BSBI CHESHIRE RECORDING NEWSLETTER – 2017

The year began at Warburton, close to the VC boundary in SJ6989 where the old churchyard made an interesting start. We added 24 making 212 including Veronica agrestis, Persicaria bistorta with Helleborus foetidus on the verge opposite. A Primula x polyantha cultivar was naturalised by the old stocks.

We ventured ever closer to S Lancs in SJ69V, a small triangle of the county by the Ship Canal. Here we added 32 making 83 in total. Petasites hybridus, Brassica nigra and lots of Reseda luteola grew by the track with Hypericum perforatum looking very like H. humifusum this early in the season. May saw us at Wilkesley in SJ64F where the lanes provided a very limited habitat. We only got 83 species but they included Lamium hybridum, Geranium pusillum, and Erophila verna. The hedgerow contained Malus pumila and M. sylvestris along with Prunus cerasifera and a stretch of Chamaecyparis lawsoniana. A strip of woodland was dominated by Allium ursinum but Lamiastrum galoebdolon had survived. A good record for Scirpus sylvaticus was confirmed in Audlem before lunch at the pub. Later in May we went to SJ64V and added 115 making 125 total. A nice sandpit had a surprise with plenty of Filago vulgaris and Spergula arvensis. We also saw Cochlearia danica in a track (presumably made from Mway waste) and Asplenium adiantum-nigrum.

In June, we joined forces with the WFS beginning on Whitegate Way in SJ66D and scored 197 of which 150 were new. The most remarkable record was Pyrola rotundifolia which Julie Clarke spotted by Marton Hole. It is only the 2nd record for VC58 and may be a new subspecies for the VC. Beside this, Nasturtium microphyllum, Frangula alnus, Clematis vitalba, Melissa officinalis and Ceratochloa carinata seem quite routine! Next to Peckforton for an unsuccessful attempt to localise a record for Melampyrum pratense in SJ55I. However, a surprising total of 170 included 53 additions among which was a small parch of Ornithopus perpusillus spotted by Martyn, Lamium hybridum, Carex pilulifera, Umbilicus and more Melissa.

Dense mist drove us off the hill by Lamaload Reservoir, but we did spot Carex pilulifera, Viola lutea and Schedonorus pratensis. Brachypodium pinnatum ss was confirmed. A large colony of Rumex alpinus was a excellent new find (visible on the Google map!) and the verge yielded Hypericum humifusum, and an odd Hieracium with 21 new in a total of 145 for SJ97S. In August we wandered around Woodhouse Hill in SJ57C on another unsuccessful hunt for Melampyrum. We did achieved a satisfying total of 203 of which 113 were new. Notable records were Hypericum humifusum and Ornithopus again, with Tilia platyphyllos, Populus nigra ssp betulifolia and a good patch of Selaginella kraussiana, which was new to most people, naturalised outside the arboretum. Amazingly, about a week later, I had an email from Rebecca Wheeler who just happened to mention seeing the Melampyrum just north of where we looked!

One for 2017, I think. The trip down the Weaver Valley from Davenham did not yield Cicuta as the ponds it was in were no longer there! However, 208 taxa were seen with at least 38 new for SJ67K. A marshy area had Myosotis secunda, and Oenanthe aquatica while Vale Royal locks had flourishing Lemna gibba, Spirodella polyrhiza, Soleirolia soleirolii and Asplenium ceterach among other little ferns and duckweeds. Finally, a September trip to the seaside started by confirming the continued presence of Rosa x margerisonii at Irby where Rosa x nitidula was added and R. x hiberica at Meols. There, in SJ29F, we recorded 127 taxa with 15 new including Glaux maritima, Hirschfeldia, Humulus, Leymus, Mentha x villosa, Parietaria and the rapidly spreading Polypogon viridis. In SJ29K the total was143 adding 26 including Ammophila, Epilobium ciliatum, Fallopia baldschuanica, Knautia arvensis, Poterium sanguisorba, Salix cinerea x viminalis, and Solidago gigantea.

Perhaps the most remarkable other new find is Carex oederi ssp bergrothii on Ashton's Flashes by Stephen Lemon. So far the only confirmed records are in Ireland though some other English ones are under investigation. Sonchus arvensis ssp uliginosus, which lacks the yellow glands, was found on the Mersey bank by Debbie Wallace and Gail Quartly-Bishop. Eric Greenwood found Muscari botryoides on the Red Rocks dunes. Sedum kamtschaticum was found on a survey by John Handley near Winsford and I found Sedum stoloniferum well naturalised on Lymm Dam.

CHESHIRE PLANT RECORDING MEETINGS FOR 2017

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.

Saturday 8th April Ringway. Park in narrow lane by hotel SJ816829 and walk to Styal Woods to enjoy spring flowers. (inc. Daphne laureola)

Sunday 23rd April A meeting with the Warrington group at Spud Wood . Meet at 10am at SJ701874.

Saturday 29th April Ellesmere Port SJ47E. Park at 410762 and follow canal N.

Thursday 18th May Julie's meeting. 11.0am in SJ65A. Phone 01539 563504 or 01614397995.

Saturday 3rd June Adlington Meet at 11.am in layby at SJ907791 and head S & W. Bring lunch.

Saturday 17th June Sound . Park at SJ623479 to go E and S. Meet at 11am and bring lunch.

Saturday 15th July Eastham Ferry park on verge at SJ364806 to see if Mentha pulegium survives.

Sunday 20th August Frodsham, park at SJ519766 Follow Sandstone Trail SW to find Melamprum pratense.

Saturday 2nd September Thurstaston SJ246846 to see if Drosera intermedia and Scutellaria minor survive.

Graeme M Kay 4, Geneva Road, Bramhall, Cheshire SK7 3HT
0161 439 7995 mobile on meeting days 07805 748732.
email graeme.m.kay@gmail.com



Brachypodium pinnatum at Lamaload.



Euphorbia cyparissias at Meols.



Lathyrus latifolius at Meols.



Erigeron glaucus at Meols.



Sedum stoloniferum on Lymm Dam.