Sue Riley and Sheila Wynn for running a similar stand at the Wildlife Festival and Bioblitz at Smithills Estate, Bolton. She said that she had a box of materials for anyone who would like to run a stall at an event near them. She demonstrated the PowerPoint presentation that she has put together which could be used as a basis for anyone wishing to give a talk on the Wild Flower Society.

Editor:

Pippa Hyde thanked Rodney Burton for all the help and support he had given her over all the time she had been editing the magazine. She also thanked John Swindells, her other proof-reader, Sue Poyser for always responding so tolerantly to her requests for information and Sir Ghilleen Prance for his prompt

production of the President's Letter. She thanked everyone for the articles they had sent in over the years and said that she was delighted that Anne Kell had agreed to take over the editing of the magazine.

Anne introduced herself and outlined some of her ideas for the magazine.

Chairman:

John gave an overview of the history of the magazine and paid tribute to Pippa for the valued contribution she has made to its development. He emphasised the importance of the role, saying that the magazine editor probably has more contact with a wide range of members than anyone else.

He reminded members that the Wild Flower Society relies entirely on volunteers and thanked all Officers, Committee members and everyone who contributes to the running of the Society. In particular, he thanked Sue Poyser for her efficient keeping of membership records, Ken Southall for organising the Photographic Competition and producing the excellent displays of photographs, Stephen Clarkson for once again providing his challenging plant quiz and Peter Llewellyn for managing the website.

He also thanked the team of thirty-one Branch and Competition Secretaries and went on to say that at their meeting on the previous day, attended by twenty two Branch Secretaries, a radical proposal had been made. The suggestion was that once members start cumulative recording they should continue to send their record books to their local branch secretaries rather than having different secretaries for the different levels of Valhalla. The Parnassus

branches would remain unchanged. Members were asked to let the Committee know their feelings about this proposal which is to be discussed at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

Photographic Competition:

Ken Southall thanked all the members who had entered the competition and commented on the high standard of entries. The photographs were judged independently by himself and another member of the Society. He announced that the Violet Schwerdt Cup for the best entry had been awarded to Marion Chappell for her photo of *Anagallis tenella* (Bog Pimpernel).

He also said how pleased he was with the number of entries for the new 'Shoot and Show' category in which members are invited to submit a photo that they didn't think good enough to be entered for the competition but thought others would like to see. Over 40 photos were on display and members attending the AGM were asked to vote for their favourite. Ken had donated a small prize, the winner of which was Jill Oakley for a lovely image of *Campanula rotundifolia* (Harebell).

Election of Officers:

The following were re-elected unopposed:

President: Sir Ghilleen Prance,
Chairman: John Swindells, Treasurer:
Robin Blades, General Secretary:
Sheila Wynn and Publicity Secretary:
Nichola Hawkins.

Anne Kell was elected to the position of Magazine Editor and Janet John was elected unopposed to fill the vacancy on the Executive Committee

caused by Anne Kell's move to Magazine Editor.

A.O.B.

Email alerts

Nicola Dixon explained the system of alerts for meetings. The monthly alerts will give information about new additions to the programme as well as details of upcoming meeting dates, availability of places and last minute changes. To sign up for the service, email WFSalerts@outlook.com

Buckinghamshire

Janet John said that she was trying to encourage participation from members close to Buckinghamshire and encouraged people to support the meetings she was organising.

Car Stickers and Badges

Sue Poyser said that she had car stickers and badges available for sale.

Date and venue of next meeting

The 2017 meeting will be held in Llandudno, on 1st – 3rd September.

Susan Grimshaw proposed a vote of thanks to the members of the Committee.

Presidents' Award:

The Presidents' Award is an award made jointly by WFS and BSBI, chosen alternately by the President of each society.

Sir Ghilleen Prance announced that this year the award has been given to Clive Stace and Mick Crawley for their book *Alien Plants*. (no 129 in the New Naturalist series). Unfortunately at short notice, neither was able to attend to receive the award.

SHEILA WYNN

WFS AGM Meeting Members on Juniper Hill



Photo: Ken Southall

THANKS TO PIPPA

Pippa Hyde has been Editor of the *Wild Flower Magazine* since 2002 – fifteen years of service to our Society in this role. Those who have only known our magazine with Pippa as its Editor may like to know the context in which she took on the job. Rodney Burton, in the Spring 2002 issue of the magazine outlined its then recent history. He wrote, “Until 1973, it was one of the many tasks undertaken by the President and sole officer, Violet Schwerdt. Richard English took it over for seven issues, and then died; he was followed by Anthony Wilson who did it for nearly ten years, and then also died. This prompted a crisis, which was resolved by Elizabeth Norman, who at that time was General Secretary, taking over the magazine from Summer 1986... After more than eleven years, she succeeded in passing it on to Nick Rumens, who unfortunately had to give it up because of pressure of work at the end of his second year, when Mrs. Norman gallantly undertook to do two more years only as Editor.”



Photo: Gordon Dickinson

Rodney also wrote, “I know that the magazine is safe in her hands”. And so it has proved to be.

Over fifteen years we have got to know Pippa and she has got to know us. The Editor probably has contact with more people than any other member. Pippa is not the shy individual who 35 years ago joined WFS. I hope she will forgive my quoting from an early Editorial of hers in which she made reference to a newspaper article written by Peter Marren in which he had mentioned the WFS network of correspondence between friends sharing the knowledge of where to find favourite plants. She wrote, “In my early days of membership of the Society I was too shy to write and ask for help so used to resort to devious methods to get information. On one walk I pretended to be asleep near one of the Grandes Dames of the WFS and eavesdropped directions to go and see *Epipogium aphyllum* (ghost orchid). I would just ask outright now, as the sleep would be genuine!”

Over her time as Editor we have grown to know and love Pippa and respect and value her contribution to the life of our Society. Thank you, Pippa.

JOHN SWINDELLS

KEY TO SNOWDROPS

<p>The snowdrop, <i>Galanthus nivalis</i>, is one of the first plants of the year to flower, often appearing in January. Although not a native plant, it is widespread and well-established throughout Britain except for North-western Scotland and Western Ireland.</p> <p>The double form, 'flore pleno', is also often found naturalised.</p> <p>Several hybrids also occur. <i>G. nivalis</i> x <i>G. plicatus</i> is the commonest of these.</p>	<p><i>Galanthus woronowii</i> (Green Snowdrop or Woronow's Snowdrop) originates from Turkey, Russia and Georgia. It differs from <i>G. nivalis</i> in having wider, shiny green leaves with convolute or supervolute vernation (one emerging leaf is tightly clasped around the other), whereas those of <i>G. nivalis</i> are narrow, glaucous (greyish blue-green) and have applanate vernation (the emerging leaves are flat, facing each other).</p>	<p><i>Galanthus elwesii</i> (Greater Snowdrop) is from Greece, Turkey, the Balkans and the Ukraine. It is the largest of the snowdrop species, its leaves growing up to 30cm.</p> <p>There are two varieties: <i>G. elwesii</i> var. <i>elwesii</i> whose petals have green patches at the base and apex, which sometimes join up to form an X shape and <i>G. elwesii</i> var. <i>monostichus</i> which just has a green patch at the apex of the petals.</p>	<p><i>Galanthus plicatus</i> (Pleated Snowdrop) is from Turkey, Romania and the Crimea. It is a larger plant than <i>G. nivalis</i> and has wider leaves, which are pleated, with their margins folded under when young.</p> <p>There are 2 subspecies: <i>G. plicatus</i> ssp. <i>plicatus</i> which has a green patch at the apex of the inner petals and <i>G. plicatus</i> ssp. <i>byzantinus</i> which has green patches at both the base and apex of the inner petals.</p>
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G. nivalis







G. woronowii



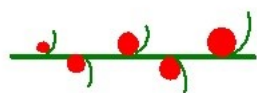
G. elwesii



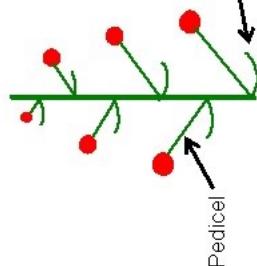
G. plicatus

Character	<i>G. nivalis</i> (Snowdrop)	<i>G. woronowii</i> (Green Snowdrop)	<i>G. elwesii</i> (Greater Snowdrop)	<i>G. plicatus</i> (Pleated Snowdrop)
Leaf Colour	Glaucous (greyish blue-green) on both sides.	Bright shiny green, at least on upper surface.	Glaucous on both sides.	Upper surface glaucous with paler central band. Pruinose (white bloom, easily rubbed off) on lower surface.
Leaf width	Up to 1cm	Up to 2cm	Up to 3cm	Up to 2cm
Leaf shape	Flat. May be slightly hooded at the apex.	Inrolled when young. Margins flat when mature.	Inrolled when young. Margins flat when mature. Often hooded at tip.	Margins sharply folded under, especially when young. Pleated with outer edge wavy.
Outer surface of inner petals	Green horseshoe shaped patch at open end of flower (apex or mouth).	Pale, v-shaped green patch at apex.	Var. <i>elwesii</i> : green patches at base and apex which sometimes join up and may form an X-shape. Var. <i>monostichus</i> : green patch at apex.	Ssp. <i>plicatus</i> : green patch at apex. Ssp. <i>byzantinus</i> : green patches at base and apex.
Arrangement of emerging leaf bases	Flat, facing each other (applanate).	Base of outer leaf wraps round that of inner leaf (convolute).	Base of outer leaf wraps round that of inner leaf (convolute).	Flat, facing each other (applanate).
(Photos from Sheila Wynn and Peter Llewellyn)				

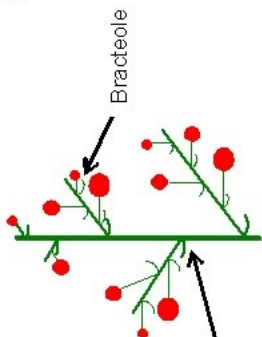
INFLORESCENCES



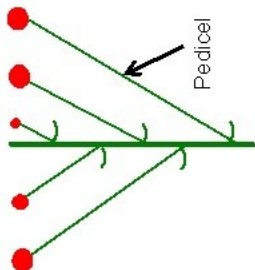
Spike



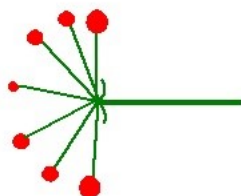
Raceme



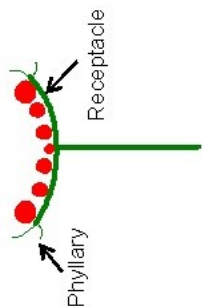
Panicle



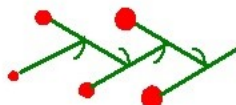
Corymb



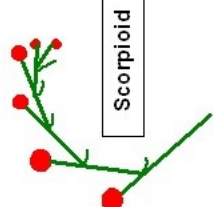
Umbel



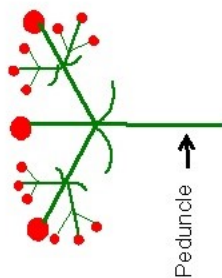
Head
(capitulum)



Monochasial Cymes



Scorpioid



Dichasial Cyme

BOTANICAL TERMS FOR INFLORESCENCES

Inflorescence: The part of a plant that bears the flowers, usually used to describe a group of individual flowers, with their stalks and bracts.

Types of inflorescence

Corymb: A flat-topped inflorescence with the flower stalks of different lengths as they arise from different points on the stem.
e.g. Candytuft (*Iberis amara*)

Cyme: An inflorescence where the central flower opens first followed by growth from lateral buds arising below this central flower.

Monochasial cyme: One lateral branch and one bract at each node. e.g. Common Comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*)

Dichasial cyme: Two lateral branches and two bracts or bracteoles at each node. e.g. Red Campion (*Silene dioica*)

Head (capitulum): A compact cluster of sessile flowers sitting on a flattened receptacle surrounded by involucre bracts, sometimes called phyllaries. e.g. Daisy (*Bellis perennis*)

Panicle: The flowers are carried on branches off the main stem or further branches of these. e.g. Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*)

Raceme: An unbranched inflorescence, with each flower attached by a pedicel to a single stem. The oldest flower is at the base.
e.g. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

Spike: An inflorescence in which the individual flowers are sessile i.e. arise directly from the stem with no individual stalks.
e.g. Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)

Umbel: An inflorescence with all pedicels arising from a single point.
e.g. Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*)

Other relevant terms

Bract: A modified leaf subtending a flower.

Bracteole: A secondary bract, always borne above a bract.

Involucre: The ring of bracts surrounding a capitulum or at the base of an umbel.

Pedicel: Stalk of an individual flower.

Peduncle: Stalk of a group of flowers.

Phyllary: In plants of the Asteraceae - Bracts surrounding the capitulum or head.

Receptacle: Expanded part at the end of a stalk that bears the flowers.

WFS AGM and MEMBERS' WEEKEND WALKS, SEPTEMBER 2016

Friday 2nd September

After the Branch Secretaries' Meeting, we drove into the middle of Mickleham and then walked to the River Mole, taking our life in our hands as we crossed the busy A24. Pat Verrall led us along the river bank to where the *Cuscuta europaea* (Greater Dodder) was growing on the nettles, which are it's favoured host plant. We noted it's key differences from *C. epithymum* (Dodder), in



having blunter petals and stamens enclosed within the petal tube. Nearby was *Dipsacus pilosus* (Small Teasel). We then left the river and John Swindells took us through the woods to the edge of a field to look at the arable weeds. Amongst them were *Chenopodium rubrum* (Red Goosefoot), *Echinochloa crus-galli*

(Cockspur) and, noticed by a few members of the group, the hybrid Mullein, *Verbascum x semialbum* (*V. thapsus* x *V. nigrum*). This can be identified by the fact that it has violet hairs on the upper three filaments and white hairs on the lower three.

Saturday 3rd September. Juniper Hill

A group of just over 40 members met at the Field Studies Centre at Juniper Hall for a walk led by John Swindells and Pat Verrall, up on to Juniper Hill. On the way we made a detour to see *Iberis amara* (Wild Candytuft) growing by a path. Once at top, we enjoyed the plants of the chalk downland which included *Campanula glomerata* (Clustered Bellflower), *Gentianella amarella* (Autumn Gentian), *Blackstonia perfoliata* (Yellow-wort) and *Clinopodium vulgare* (Wild Basil). We spent some time looking at the differences between *Agrimonia eupatoria* (Agrimony) and *A. procera* (Fragrant Agrimony). As well as having reflexed bristles, the fruits of *A. procera* were much less deeply grooved than those of *A. eupatoria*. Seeing them side by side really helped to make the differences clear.

We continued to a site where *Teucrium botrys* (Cut-leaved Germander) usually grows but unfortunately there was no sign of it this year. After descending the steep steps back down to the road, we made another detour to look at the basal rosettes of *Cynoglossum germanicum* (Green Hound's-tongue)

as well as some fruiting spikes of this year's plants, before returning to Juniper Hall for lunch. Many thanks to Pat and John for organising these walks.

SHEILA WYNN

Sunday 4th September. Ranmore Common, Surrey.

Our leader, George Hounscome, of the London Natural History Society, very efficiently shepherded our large group through the chalk downland of Ranmore Common. This was an excellent walk for both beginners and more seasoned field botanists alike, because George gave interesting anecdotes on common species, as well as on rarities, while frequently going into detail about key characteristics for identification purposes.

Leaving the car park, we explored mixed woodland, and were encouraged to look upwards as well as down, noting the characteristic foliage of *Tilia cordata* (Small-leaved Lime), the distinguishing features of *Larix decidua* (European Larch), *Picea abies* (Norway Spruce) and the North American native, *Tsuga heterophylla* (Western Hemlock-spruce). George explained that the association with hemlock originated when British settlers found the aroma of this tree to resemble that of hemlock. We also noted a characteristic feature of *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas Fir), by looking at fallen female cones with exerted, forward pointing, 3-toothed bracts. There was much to see on the woodland floor, including *Deschampsia cespitosa* ssp. *parviflora* (a rare subspecies of Tufted Hair-grass) - distinguished

from the common ssp. *cespitosa* because the hair-tuft at the base of the lower lemma fails to reach the apex of the rhachilla segment above it. Woodland sedges were much in evidence. The very long lowermost bract of *Carex remota* (Remote Sedge) was contrasted with the shorter lowest bract of *C. sylvatica* (Wood-sedge), thus distinguishing these sedges even in the absence of utricles.

Soon we left the woodland, coming out onto open chalk downland and were rewarded with distant views of Dorking and Westcott. Here we found *Pastinaca sativa* ssp. *sylvestris* (Wild Parsnip) distinguished from ssp. *sativa*, of cultivated origin, by a rather dense covering of hairs on leaves and stem and *Centaurea debeauxii* (Chalk Knapweed) - the still controversial distinction between it and its Common Knapweed cousin was (again) hotly debated.

As we descended to seek *Cuscuta epithymum* (Dodder), we were captivated by *Lithospermum officinale* (Common Gromwell) in fruit – the smooth, white, shiny nutlets showing to great effect. In the search for dodder, we logged a host of other plants typical of the chalk, while taking in the spectacular view across to the greensands of Leith Hill, the highest point in S.E. England, with its landmark tower.

At last we found the dodder in full flower, on a labiate host, probably marjoram. In the process we had also encountered *Spiranthes spiralis* (Autumn Ladies Tresses), living up to its name with its flowers in perfect spirals. George explained that the spirals occur equally in clockwise and anticlockwise forms.

Our path then turned uphill back into woodland where we would find two more gems; the remains of *Neottia nidus-avis* (Bird's-nest Orchid) still readily recognisable and *Hordelymus europaeus* (Wood Barley). We then left the wood again entering Steen's Field, where we stopped to enjoy lunch.

From here we returned to the steep south facing slopes, heading down to the arable fields below. Aching knees afflicted some of the party and we balked at the sight of the steep steps so George opted for a narrow track, offering a gentler, diagonal descent of the slope although we had noted the *Clinopodium ascendens* (Common Calamint) scattered down the steps. Along the track, some *Gentianella amarella* (Autumn Gentian) were already in flower, complemented by some typical butterflies of the chalk, including Chalkhill Blue, Meadow Brown, Clouded Yellow, Adonis Blue, and (surprisingly!) the Small Heath. The arable fields quickly yielded a host of weeds to round off our walk very nicely. These included *Valerianella dentata* (Narrow-fruited Cornsalad), *Euphorbia platyphyllos* (Broad-leaved Spurge) and *Polygonum rurivagum* (Cornfield Knotgrass). Others seen included *Kickxia elatine* (Sharp-leaved Fluellen) and *Kickxia spuria* (Round-leaved Fluellen), *Avena fatua* (Wild-oat), *Euphorbia exigua* (Dwarf Spurge), *Sinapis arvensis* (Charlock) – a decreasing arable weed and *Aethusa cynapium* (Fool's Parsley). Motivated by an ultimately unsuccessful search for Venus's-looking-glass, we continued along the boundary of the field where we did

find *Sinapis alba* (White Mustard), a broad yellow band of *Sonchus arvensis* (Perennial Sowthistle) about thirty metres long and *Alopecurus myosuroides* (Black-grass).

Leaving the field we started our walk back. Throughout the day, George had promised us the final 'pay-back' of a steep 100m ascent back to the car park, to regain all that 'potential energy' lost during our descent. So the dreaded moment arrived when we reached the start of the climb – particularly challenging at the end of a long day of walking, but motivated by the thought of regaining all that potential energy! Even now the botanical reward was not exhausted, as half-way up we found basal leaves and remains of this year's fruiting spikes of *Cynoglossum germanicum* (Green Hound's-tongue) which had also featured in Saturday's walk. Many thanks to George for a very rewarding, informative and botanically fruitful day, in wonderful countryside which made the physical effort involved in losing and regaining all that potential energy well worthwhile.

BRIAN BONNEY

Monday 5th September. Chobham Common, Surrey.

Under overcast skies a group of twenty-eight of us gathered at Chobham Common, for the third and final day of this year's AGM. Having been treated to Surrey's spectacular chalk downlands the day before, Chobham Common with its diverse mosaic of wet and dry heath, bogs and scattered trees provided an excellent contrast and, together, the two sites captured the botanical character of the area.

Pitcherplant
(*Sarracenia
purpurea*) at
Chobham
Common



Photo: Ken Southall

As is typical of many Wild Flower Society meetings, we were barely out of the car park before many of the group had fallen to their knees. The plant under consideration was unfamiliar, and after some deliberations and consultation with South Hants VC recorder Martin Rand, it was identified as *Dittrichia graveolens* (Stinking Fleabane).

Dittrichia graveolens is an annual that is known to be spreading in the south and has been found in numerous places along the M3, the sound of which was distinctly audible at this point.

Crossing another of the busy roads that bisect the common, the next gateway afforded us the naturalised *Conyza floribunda* (Bilbao's Fleabane) and two native species largely restricted to heaths in southern Britain. *Ulex minor* (Dwarf Gorse) whose population is mainly, but not exclusively, focused south of the Thames and *Agrostis curtisii* (Bristle Bent) whose range still extends as far east as Surrey from its stronghold in the south west. Dipping down from the drier

heathland into the boggy valley bottom, we were treated to a spectacular stand of Pitcherplants. The stand was made up of two species, the introduced and naturalised *Sarracenia purpurea* (Pitcherplant) of which many young plants were found establishing close by, as well as the planted but persisting *Sarracenia flava* (Trumpets).

After a brief pause for lunch, we continued apace to the wet heathland areas of the common, where we were shown *Kalmia angustifolia* (Sheep-laurel) in leaf at this late stage in the season and the scarce *Lycopodiella inundata* (Marsh Clubmoss). As the sun finally broke through the clouds that had persisted all day, it opened up a truly spectacular display of *Gentiana pneumonanthe* (Marsh Gentian) trumpets, making a very memorable end to the day. Our thanks to Paul Bartlett of the Surrey Botanical Society for showing us some of the highlights of this fantastic National Nature Reserve.

NICOLA DIXON

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2016: RESULTS

Very many thanks to the eight members who submitted pictures for the competition classes. The numbers were a little disappointing, but I was very pleased to see such a good selection of lovely pictures. When I agreed to take on the role of the Photographic Competition organiser, I didn't realise how difficult it would be to decide on the winners! I also didn't expect to have difficulty in persuading two friends (a WFS member and a good photographer) to help me with the judging. It seemed that they both thought better and were too reluctant or not confident enough to commit themselves. Luckily, my partner Sue Grayston agreed to assist me. We both took on the task of the judging very seriously and we sifted through the pictures completely separately and judged the winners more or less the same. We

did have to discuss a few to decide on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings in a couple of the classes. Marion Chappell's *Anagallis tenella* (Bog Pimpernel) stood out to both of us as being the best in show and well deserved the award of the Violet Schwerdt cup. Well done Marion. The introduction of the "Shoot and Show" class was a great success with no less than forty pictures being displayed at the AGM. Thanks to all of you who entered and congratulations to Gill Oakley with her beautiful picture of *Campanula rotundifolia* (Harebell) voted the clear winner by those present at the AGM. I am looking forward to next year's competition and I sincerely hope more of you will decide to enter your pictures.

KEN SOUTHALL

Botanists in their habitat
First place—Human element



Photo: Dennis Kell

Class 1 Habitat:

1 st Lydia Vulliamy	<i>Glaucium flavum</i> (Yellow Horned-poppy)
2 nd Dennis Kell	<i>Sonchus palustris</i> (Marsh Sow-thistle)
3 rd Marion Chappell	<i>Eryngium maritimum</i> (Sea-holly)

Class 2 Plant Portrait:

1 st Dennis Kell	<i>Nuphar lutea</i> (Yellow Water-lily)
2 nd Lydia Vulliamy	<i>Lathyrus japonicus</i> (Sea Pea)
3 rd Marion Chappell	<i>Orobanche elatior</i> (Knapweed Broomrape)

Class 3 Close-up:

1 st Marion Chappell	<i>Anagallis tenella</i> (Bog Pimpernel)
2 nd Anne Kell	<i>Dipsacus pilosus</i> (Small Teasel)
3 rd Dennis Kell	<i>Potentilla palustris</i> (Marsh Cinquefoil)

Class 4 Foreign Fields:

1 st Anne Kell	<i>Phleum alpinum</i> (Alpine Cat's-tail)
2 nd Dennis Kell	<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> (Greater Burnet)

Class 5 Human Element:

1 st Dennis Kell	"Botanists in their habitat"
2 nd Anne Kell	"Come rain or shine"
3 rd Stephen Clarkson	"Picnic at Hanging Rock"

Shoot and Show section (voted by those present at the AGM)

Winner – Jill Oakley *Campanula rotundifolia* (Harebell)

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2017

The newly introduced rules for 2016 were generally appreciated as being more streamlined with the cessation of the Novice Classes and the Mobile Phone Class. The introduction of the "Shoot and Show" section was a great success. To remind you, for those members who do not want to have their pictures judged in the various competition classes, a new section called "Shoot and Show" continues. Over the years, comments have been made by members that they consider their wild flower related pictures are not good enough to be judged. This is a shame because it would be lovely to see them. To make this section more interesting, those members attending the AGM will be asked to vote for their favourite picture in the "Shoot and Show" section on a voting slip provided. The winner will receive a small prize donated by me.

This year, I will be unable to assist those who would wish me to have their photographs printed.

Looking at those "Shoot and Show" pictures last year, it is very clear to me that more of you could confidently enter in this years' competition classes. Go on, give it a go!

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

FIELD RECORD BOOK ENTRIES.

Recording is throughout the year. Record books should be sent to Branch Secretaries by 31st January. Members are reminded that all plants entered in a diary/record book must be included in Kent's *List of Vascular Plants of the British Isles* or Stace's *New Flora*.

In **PARNASSUS** species not in Kent's *List* nor in Stace's *New Flora* may be counted along with subspecies, varieties, cultivars, forms, etc., provided the names are supported by a literature reference. Lists should be sent in by the 31st January.

THE 10KM SQUARE STUDY runs throughout the year and is for recording all plants found growing wild in a 10km square of the national grid. Only new plants found need to be added after the first year. Record books or lists should be sent to the appropriate Secretary by 31st January. A 1:25,000 OS map covering the areas surveyed should also be sent.

THE SPRING WEEK HUNT is for plants found in flower during the first seven days in March. **Ferns and fern allies are excluded.** Lists should be sent to the Spring Week Hunt Secretary by 15th March.

THE AUTUMN ONE DAY HUNT is for plants found in flower on any one of the last seven days of October. Lists should be sent to the Autumn Hunt Secretary by 15th November.

THE AUTUMN WEEK HUNT is for plants found in flower during the last week in October. Lists should be sent to the Autumn Week Hunt Secretary by 15th November.

THE WINTER MONTHS HUNT is for plants found in flower or with spores during December, January and February. A single alphabetical plant list with separate columns for each month and indicating the location of any plants recorded outside of the recorder's own county should be sent to the Winter Months Hunt Secretary by 15th March.

Branch Secretaries' details for mailing can be found at the end of this magazine. A stamped addressed envelope should be included with record books or lists if you wish them to be returned. Where appropriate, records can also be e-mailed.

THE DENT PRIZE, in the form of a book token or sum of money, to be spent on books on flowers, is awarded on merit, to the most promising junior member aged between 12-18 on 31st August of the year in which the record book or project was completed. Entries to be submitted Junior Branch Secretary by the 31st January. In judging, account will be taken of supporting botanical material, a project, local studies etc. and of the opportunities available to those competing.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION.

The Photographic Competition is open to all members of The Wild Flower Society.

The CLASSES

1, Habitat:

A photograph of a plant or plant community within its environment or locality.

2, Plant Portrait:

A photograph of a plant that illustrates its uniqueness while at the same time revealing something of its 'character' - whatever that character might be.

3, Close-up:

A photograph that reveals in a more scientific way the uniqueness of a plant by a close-up photograph.

4, Foreign Fields:

A photograph of a plant or plant community that is **clearly seen** to be growing in a foreign country.

5, Human Element:

A photograph that concentrates on botanical/personalities and/or their activities. Please ask any person involved for their permission to submit the picture.

Shoot and Show section. If you don't want to enter the main competition but would still like to share your photos with others then bring the prints along to the AGM. To make this section more interesting, those members attending the AGM will be asked to vote for their favourite picture in the "Shoot and Show" section on a voting slip provided.

Please don't submit exact or similar images across the classes.

The photographer's name and address should be clearly written on the reverse of the photograph along with the class number for which it is being entered e.g. Class 1, Class 2, etc. The photograph will not be eligible without this information. In addition, *although not compulsory*, a telephone number and/or an email address are useful as well as any information regarding the photograph itself, i.e. what camera was used, what printer and what paper was used. These latter details could be of interest to the viewer. Photographs submitted must be no smaller than 125mm x 175mm. (5" x 7") and no larger than 300mm x 380mm (12" x 15").

The photographs should be mounted on card with or without a small border.

This helps to stop the photograph from curling during display.

Each entrant can submit up to three photographs per class. The photographs will be judged by Ken Southall and at least one other person.

Photographs of only vascular plants in their flowering, vegetative or fruiting stage are permitted along with ferns and allies such as club-mosses, quillworts and horsetails. Photographs of fungi or bryophytes are excluded. In The Human Element class, there are no restrictions of subject matter, the

class title being self-explanatory. Please ensure that any person(s) involved in the photograph gives their permission for it to be entered and displayed. In the Foreign Fields class, it is not enough to photograph a foreign plant. It should show the 'foreignness' of the plant in its habitat in the picture.

To assist the judges, please do try to submit your photographs by the closing date *to be announced in the Spring magazine*. Provided that suitable postage is included they will return your photograph(s) within four weeks of the AGM.

If you wish to be notified of your placing in the competition, please be sure to provide your e-mail address. Otherwise results will be published in the Winter issue of the magazine.

BRANCH N2 REPORT

	New	Total
Kevin Storey		231
Rob Kelsey (2014)	217	
Rob Kelsey (2015)	221	

Kevin was very active last year, and combined with this year's finds, now has a total of 231 species. He particularly enjoyed finding *Anchusa arvensis* (Bugloss) in a classic location on light arable soil near the sea. Again, walking off Shunner Fell he found *Vaccinium myrtillus* (Cranberry) - 'absolutely beautiful'. The Teesdale Assemblage always pleases. Both *Gentiana verna* (Spring Gentian) and *Potentilla fruticosa* (Shrubby Cinquefoil) were in full flower when Kevin was out recording. Finally, a favourite of mine too, *Geranium phaeum* (Dusky Crane's-bill) was tracked down in Durham. The field visit around South Gare and Great Ayton proved to be 'a very good day' for Kevin adding a few new species to the list, including the ever challenging hawkweeds.

Rob has managed to double his list over the last 2 years despite his busy schedule. His determination to tackle the grasses has played a role here and we have had some interesting discussions, particularly when it comes to *Glyceria* species. Rob explores a number of interesting habitats on his home patch, including Holy Island, but it is always nice to see Rob's list from his visits South.

Spring Gentian
(*Gentiana verna*)

Photo:
Kevin Storey



2016 AUTUMN WEEK HUNT.

Caroline Bateman	Surrey/East Sussex	141
Susan Bowden	Lancashire/Yorkshire	44
Marion Chappell	Merseyside/Lancashire	127
Pat Graham	Hampshire	95
Anthony and Rita Grainger	West Yorkshire	109
Hazel Gray	Guernsey	193
Margaret Hall	Cheshire/Merseyside/Staffordshire	93
Lorna and Derek Holland	Kent	156
Helen Jackson	East Lothian/Midlothian	140
Dennis and Anne Kell	Suffolk/Essex	150
Pamela Lee	Surrey/Dorset	69
Barbara Mathews	Suffolk/Essex	155
Diane Mills and Fred Booth	Kent	190
Doug Grant and Sue Poyser	Kent	200
Ron Parker	Surrey	120
Janice Reynolds	East Surrey	128
June Robinson	Peak District/Merseyside	93
Dorothy Ross	Lancashire	119
Alan Swainscoe	Warwickshire	37
John Swindells	Peterborough/London	122
Pauline Wilson	Avon	103
Ian Green	Moray	52

Number of plants seen - 521

Plant new to the Hunt - *Pseudofumaria alba* (Pale Corydalis)

Plants seen by all - *Achillea millefolium* (Yarrow), *Capsella bursa-pastoris* (Shepherd's Purse), *Geranium robertianum* (Herb-Robert), *Heracleum sphondylium* (Hogweed), *Rubus fruticosus* (Bramble), *Senecio jacobaea* (Common Ragwort), *Senecio vulgaris* (Groundsel), *Sonchus asper* (Prickly Sowthistle), *Sonchus oleraceus* (Smooth Sowthistle), *Taraxacum officinale* (Dandelion)

Two hybrids appear on Caroline's list - *Rumex crispus* x *R.obtusifolius* and *Calystegia sepium* x *C.silvatica*. I was told that *Rumex* hybrids usually have pointed leaves, a tip worth remembering. Other plants seen were *Euphorbia platyphyllos* (Broad-leaved Spurge) and *Vicia tetrasperma* (Smooth Tare).

Having to re-arrange a trip to the Opera in Leeds at the time of the Hunt, Susan found time to search at

Otley. At the Golden Acre Park she spotted *Mentha arvensis* (Water Mint) and *Myosotis scorpiodes* (Water Forget-me-not) and back home at Tarleton she saw *Galinsoga quadriradiata* (Shaggy Soldier).

Marshside, Southport is a popular area for both birders and botanists alike and here Marion saw a wonderful display of *Cotula coronopifolia* (Buttonweed). There was also *Rumex maritimus*

(Golden Dock) but that had gone to seed. Along the canal near home the dreaded, but beautiful flowered, *Impatiens glandulifera* (Indian Balsam) was seen. Marion also joined us at Crosby and we were the only members to see *Asperula cynanchica* (Squinancywort).

Pat visited her daughter near Winchester this year and she says all around were the chalk loving plants she had not seen for years. Both *Clinopodium ascendens* (Common Calamint) and *C. vulgare* (Wild Basil) were seen. A trip to Bath gave her just one plant in Avon and this was *Adiantum capillus-veneris* (Maidenhair Fern) seen in a moist crevice whilst queuing to visit the Roman Baths. She hopes the authorities will not remove it!!!

Hazel Gray missed the company of Rachel and Graham this year. She has accumulated a good list and says the weather was warm and a pleasure to be out in. Besides *Senecio vulgaris* ssp. *vulgaris* (Groundsel) she saw *S. vulgaris* ssp. *denticulatus*, which is countable. She also saw *Epilobium lanceolatus* (Spear-leaved Willow-herb) and *Luma apiculatus* (Chilean Myrtle).

Campanula trachelium (Nettle-leaved Bellflower) proved to be another new plant for Anthony and Rita's 10km square and was found on their Hunt at Rodley N.R. Visiting Swinsty Reservoir gave them *Cotula coronopifolia* (Buttonweed) and, as with Marion, it was seen in profusion. Another plant, not seen since 1987, was *Doronicum pardalianches* (Leopardsbane).

Margaret also joined the Branch Hunt where we saw *Coincya monensis* ssp

monensis (Isle of Man Cabbage) in the dunes. She was the only member to record *Digitalis purpurea* (Foxglove) and her personal pleasure was finding *Scrophularia nodosa* (Common Figwort) by the Methodist Church in Bramhall. She says "the beauty of creation in the perfectness of so tiny a flower is great"

Despite last year's traumas - broken bones - Linda and Derek are soldiering on. Lorna informs me Derek will be 90 in 2017. Well done and keep going! Keeping them 'going' is walking and during the Hunt they spotted *Pseudofumaria alba* (Pale Corydalis) at Nettlestead, which is new for the Hunt. At Teston, they were surprised to see *Myosotis ramosissima* (Early Forget-me-not) by the Farm shop and *Myosoton aquaticum* (Water Chickweed) was by the river.

Helen was pleased to see *Solanum nigrum* (Black Nightshade), not a plant she often records. *Chaerophyllum temulentum* (Rough Chervil) and *Torilis japonica* (Upright Hedge-parsley) were welcome surprises and the recording of *Cerastium diffusum* (Sea Mouse-ear) was a plant not seen since 1997. She was also pleased to see so many familiar flowers thanks to the council - they had not weeded! The autumn colours were magnificent this year.

The allotments were the first stop for Dennis and Anne. There they were rewarded with *Filago vulgaris* (Common Cudweed), *Galinsoga quadriradiata* (Shaggy Soldier) and *G. parviflora* (Gallant Soldier). It wasn't until Anne checked both plants - as a good botanist should do - she realised she had both species. They

also joined Branch Y and recorded *Spergularia media* (Greater Sea-spurrey) and *Viola odorata* (Sweet Violet).

The excessive growth of grass prompted the Authorities (MOD) to mow the Commons earlier this year, resulting in a loss of the flowering plants. However a delight for Pamela was to find just one last 'tooth' flower of *Tetragonolobus maritimus* (Dragon's Teeth). Her daughter's garden in Dorset produced a good batch of weeds including *Veronica polita* (Grey Field-speedwell).

Barbara says it has been very dry and numbers are down on last year but a different collection. She enjoyed the Branch Y meeting especially getting together with friends. This is true of all our meetings. The sugar beet fields near home had not been lifted and yielded agricultural weeds. *Verbascum blattaria* (Moth Mullein) and *V.thapsus* (Great Mullein), both just about in flower on Felixstowe Common and *Cyperus longus* (Galingale) was seen inland on the River Deben.

Cut verges, closed footpaths and cleaned walls were the obstacles Daphne and Fred had to deal with. However *Mentha spicata* (Spearmint) and *Geranium pusillum* (Small-flowered Crane's-bill) were only seen by them.

Ron is a keen Autumn hunter and in Cheam village spotted *Securigera varia* (Crown Vetch). Along the tow path at Kew he recorded *Buddleja globosa* (Orange-ball-tree) and *Buddleja weyeriana* (Weyer's Butterfly-bush). He also recorded *Lonicera caprifolium* (Perfoliate Honeysuckle), which has not been

seen on the Autumn Hunt since 1978.

Kent is suffering from drought, only 2" of rain in four months and Doug and Sue were surprised they achieved so much. A Kent Fungi meeting in the west gave them a good number of plants and near home on the chalk they managed to find a flower on a scruffy *Ajuga chamaepitys* (Ground Pine). A plant they found, and one I have been wanting to see (and managed to this year with the help of Jesse Tregale) was *Anthemis austriaca* (Austrian Chamomile). This is a plant you cannot be sure of until it is fruiting, when receptacle scales become rigid and prickly.

On examining the *Brachypodium* Janice had spotted, she was able to identify it as *B.rupestre* (Tor-grass). The characteristics to look for are leaves in-rolled when fresh, without minute prickly hairs between the veins on the lower side. *Verbascum densiflorum* (Dense-flowered Mullein) was seen at Bishopstone and *Limonium platyphyllum* (Garden Sea-lavender) at Seaford.

June travelled from Sheffield to Crosby to join Branch N3. She was pleased with *Diploxys muralis* (Annual Wall-rocket) which was plentiful around the Leisure Centre. She was the only member to record *Calluna vulgaris* (Heather) and *Linaria repens* (Pale Toadflax), both near to home.

Once again it was half-term during the Hunt and grandma was on duty. However the grandchildren enjoyed being taken out to various places and the keen eyes of her granddaughter spotted *Prunella vulgaris* (Self-heal). Perhaps a budding 'Woof'. Dorothy was pleased to see in flower

Parnassia palustris (Grass-of - Parnassus) and *Pyrola rotundifolia* (Round-leaved Wintergreen) on the Lancashire dunes.

Alan enjoyed the Hunt in his local area and says no doubt he missed a few. Two good finds were *Malva neglecta* (Dwarf Mallow) and *Vicia tetrasperma* (Smooth Tare) He says "Roll on the Bluebells!!"

As well as London, John's hunt took him to Cambridgeshire, where he visited Barnack Hills and Holes finding *Campanula glomerata* (Clustered Bellflower) there. At the village of Castor he recorded over 40 plants for his list, *Lithospermum officinale* (Common Gromwell) being one. Back home at the Isle of Dogs *Lapsana communis* ssp. *intermedia* (Nipplewort) was seen. This brings back memories to me, when, many years ago, a car full of enthusiasts set off from Cheshire for the Isle of Dogs and other places en route to see plants and I can't believe we did it all in a single day. We were younger then!!!

Pauline covered the same area as in 2015 and is slightly up in numbers but not always with the same plants. *Crepis biennis* (Rough Hawk's-beard) was a good find as this is an earlier plant. Five Geraniums were recorded one being *G. rotundifolium* (Round-leaved Geranium). Both *Cardamine flexuosa* (Wavy Bitter-cress) and *C. hirsuta* (Hairy Bitter-cress) were seen and I am sure you all know the difference - *flexuosa* has six stamens and I understand is hairy and *C. hirsuta* has 4 stamens and is not hairy - correct me if I am wrong!

Once again thank you for joining the Hunt. Plant numbers are down on

previous years but everyone complained of dry conditions. Always remember ferns must be recorded in spore, plants in flower and horsetails in cone.

JULIE CLARKE

AUTUMN ONE DAY HUNT 2016

Dawn and Jill started the day searching around Petersfield then moved onto South Harting, where Sue Dennis also joined them. They saw a very good variety of plants still flowering, such as *Iberis umbellata* (Garden Candytuft) and *Leycesteria formosa* (Himalayan Honeysuckle).

Carol and Bill did their usual walk from Morston to Blakeney along the north Norfolk coast. A couple of arable fields gave a stunning display of *Papaver rhoeas* (Common Poppy), while on a grassy bank *Smyrnium olusatrum* (Alexanders) was coming back into flower.

Lorna and Derek were pleased to find a species they had not seen flowering for the hunt before *Oenothera stricta* (Fragrant Evening-primrose). They were also pleased to see *Myosotis ramosissima* (Early Forget-me-not) flowering so late in the season.

Sue and Doug were surprised and delighted with *Spergula arvensis* (Corn Spurrey) as this is now a scarce plant in Kent.

Alliaria petiolata (Garlic Mustard) was a species Jesse hadn't expected to see flowering so late in the season. Along a cycle path he found *Medicago sativa* ssp. *sativa* (Lucerne) and *Polypogon viridis* (Water Bent).

Simon had a good list from Taunton,

Autumn One Day Hunt 2016

Dawn Nelson, Jill Oakley and Sue Dennis	Hampshire	140
Carol and Bill Hawkins	Norfolk	134
Lorna and Derek Holland	Kent	124
Sue Poyser and Doug Grant	Kent	121
Jesse Tregale	Yorkshire	110
Simon Leach	Somerset	108
Susan Grimshaw	Berkshire	105
Branch N3	Lancashire	90
Janet Blizard	Hampshire	87
Judith Cox	Cumbria	83
Branch Y	Essex	80
John Swindells	Huntingdonshire	74
Sheila Anderson	Kent	73
Sian Matthews	Nottinghamshire	68
Anthony and Rita Grainger	Yorkshire	54
Ian Sapsford	Kent	51
Carol Holt	West Sussex	44
Christine Newell	West Yorkshire	32

Total number of plants seen 440

where he saw three species of *Rubus*, *R. armeniacus*, *R. caesius* (Dewberry) and *R. ulmifolius* (Elm-leaved Bramble).

Susan saw all her plants within a mile of her home. *Orobanche hederæ* (Ivy Broomrape) had finished flowering in her garden but she spotted a perfect, fresh specimen in a nearby garden. A single *Datura stramonium* (Thorn-apple) had sprung up after a new fence was erected earlier in the year.

Nine members of Branch N3 met at Crosby for a very enjoyable day looking at a variety of habitats. They found some interesting species growing in pavement cracks including *Asperula cynanchica* (Squinancywort) and *Stachys arvensis* (Field Woundwort).

This is the first time Janet has entered the hunt, finding *Misopates*

orontium (Weasel's-snout) and *Anagallis arvensis* (Scarlet Pimpernel) as weeds in an allotment.

Judith had an enjoyable day along the west Cumbria coast between Maryport and Silloth, seeing several species rarely recorded for the hunt including *Artemisia stelleriana* (Hoary Mugwort) and *Malus pumila* (Apple).

The hunt for Branch Y was concentrated on the old quay called The Hythe, on the River Colne, at Colchester. They were surprised to find *Viola odorata* (Sweet Violet) in flower.

While on a short break to Huntingdonshire, John was surprised too, finding *Lithospermum officinale* (Common Gromwell) flowering so late in the season .

Sheila started off at Halling and finished at Singlewell visiting various

sites en route. She was the only person to see *Vicia villosa* (Fodder Vetch) and *Lotus tenuis* (Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil).

Sian was the only one to find *Sisymbrium loeselii* (False London-rocket) where she saw it as a street weed in Nottingham.

Anthony and Rita spent the day on the Old Moor RSPB reserve seeing two species they had not seen there before, *Mellilotus albus* (White Melilot) and *Cotula coronopifolia* (Buttonweed).

Ian spent the day looking around Ranscombe Farm where he found *Urtica urens* (Small Nettle) and *Trifolium hybridum* (Alsike Clover).

Carol was pleased to see a *Cyclamen hederifolium* (Sowbread) with white flowers rather than the usual pink.

Christine explored Todmorden, where she lives, seeing two species not seen by anyone else, *Geranium lucidum* (Shining Crane's-bill) and *Persicaria lapathifolia* (Pale Persicaria).

IAN GREEN

REVIEWS

Wildcraft! A herbal adventure game created by Learning Herbs

This is a wonderful game suitable for all ages. We are aged 12 – 16, but this game is fantastic for anyone aged 4 – adult.

The aim of the game is to climb up the mountain and collect huckleberries for Grandma and then bring them back before it gets dark. We have to use the herbs we find to treat our injuries and illnesses along the way. Unlike most games, where you're competing against each other, in this game it's all about helping each other throughout the journey and really encourages teamwork and being co-operative. It teaches us a lot about herbs and their uses. For example, we learnt that Herb Robert can be used to heal cuts and Dandelion can be used to cure hunger. The game can spark an interest in herbs no matter what your level of experience. For example, Ben got interested in them through this game with little prior knowledge.

This game includes a board, counters, 3 packs of cards and a spinner. We really like the spinner instead of a dice as it is more fun and doesn't keep rolling off the table. The board and box of this game are made out of 100% recycled material and are printed with vegetable based oils, so it is very environmentally friendly. Also, the game is easy to adapt for even further levels of fun. One downside is that it was made in America, so some of the herb's names aren't familiar to us, but it doesn't take the fun out of the game. You can also download a story to read along with the game.

All in all, we really enjoyed this game and highly recommend it for all ages and all levels of interest in herbs. It is available to purchase from Myriad Toys for £41.99 – www.myriadonline.co.uk

MADELINE (aged 16), MOLLY (aged 14) and BEN (aged 12) DAVIS