

## **BSBI CHESHIRE RECORDING NEWSLETTER – 2015**

Another year has flown by with about 8000 records added to the database. Meetings started in March on the cliffs north of Maiden Castle in SJ55B where *Arum italicum* was the most unusual find. *Blechnum*, *Campanula rotundifolia*, which seems to be decreasing, *Ficaria verna*, a *Nasturtium* species and *Arabidopsis* were seen among 22 new taxa. *Asplenium trichomanes* ssp *pachyrachis* was doing fine but Mad Alan's Hole held no hidden treasure. A brief excursion into SJ45W yielded *Erophila verna*. In April, Hough Common, SJ75A, gave us 120 taxa of which 95 were new. The large quantity of *Lamium purpureum* was commented on and other finds were *Malus sylvestris*, *Pentaglottis*, *Ribes nigrum* and *rubrum* and *Geranium pusillum*. A patch of *Vinca major* was noted. A tour around the Haslington area in SJ75H added *Cardamine amara*, *Cerastium semidecandrum*, *Spergularia marina*, *Erophila verna*, and *Parietaria judiaca*. A short stretch of verge had *Carex flacca*, *hirta* and *leporina* in a total of 128 new species. Our route also took us into SJ75M where we added 19 aliens including *Claytonia sibirica* and *Impatiens glandulifera*, but also *Urtica urens* and *Fumaria muralis* ssp *boroei* (new spelling as in Stace 3).

In June, we briefly parked in SJ55V and added 9 species in 10 minutes before relocating to Wrenbury in SK64Y and added 167 new taxa including *Malva neglecta*, *Claytonia perfoliata* and *Ligustrum vulgare*. It was not a dry day and wading through dense fields of wet *Holcus* and oil-seed rape was not fun! An odd rose awaits diagnosis. July saw us at Wettenhall visiting three tetrads. First SJ65E where *Trifolium incarnatum* as a fodder plant was among 72 additions, then SJ66A with 29 new including *Myosoton aquaticum* and *Carex pseudocyperus*. Finally, we recorded in SJ66F, with more *Myosoton* and an unexpected colony of *Impatiens capensis* in 59 additions. Attention then turned to the north-east of the vice-county, firstly with a visit to SK19J right at the eastern boundary, where the weather was lovely and sunny despite a very dire forecast. We got 49 new taxa including *Ranunculus omiophyllus*, *Plantago coronopus* far from the sea, *Cystopteris fragilis*, *Epilobium brunnescens* and a UK altitude record (370m) for *Hirschfeldia incana*. *Rubus chamaemorus* eluded us. Next to SE10A, where we added 36 to the tetrad total with no aliens in sight. *Wahlenbergia hederacea* was doing well and *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, *Ranunculus omiophyllus* and *Myosotis secunda* also occurred. Across the busy main road we were in SK19E and added 60 making a total of 104 with several aliens including *Origanum vulgare*, *Rosa x nitidula*, *Rubus laciniatus* and *Epilobium brunnescens*. A nice clump of *Epilobium montanum x obscurum* made a satisfying conclusion.

Among solo discoveries Stewart Hinsley gets 3 stars for *Potentilla indica* which flowered at Northwich, *Viola odorata* var *subcarnea* on the old railway at Wheelock and best of all, *Mentha cervina* near Nantwich which seems to be the first genuinely wild location in Britain. Mark Woods found *Maianthemum kamschaticum* in Knutsford while doing a survey. Eric Greenwood spotted

Muscari latifolium naturalised in a small wood at Gayton and Ian Wallace found Urtica membranacea by a betting shop in Pensby. Hot news from the first week of January 2015 is Des Callaghan's discovery of more Trichomanes speciosum gametophyte, this time on Alderley Edge.

Sad news is that Len Johnson has just died. He contributed a lot to Cheshire botany and general conservation.

Meetings begin at 2pm unless otherwise stated and last until about 5pm. It is usually a gentle stroll and all are invited but these days it is at your own risk.

Sunday 22nd March 2pm Buerton  
Park on verge at SJ695418 for a 4 tetrad marathon.

Saturday 18th April 2pm but earlier for a pub lunch at Walgherton  
Park in car park at SJ698489 down lane opposite the Boars Head then head south.

Saturday 9th May 2pm Bell o' th' Hill pub lunch if desired  
Park opposite pub at SJ523454 to go east.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May Bradwell Green led by Julie Clarke. 11am at the village hall (SJ752634) to explore lanes and footpaths. Bring lunch. Ring 01539 563504 for details.

Sunday 14th June 11am Church Minshull. Bring packed lunch.  
Park in small layby at SJ674606 to explore footpaths to the east.

Saturday 4th July 11am Aston nr Frodsham Bring packed lunch.  
Park by chapel at SJ 556785 to go down to R Weaver to see if *Carduus tenuiflorus* survives.

Sunday 19th July 2pm Huxley  
Park SJ500615 going S to check *Anagallis tenella*.

Saturday 15th August 2pm Winsford  
Park at SJ632653 to search for *Serratula*.

Saturday 12th September 11am east of Tintwistle and bring lunch  
Park in layby at SK035979 to try to visit flushes in SK0499.

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*Viola odorata* var *subcarnea* at Wheelock.



*Muscari latifolium* in Gayton.



*Urtica membranacea*, Pensby, Wirral.



*Epipactis dunensis* by Blakemere.



*Mentha cervina*, Chorlton, near Nantwich.