

# IRISH BOTANICAL NEWS

Number 20

March 2010

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and  
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Published by: The Committee for Ireland  
Botanical Society of the British Isles

The following is the committee as elected at the Annual General Meeting at Oxford Island, Craigavon, Co. Armagh on 12 September 2009. Office Bearers were subsequently elected at the first committee meeting. The Committee is now:

- Dr. E. Caroline Mhic Daeid, Chair and Republic of Ireland representative to Records Committee (retiring 2010)
- Mr. Michael Archer, Hon Secretary (retiring 2011)
- Mr. P. R. Green , editor - Irish Botanical News (retiring 2011)
- Mr. J. C. Wallace (retiring 2011)
- Mr. G. Sharkey (retiring 2012)
- Mrs. Fiona Devery (retiring 2012)
- Mr. Paul Hackney (retiring 2012)

The following are co-opted members of the committee.

- Dr. John Faulknor, Hon Field Meetings Secretary
- Dr. Brian Rushton, Representative on BSBI council

The following are nominated observers to the committee.

- Mr. Mark Wright, environmental and Heritage Service
- Dr. M.B. Wyse Jackson, NPWS

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The cover picture – *Crambe maritima* (Sea-kale) taken at Ferry Point, Co. Waterford on a BSBI field meeting. Photo P.R. Green © 2010.

All species and common names in *Irish Botanical News* follow those in the database on the BSBI web site <http://rbg-web2.rbge.org.uk/BSBI/> and Stace, C.A. (1997). *New Flora of the British Isles*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

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## EDITORIAL

I hope you like the new look! Maybe a one off and back to a green cover next year. John Wallace and I had discussed putting a colour cover on *Irish Botanical News* last year but thought it worth waiting to celebrate 20 years of this publication which has grown in strength over the years.

Arriving back in Ireland in February after spending much of the winter in a snow-covered northeast Scotland, it was good to see signs of spring. Lesser Celandines were flowering around New Ross and after being starved of flowers for so long it was a secret pleasure to see the mass of blooms on the very invasive Winter Heliotrope. (A species that is rare in Scotland.)

Issue 19 seemed to have had a number of copies that did not print very well. I am very sorry if you received one of these. More care has been taken with this issue and a change of printers hopefully has helped.

This issue has been more of a challenge to put together than I ever would have thought. Having a bad back and not being able to sit for very long meant it was hard to spend much time at any one go editing it. Laying flat on the bed with the laptop was no option either as I kept finding each time I tried to look at the screen I looked over my glasses rather than through them. To round it off I went to have it printed in New Ross and found I did not have enough money left in the bank. So this issue had to be printed in Elgin, Scotland.

Besides the help John Wallace has given with this issue I would like to thank Mike Stephens and Olivier Martin for their help also.

Lastly I would like to congratulate John Wallace on becoming a dad in October to a son, Robert.

Paul R. Green, *Irish Botanical News*

## AN ECOSYSTEM IN DISTRESS, SOUTH KERRY (H2)

Michael O'Sullivan, *Knockavota, Milltown, Co. Kerry*

The Rossbeigh sand dunes jut out into the Atlantic at the western tip of Castlemaine Harbour.

Down through the years this amenity has been the focal point for tourists to the region and the playground for a wide variety of recreational pursuits.

The biodiversity of this ecosystem is rich encompassing many diverse species of plant and animal life. Sadly, in November 2008 a rising swell from an angry sea sliced through the dunes, leaving the lower tip an isolated island. In subsequent flurries the original channel widened from 200 to 500m. Leaving the newly created island dangerous to access. The overriding concern now is that a freak combination of weather conditions would have the potential to inflict further irreparable damage to a portion of the upper dune system.

The flora of Rossbeigh is typical of such habitats with many interesting plants none more so than the rare *Lathyrus japonicus* (Sea Pea) which I encountered in 1989. Unfortunately, despite a comprehensive search I did not re-find it in 2009.

In the worst case scenario many other dune plants are at risk because of a shrinking habitat. Take for instance the sturdy *Eryngium maritimum* (Sea Holly) to which the abundant Burnet Moths seem especially attracted, to the delicate *Anagallis arvensis* (Scarlet Pimpernel). Many other eye-catching species that thrive here and worthy of mention are *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Orchid), *Galium verum* (Lady's Bedstraw), *Viola tricolor* (Wild Pansy), *Thymus polytrichus* (Wild Thyme), *Euphoria portlandica* (Portland Spurge), *Centaureum erythraea* (Common Centaury) and *Anthyllis vulneraria* (Kidney Vetch).

The hope is that „Ross“ as it is locally known will be spared any further substantial erosion which would have a devastating impact on the biological diversity of the entire ecosystem.

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## **A REPORT ON THE FLORA OF CORK (H3-H5), 2009**

Tony O'Mahony, 6 Glenthorn Way, Dublin Hill, Cork City

The highlight of 2009 was the publication (in September) of my book, *Wildflowers of Cork City and County*, by The Collins Press. This 2-year project was jointly financed by Cork City Council and Cork County Council, and was written while on paid leave-of-absence from my job in Cork City Council's Water Department. [Note: This work is *not* a flora; rather it is a narrative account of aspects of the flora and habitats of the county.] While this book commitment left me with scant free time for plant recording in 2009, some very interesting discoveries still accrued. The most notable feature of field botany in 2009 was the addition of a suite of adventive species to the Cork City (and county) flora, such as: *Lathyrus nissolia* (Grass Vetchling), *Senecio inaequidens* (Narrow-leaved Ragwort), *Allium schoenoprasum* (Chives) and *Erigeron annuus* (Tall Fleabane). An equally gratifying discovery, was the addition of the nationally rare rose taxon, *Rosa caesia* subsp. *glauca* (Glaucous Dog-rose) to the East Cork flora, and a second site for it in West Cork.

On 3 June, a brief examination of the coastal wall bordering Castle Road (H4, W72.71), (a short distance to the west of Blackrock Castle, Cork City) revealed some long-established populations of *Campanula poscharskyana* (Trailing Bellflower) and *Erigeron karvinskianus* (Mexican fleabane). A tall Ash tree (*Fraxinus excelsior*) on the embankment inside the coastal wall, was festooned and overarched with the intertwined stems of *Fallopia baldschuanica* (Russian-vine) and *Clematis vitalba* (Traveller's-joy), augmented with

*Calystegia silvatica* (Large Bindweed) at the base of the tree. Tiny populations of *Geranium purpureum* (Little Robin) and *Orobancha hederæ* (Ivy Broomrape) still occur in this area.

On 10 June, the nationally extremely rare adventive, *Lathyrus nissolia* (Grass Vetchling) was added to the Cork flora. It occurred in some abundance (amid a wholly native flora) in an expansive, remnant paludal meadow (**H4**, W72.71) bordering the north-south orientated section of the Mahon Amenity Walkway, close to Blackrock Castle, Cork City. Grass Vetchling is *unique* among indigenous European species of the genus *Lathyrus*, in possessing grasslike phylodes (i.e. modified stems) and minute (2-3mm long) *filiform* stipules. Both the stems and „leaves“ of Grass Vetchling are stiff-textured to the touch, the latter being matt, glaucous, and smooth on the suprafoliar face, and distinctively *blunt-ribbed* on the subfoliar face. The entire population of this beautiful species flowered copiously and synchronously here, for a period of one month, then abruptly switched to legume production. [Note: Mature fruit pods of Grass Vetchling were collected as a conservation stock on 3 September. This proved a prescient gesture, as the entire meadow was eradicated in November 2009, to make way for two, proposed Camogie pitches! Thus, what was, perhaps, the only current naturalised population of Grass Vetchling on the island of Ireland, was destroyed (along with its habitat) within five months of its discovery. To my mind, this wilful destruction of an ancient paludal habitat within the city environs, raises considerable doubt as to Cork City Council’s commitment to the conservation of natural history sites within its jurisdiction. In the final analysis, *action speaks louder than words*, and mere lip-service to the cause of biodiversity and conservation ideals, is an impotent, frustrating substitute for proactive protection measures.]

On 20 June, a brief stop at Claycastle, Youghal (**H5**, X10.76), overlooking Youghal Bay, established that small populations of *Salvia verbenaca* (Wild Clary) still persist here, where the species was added to the Cork flora by James Drummond in c.1810. A larger, sub-adjacent

population of Wild Clary similarly persists in the remnant portion of calcareous sand-dune (H5, W09.75) that is wedged between the caravan park/car park, at Summerfield, Redbarn. Cohabiting with Wild Clary were early-flowering populations of *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Orchid), while the margins of a brackish, north-south aligned ditch, supported flowering stands of *Symphytum x uplandicum* (Russian Comfrey). On the margin of Redbarn Strand bordering the car park, long-established populations of *Malva sylvestris* (Common Mallow) and *Armoracia rusticana* (Horse-radish) occurred. Moreover, the embankments of the connecting road between Claycastle and Summerfield, still possessed a small stand of naturalised *Medicago sativa* subsp. *sativa* (Lucerne) and of *Foeniculum vulgare* (Fennel).

On 21 June, morning botany in the vicinity of Pound Crossroads (H5, W74.89) on the Glenville-Rathcormack Road (R614), produced an interesting mix of rose taxa in the roadside hedgebanks. These included small, flowering populations of *Rosa tomentosa* (Harsh Downy-rose) and the two interspecific hybrids, *Rosa canina* (Dog-rose) x *R. tomentosa* (= *Rosa x scabriuscula*), and *Rosa sherardii* (Sherard's Downy-rose) x *R. rubiginosa* (Sweet-briar). The northern branch of Pound Crossroads yielded further populations of Harsh Downy-rose, cohabiting with Dog-rose, Hairy Dog-rose (*Rosa corymbifera*) and a small stand of Sweet-briar – this latter species only known from one other hedgebank site in this area (a boren (H5, W79.90) adjacent to Ahaclareen Bridge, where it cohabits with Harsh Downy-rose). However, the most spectacular find of the day on the northern branch of Pound Crossroads, was a single, flowering bush of *Rosa caesia* subsp. *glauca* (Glaucous Dog-rose) – an addition to the East Cork flora for a rose taxon of extremely rare occurrence in southern Ireland. [Note: fruiting material of *Rosa caesia* subsp. *glauca* was collected from this site in September, and examined in detail. This bush shows slight introgression from the nearby stand of Sweet-briar, as evidenced by the sepal-pinnae bearing a fringe of stipitate-glands, the large-headed glands of the *Rosa rubiginosa*-type.]



On 8 July, a small population (some twelve plants) of *Erigeron annuus* (Tall Fleabane) – an extremely rare casual in Ireland, and new to the Cork flora – was seen in waste ground in the Cork City Council’s Water Works on the Lee Road (**H4**, W64.71). This site was subsequently cleared, but the species might yet reappear here.

On 11 August, while on a spin to Baltimore village (**H3**, W04.26), small flowering stands of naturalised *Foeniculum vulgare* (Fennel) were seen on both sides of the Dunmanway-Drimoleague Road (R586). The location was a short distance east of the Garranes Lakes, near Dunmanway, in either 10-km square (**H3**, W2.4. or W2.5) – the precise hectad yet to be determined. Currently, this is the only extant inland Co. Cork site for Fennel, known to me. Later in the journey, on the approach to Baltimore, further delightful flowering stands of Fennel were seen margining both roadsides of the R595, immediately NE of Ringarogy Island Crossroads (**H3**, W06.29). The „lawn“ of the fortified house that overlooks the quay at Baltimore village, is overrun with an unsightly carpet of *Petasites fragrans* (Winter Heliotrope) and, although the long-recorded population of *Salvia verbenaca* (Wild Clary) was not seen here on this visit, *Clinopodium ascendens* (Calamint) was still present. Both of these indigenous species are, very likely, merely established introductions at this site – as, certainly, is the population of the imposing and beautiful *Lavatera arborea* (Tree-mallow). The status of the ornamental Tree-mallow in many coastal sites in County Cork (as elsewhere in Ireland) is often very difficult to establish with certainty. The reason for this state of affairs is that, through the centuries, wild populations of Tree-mallow have been seed-harvested for cultivation, while the reciprocal process (i.e. populations escaping from gardens) is of frequent occurrence, as this species produces copious quantities of seed that readily establish feral populations in wild ground. [**Note**: Stace (2009: 369) states that: “Molecular data have shown that *Malva* L. and *Lavatera* L. are artificial genera based on a single character (fusion of epicalyx segments), and that their species form an interlocking mass, rather than two separate groups. The amalgamation of the two genera is

preferable to the recognition of several groups of species as separate genera ...”.] On the return journey from Baltimore to Skibbereen, beautiful pink-flowered populations of *Calystegia sepium* subsp. *roseata* (Seaside Hedge Bindweed) were seen on hedgebanks bordering this tidal section of the River Ilen – as on the right bank of the river, upriver of New Bridge (**H3**, W10.34), and on the left bank bordering the Skibbereen-Drimoleague Road (R593) in 1-km square (**H3**, W12.34.).

On 16 August, early-morning rose-recording was undertaken in the River Blackwater valley, near Lombardstown, Mid Cork (**H4**, W4.9.). The main survey area was a c.1.6 km stretch of the minor road bordering the right (southern) bank of the river, between Gortavoher T-junction (W45.96) and a T-junction close to a railway level-crossing in 1-km square, (W44.97). Among *Rosa* taxa recorded here, were an abundance of *Rosa arvensis* (Field-rose), Dog-rose (*Rosa canina*) and Hairy Dog-rose (*Rosa corymbifera*). *Rosa tomentosa* (Harsh Downy-rose) was also of frequent occurrence, as was its interspecific hybrid with Dog-rose, namely, *Rosa x scabriuscula*. The interspecific hybrid, *Rosa stylosa* (Short-styled Field-rose) x *R. canina* (Dog-rose) (= *Rosa x andagavensis*) was also present. This latter hybrid is locally common in calcareous hedgebanks immediately north of the River Blackwater, though its *Rosa stylosa* parent appears to be wholly absent throughout this extensive region. The T-junction (W44.97) close to the level-crossing of the Cork-Killarney Railway Line, produced a stand of the *Rosa* hybrid, *R. sherardii* (Sherard’s Downy-rose) x *R. rubiginosa* (Sweet-briar), and of its *Rosa rubiginosa* (Sweet-briar) parent. The road-junction in 1-km square (W44.96) yielded an abundance of *Rosa micrantha* (Small-flowered Sweet-briar), and the eastern arm of Gortmore Crossroads (W43.97) produced a second, small population of Sweet-briar – a widespread but very scarce native rose species in County Cork, which is mainly confined to calcareous or circumneutral hedgebanks in its north Cork stronghold.

On 25 August, the visually attractive South African adventive, *Senecio inaequidens* (Narrow-leaved Ragwort) was added to the Cork

flora, from the margin of the ornamental Atlantic Pond (H4, W70.72), near Blackrock village, Cork City. [Note: A second Cork City population of this species was found close by, in September: it bordered a footpath adjacent to a T-junction (H4, W69.71) on Monaghan's Road, and was producing an abundance of seed.] Both populations displayed linear, feeble-toothed, sessile leaves, each leaf bearing an *abruptly-expanded, subcircular, auriculate* base.

On 3 September, botanical surveying in Cork City, produced a naturalised population of *Lavatera arborea* (Tree-mallow) in a limestone quarry-park (H4, W69.70) adjoining the Sports Ground at Ardfallen Road. A subsequent examination of a section of the coastal Amenity Walkway (H4, W72.71) at Ringmahon Strand, Blackrock, produced two, late-flowering clumps of naturalised *Allium schoenoprasum* (Chives) – an addition to the Cork flora. Other new, naturalised finds of interest on the walkway, included a large (dispersed) population of the adventive *Picris echioides* (Bristly Oxtongue) (a species currently only recorded from one other Cork City site), in addition to a small stand of *Armoracia rusticana* (Horse-radish) and plenty of flowering *Trifolium hybridum* (Alsike Clover) – this latter a scarce and mainly transient clover in its County Cork sites. This section of the walkway also holds small, naturalised populations of *Rosa rugosa* (Japanese Rose) and *Melilotis alba* (White Melilot).

On 11 September, an examination of roadside walls bordering the Blackrock Road, in the vicinity of Crab Lane and Ballintemple (H4, W69.71) yielded small, discrete populations of naturalised *Pilosella aurantiaca* (Fox-and-cubs), *Mycelis muralis* (Wall Lettuce), *Erigeron karvinskianus* (Mexican Fleabane), *Valerianella carinata* (Keeled-fruited Cornsalad) and *Veronica polita* (Grey Field-speedwell) – the first an addition to the Cork City flora, the remainder long established in this area.

On 19 September, a Sunday spin to the picturesque Inchigeelagh Park (H3, W22.65), on the right bank of the River Lee immediately

upriver of Inchigeela Bridge, produced a small, naturalised population of *Veronica crista-galli* (Crested Field-speedwell) and of the very attractive (but invasive) Himalayan ornamental, *Persicaria campanulata* (Lesser Knotweed). At nearby Bohane's Crossroads (H3, W23.65), a small, subcircular, roadside lakelet is encircled by a stand of the imposing plant, *Cladium mariscus* (Great Fen-sedge), a species of local occurrence in this area, as on the margins of Lough Allua. Rock outcrops throughout this area are tenanted with populations of *Saxifraga spathularis* (St Patrick's-cabbage), while waste ground holds populations of the petite *Hypericum humifusum* (Trailing St John's-wort) together with naturalised stands of *Juncus tenuis* (Slender Rush).

On 21 September, *Rosa* work undertaken in the vicinity of Sullane Bridge (H3, W26.74), close to Lissacresig, Macroom, was notable for the discovery of a few adjoining bushes of *Rosa caesia* subsp. *glauca* (Glaucous Dog-rose), in only its second recorded West Cork site. Ripe hips were collected for detailed examination. Regrettably, hedgebanks in this general area had very recently been ravaged by flailing machines and, therefore, other interesting *Rosa* taxa I had previously recorded from this region, had been cut. The impression gained, is that Glaucous Dog-rose is only of very sporadic occurrence in this area, as elsewhere in County Cork. Moreover, only scattered bushes of this taxon have been located to date in all Cork sites and, consequently, no distributional pattern on an overall county basis is evident as yet.

## REFERENCE

Stace, C.A. (2009). Three more new combinations in the British Flora. *Watsonia* 7 (4): 369.

## CO. WATERFORD (H6) – NEW COUNTY RECORDS AND NEW 10-KM SQUARE RECORDS MADE DURING 2009

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Most of my visits to Co. Waterford in 2009 were to lead botanical walks or search for orchids for the Orchidireland project, survey sites for the BSBI Threatened Plants Project or to do square bashing in 1-km squares with no records. The latter was always done in conjunction with one of the above. Below I have mentioned the three new county records for the year and all the new 10-km square records for the year I made, plus one made by Tom Curtis.

Field meetings in the county with the Waterford and Cork Botany Group helped add a number of new 10-km square records. The first two of the year were at Curraghtaggart (S39.12) on 31 January, a *Picea sitchensis* (Sitka Spruce) self-sown on a forest track and *Lavatera arborea* (Tree-mallow) on the road verge. Walking on the coast at Paulsworth (X21.80) on the 12 April, the group found a tree of *Prunus padus* (Bird Cherry) and several bushes of *Viburnum tinus* (Laurustinus) in woodland, both likely to be garden escapes from the nearby ruin on the cliff top. The 20 June saw the group at Norrisland on the banks of the River Blackwater. Megan Morris found the most exciting plant of the day; 7 clumps of *Carex pseudocyperus* (Cyperus Sedge) on a drainage ditch bank (X102.971), a third county record and on waste ground we had several clumps of *Trifolium hybridum* (Alsike Clover).

It certainly knew how to rain on 9 April; it was botany from the car before my meeting at Lismore, just jumping out when needed. Two species of interest for the 10-km square were seen at Sruh (S05.00) on the roadside: *Galanthus nivalis* (Snowdrop) and *Veronica hederifolia* subsp. *hederifolia*. While walking around Lismore with the tidy town

committee I found two plants of *Heuchera micrantha* self-sown on the wall of the Millennium Park (X04.98).

Square bashing in various 1-km squares around the county certainly helped fill in a few gaps and add a few new 10-km square records also. A bit of square bashing before a Mapmate work shop run by John Wallace at the National Biodiversity Data Centre, Waterford, on 28 March at Knockeen (S576.078) had me finding a clump of *Iris foetidissima* (Stinking Iris) in the roadside hedge. Many clumps of the alien grass *Anemanthele lessoniana* (New Zealand Wind-grass) were scattered along the road verge at Killosseragh (X230.918) and also on the 12 April a patch of *Lonicera japonica* (Japanese Honeysuckle) was found on a road bank near Kiely's Cross Roads (X202.844). On the wall of a bridge at Ballydowne (X413.981) on the 8 May there were an abundance of *Sherardia arvensis* (Field Madder) and a clump of *Linaria purpurea* (Purple Toadflax). On my way home I stopped in Waterford to see „Star Trek“ at the Cinema. Having a bit of time to kill before the film started, I took a stroll around, 3 clumps of *Chelidonium majus* (Greater Celandine) were found on a wall, on the edge of the adjoining car park (S608.118) and not far away on the bank of John's River (S609.120) was a single plant of *Conyza canadensis* (Canadian Fleabane). A month later on 6 June I came across a surprise new county record in the city, a patch of *Allium cepa* (Onion), surviving on waste ground (S605.124), where it had been dumped, on the edge of a car park. Walking around a stubble field with Megan Morris at Churchquarter (X026.906) on 24 September to see if there were any interesting weeds we were surprised to see *Phalaris canariensis* (Canary-grass) as neither of us had seen it in this habitat before. On a nearby sharp road bend (X027.905) was a clump of *Carex muricata* subsp. *lamprocarpa* (Prickly Sedge).

Helping out with Orchidireland during 2009 certainly was well rewarded with a number of new sites for orchids as well as other species. The first outing on 22 May was not very productive of orchids but did add a second county record for several bushes of *Lonicera*

*xylosteum* (Fly Honeysuckle) on the bank of Clodiagh River (S423.146) just north of a bridge. I have stood on this bridge a number of times and am very surprised I had not seen it before. In the neighbouring field on the edge of a small stream (S423.146) was *Montia fontana* subsp. *variabilis* and on a heathy bank (S453.154) in the Curraghmore Estate was *Danthonia decumbens* (Heath-grass). The 24 May saw me in the southwest of the county. *Ophrys apifera* (Bee Orchid) was added to the list of orchids from Knockanore churchyard (X074.890) and *Ranunculus bulbosus* (Bulbous Buttercup) was a nice addition. On my way to look for orchids in Co. Cork on 6 June I called into Ardmore and had 3 plants of *Chaerophyllum temulum* (Rough Chervil) on the side of the R673 at Ballykilmurry (X163.795), my favourite find of the year in the county.

The 14 June saw me over in the west of the county; my first stop was exceptionally good for new 10-km square records, especially as I had walked some of the route at least four times before. At Garrycloyne under a Sitka Spruce plantation (W998.976) I had 2 *Neottia nidus-avis* (Bird's-nest Orchid) and on the side of the track next to where the rest of the plantation had been felled was *Soleirolia soleirolii* (Mind-your-own-business) and 15 clumps of *Carex pallescens* (Pale Sedge). Reaching my destination on the south bank of the River Blackwater at Ballygally (W985.989) to look for orchids in a marsh I had never been to before was very rewarding as there was a large stand of *Carex vesicaria* (Bladder-sedge), a species I had not seen in the county before; many clumps of *C. strigosa* (Thin-spiked Wood-sedge); *C. hirta* (Hairy Sedge); *Lysimachia vulgaris* (Yellow Loosestrife) and the dreaded *Lysichiton americanus* (American Skunk-cabbage) - an alien species not welcome here - and giving them all some shade was *Salix x multinervis* (Grey x Eared Willow). Looking for orchids species I had seen at Knocknabrone (R951.030) in the past, *Listera ovata* (Common Twayblade) was added to the site on a road verge and in a field gateway was *Montia fontana* subsp. *fontana*. Before heading home after a long day, I had to turn the car around when I saw what I thought was *Tellima*

*grandiflora* (Fringecups) on the roadside at Feagarid (S012.033) and I knew if correct, and it was, it would be a new county record.

On leaving an Orchidireland training day with Tom Curtis at the National Biodiversity Data Centre on 26 June, the first record for *Spergularia marina* (Lesser Sea-spurrey) from a road verge in the county was from a roundabout (S568.103) on the edge of the city. The 27 August saw me back at Ardmore, this time besides finding the orchids, three fruiting spikes of *Echinochloa crus-galli* (Cockspur) were found at the base of a wall (X194.774), the fourth county record. Leaving the area I spied a clump of *Cortaderia selloana* (Pampas-grass) on waste ground at Pilltown (X134.803) the first record of it as self-sown in the county. Also growing with it was *Lotus corniculatus* var. *sativus* and *Dipsacus fullonum* (Wild Teasel). The last stop of the day was a real surprise as besides finding the orchid I was looking for in pouring rain which I had last seen at the site in 1998, I found nine clumps of *Festuca altissima* (Wood Fescue) in a wood at Dromana (X094.942), the first site in the county not associated with a river. Driving home along the N72 between Cappoquin and Dungarvan I had to turn the car around and inspect a mint I had seen from the car at Coolanheen (X132.976); it turned out to be *Mentha x piperita* (Peppermint), the fifth record for the county.

On the way to a BSBI field meeting I was leading on 23 May, I stopped at Belle Lake (S666.048) to survey one of the species for the BSBI Threatened Plants Project; I found the species concerned on the margin of the lake with a new 10-km record for *Dactylorhiza majalis* subsp. *occidentalis* (Western Marsh-orchid). On the BSBI field meeting at Bunmahon (X43.98) we added *Barbarea intermedia* (Medium-flowered Winter-cress) to the list of species recorded from the dunes and the following day at Ferry Point (X110.780) the visit proved well worth it as two plants of *Stellaria pallida* (Lesser Chickweed) were seen on a small area of dune, making them the most westerly site in Ireland by 20 kilometres.



Taking the residents of Stradbally on a botany walk around the town on 21 June added 3 new species for the 10-km square. All were on an area of rough ground by a stream (X369.976), *Papaver somniferum* (Opium Poppy), *Mimulus guttatus* (Monkeyflower) and the second new county record of the year; *Lepidium sativum* (Garden Cress).

Tom Curtis visited Dunmore East on the 18 August where he had *Puccinellia distans* (Reflexed Saltmarsh-grass) at Black Knob (X6999), an uncommon grass in the county. On a walk around Dunmore East with my family on the 21 August, we had a bush of *Rosmarinus officinalis* (Rosemary) self-sown on the side of a wall and my brother Ian had the third new county record of the year; a single *Helianthus annuus* (Sunflower) self-sown on the wall of an old tower (S68.00).

## **CO. WATERFORD (H6) AND CO. WEXFORD (H12), MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS**

Paul R. Green, *46 Bewley Street, New Ross, Co. Wexford*

Below are a few records that do not fit into either of my Co. Waterford or Co. Wexford reports for 2009, but are all very good and interesting records.

*Cornus sericea* (Red-osier Dogwood)

Ballyduff (W99), 25 March 1972; valley of River Blackwater, hedge-side with Rhododendron, collected by U.C.W Aberystwyth. Herb: **University College of Wales, Aberystwyth**. This record pre dates the earliest record in the *Flora of County Waterford* (Green, 2008) by 25 years.

*Crambe maritima* (Sea-kale)

Whiting Bay (X159.776), 7 August 2009; very large patch, Declan McGrath. A new location and third extant county site.

*Glaucium flavum* (Yellow Horned-poppy)

Clonea (X314.940), 21 August 2009; eight plants on shingle embankment, Declan McGrath. The only other record for *Glaucium flavum* from this site was reported by H.C. Hart on 3 August 1882.

*Orobanche rapum-genistae* (Greater Broomrape)

Enniscorthy (S972.370), July 2003; railway bank below Ring Wood, Roger Goodwillie. Only other county extant site is at New Ross.

## REFERENCE

Green, P. (2008). *Flora of County Waterford*. National Botanic Gardens of Ireland, Glasnevin, Dublin.

## BOTANICAL HIGHLIGHTS DURING 2009, CO. WEXFORD (H12)

Paul R. Green, 46 Bewley Street, New Ross, Co. Wexford

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The year started with a visit in January to Somerset to collect all the botanical information Ro FitzGerald had collated over the years for Co. Wexford. The boxes kept coming and before long the car was full. I was awestruck by it all: card index, folders of recording cards, very detailed information on the rarer plants of the county etc.

Back in Co. Wexford, walking along the roads and forestry tracks at Newtown (S91.16) on 15 March added the first new county record of the year; *Allium scorodoprasum* (Sand Leek) in extreme abundance along the road verges and banks, made a nice start to the year.

The first time I tried out Ro FitzGerald's information was when I visited the Blackstair Mountains to look for *Gnaphalium sylvaticum* (Heath Cudweed) near Kiltyealy on 11 April. Ro had seen it here in 1989

(a new county record) when she had counted 730 plants along a sandy forest track. The first thought that popped into my head on arriving at the site was that I had walked the track before in 2003. Looking at the sketch map done by Ro and my GPS I was definitely in the correct place. It was a wide gravel track, certainly not the habitat that I would expect the cudweed to grow in now. Anyway I walked along the track, all the bends were as the sketch, but I had the niggling feeling that it seemed a much larger track than the sketch would have indicated. Sitting in the car sipping my black coffee feeling defeated, studying all the data in front of me again I noticed that there were Lawson's Cypress trees along the track in the photo. There certainly were none where I was parked; looking up the road I could see in the distance Lawson's Cypress. Feeling like I was Miss Marple solving another mystery, the car roaring up the road, I was soon jumping out and within seconds found the Heath Cudweed. Only 35 rosettes were found, in the centre of the track. Ro had given the map reference as S840.475 and my GPS read S835.478; only half a kilometre out.

The 14 June saw me walking up Telegraph Hill from the coastal car park at Blackhead. There were many *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Orchid) along the grassy road verge. Deciding to climb over a road bank into the working sand quarry (T13.32), I just stood there staring. The flora was just magical; thousands of dainty greyish white flowers of *Silene gallica* (Small-flowered Catchfly) danced about in the evening breeze and a large number of tall purple spikes of *Echium vulgare* (Viper's-bugloss) stood proud. Dotted all over the floor of the quarry were large patches of *Ornithopus perpusillus* (Bird's-foot), *Lotus subbiflorus* (Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil) and *Trifolium striatum* (Knotted Clover) intermixed with *Filago vulgaris* (Common Cudweed) and *Anchusa arvensis* (Bugloss). On the road bank outside the quarry was plenty of *Geranium columbinum* (Long-stalked Crane's-bill). What a lovely evening it had turned out to be!

After disembarking from the ferry on 19 August at Rosslare Ferry Port (T13.12) and pulling off the road by the dunes to give my

brother's dog a chance to relieve itself while we did a little botany, Ian said the habitat looked good for *Festuca arenaria* (Rush-leaved Fescue), a grass I was not familiar with. It was not long before Ian found it on the dunes.

Megan Morris and I visited Kilmuckridge working sand quarry (T15.38) on 27 September to see what rare species were to be found. Our first goodies were Bird's-foot and *Carduus tenuiflorus* (Slender Thistle) as weeds of a root crop field. On the bare ledge along the top of the quarry we found Small-flowered Catchfly, Common Cudweed, *Filago minima* (Small Cudweed), *Scleranthus annuus* (Annual Knawel), Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil and last to be found were several *Carduus nutans* (Musk Thistle) with their deep pink nodding heads, a superb site as I had not seen this thistle since I moved from Somerset in 1999.

My last day recording in the field during the year was at Drumderry (S89.58) on 29 September. This gave Megan and me a stubble field smothered in the cream coloured *Viola arvensis* (Field Pansy) interspersed with *Viola tricolor* subsp. *tricolor* (Wild Pansy), which had petals of all shades of purple, some with one petal purple and the others bright yellow, others with cream petals with blotches of purple, some all petals bright yellow. A wonderful sight and my last highlight of the year to be treasured for a very long time.

### **INTERESTING PLANTS IN TYRONE (H36), 2008-09**

W.I. McNeill, 86 Fairhill Rd, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone, BT80 8DE

The years 2008 and 2009 were noteworthy for atrocious weather in July and August. Possibly this inhibited botanising to a greater degree than I had thought, for the two years proved disappointing in terms of new county records or important updates.

*Anemone blanda* (Balkan Anemone)

Along mill-race near Cookstown. Although I saw it here for the first time in 2009, Ronnie Irvine tells me that he has known of it for several years. It was probably planted, but, if so, almost certainly as long ago as the 1940s when the Adair spinning mills were still in operation and the mill-race and its environs were well-maintained. 1<sup>st</sup> Tyrone record.

*Cichorium intybus* (Chicory)

Appeared as a roadside plant 6km NNE of Caledon on the road to Dungannon in September 2008. This is the second casual record in recent years – in 2006 it turned up on a re-seeded grass verge in Cookstown.

*Crambe hispanica* (Spanish Sea-kale)

Among a colony of aliens on waste ground at Doons, about 8km WNW of Cookstown, in September 2008. The origin of the aliens is unclear, but it seems most likely that they arose from dumping from another site. Possibly first Irish record?? I would thank Tim Rich for identification.

*Echium plantagineum* (Purple Viper's-bugloss)

Along with the *Crambe hispanica* at Doons, September 2008. 1<sup>st</sup> county record.

*Saxifraga tridactylites* (Rue-leaved Saxifrage)

This turned up in great abundance in April 2009 on a disused hard-surface playing-field at Omagh. As I was driving past, I noticed the surface of the ground was almost covered with a reddish growth that I thought might be an alga or fungus of some sort. I stopped to have a look and was amazed to find thousands of little *S. tridactylites* plants, some large enough to bear flowers but most minute with maybe a couple of little red leaves. In spite of its abundance at the site, this was in fact the first county record!

*Scleranthus annuus* (Annual Knawel)

This was one of the BSBI threatened plants for 2008, but I had visited possible sites in 2008 and had failed to find it anywhere in the county.

In June 2009, David McNeill and I went to sandpits at Knockaleery, W of Cookstown, to look for a 2009 „threatened plant“, *Gnaphalium sylvaticum* (Heath Cudweed), and David spotted Knawel growing as isolated clumps on recently-exposed sand and gravel. This was the first Tyrone record since the 1980s. Oh, and yes, we got the *G. sylvaticum* as well!

*Selaginella kraussiana* (Krauss’s Clubmoss)

In October 2008 I visited the grounds of Holy Hill House, 4km ENE of Strabane, and found *S. kraussiana* growing on the lawns. This is the first Tyrone record. I would like to thank Mr Hamilton for permission to botanise in his grounds.

*Trichomanes speciosum* (Killarney Fern)

In 2008 Robert Northridge found the gametophyte of the Killarney Fern at St Patrick’s Chair in Altadavan Glen in S Tyrone. This is now the second site in the county, as Robert found it at Strabane Glen in 2005. St Patrick’s Chair is a rock outcrop in the form of a chair. Water gathers on the bowl-like top of one of the rocks and this is venerated as a „holy well“. Rags, handkerchiefs etc. are left as prayer tokens for cures and healing. Botanically speaking, it is also of interest as one of just two recent sites in the county for *Hymenophyllum tunbrigense* (Tunbridge Filmy-fern).

#### Correction

In *Irish Botanical News* 18: 49, under the entry for *Eriophorum latifolium*, I had incorrectly given Dunnaree Hill as lying SE of Drumquin. It is, in fact, SW of Drumquin.

### **BOTANICAL NEWS FROM CO. ANTRIM (H39), 2009**

David McNeill, 13 Greystown Park, Belfast, BT9 6UN

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Without doubt, 2009 has been a most enjoyable year. This is largely due to new friendships with Roger Field and Denis McBride.

Roger has accompanied me on several botanical outings as you will see if you read on, and he has kept up e-mail correspondence throughout the year. He even bought himself a GPS handset so that he could send me grid references for the rarer plants. But it was Denis who stole the show when he brought us to see the botanical highlight of the year.

Denis belongs to a field club in Glenarm and started telling us about a site for *Crambe maritima* (Sea-kale) in Co. Antrim. Of course, everyone knows that *Crambe* has only ever been recorded once in Co. Antrim – from Church Bay on Rathlin Island in 1794! Nevertheless, Denis insisted that his friend Bobby Montgomery had known a local *Crambe* site for going on 20 years. So when Denis offered to show us Bobby's site, we jumped at the chance. And we weren't disappointed. Over a hundred beautiful plants on chalk shingle south of Garron Point. Whilst there, we also found a small population of *Crithmum maritimum* (Rock Samphire), somewhat further south than the existing records for Garron Point Harbour. Roger and Denis visited the harbour a couple of days later for good measure and e-mailed me a *Crithmum* grid reference.

Another early-season coastal visit brought me to the old sand dunes at Runkerry. These are on the inland side of the railway line and have yielded an impressive list of rare plants over the years, including the only recent county records for *Radiola linoides* (Allseed) and *Filago vulgaris* (Common Cudweed). Accompanying *Erophila verna* (Common Whitlowgrass) and *Valerianella locusta* (Common Cornsalad), I was amazed to find abundant *Myosotis ramosissima* (Early Forget-me-not), last recorded from here by David Moore prior to 1837. Better still was to come with the discovery of a patch of *Vicia lathyroides* (Spring Vetch), a brand-new site for this species, and the only modern county site apart from the Valley Golf Course in Portrush where the *Vicia* was last seen in 1988. The Runkerry dunes were reportedly the subject of a threatened Donald Trump golf resort development. Is nothing sacred?

In 2008, *Pyrola media* (Intermediate Wintergreen) was the only one of the BSBI Threatened Plants to be found in Co. Antrim. This year, the BSBI field trip on 20 June revisited the site, which is in the floor of an old basalt quarry, adjoining a landfill site on the slopes of Collinward mountain near Belfast. The *Pyrola* was thriving. A full report of that field trip will appear separately. Two other 2008 species were seen this year. Denis had shown Roger and myself around Straidkilly Wood near Glenarm early in the year when we saw *Rubus saxatilis* (Stone Bramble), *Lathraea squamaria* (Toothwort) and drifts of *Ranunculus auricomus* (Goldilocks Buttercup). Roger and I returned at a later date and were delighted to see a handful of *Monotropa hypopitys* (Yellow Bird's-nest) plants as well as a single *Neottia nidus-avis* (Bird's-nest Orchid) spike and a stand of flowering *Pyrola minor* (Common Wintergreen). In late August, a broken arm proved a blessing in disguise when, whilst the rest of my family were playing tennis, I had the pleasure of finding *Gentianella campestris* (Field Gentian) on Ramore Head at Portrush.

As for the 2009 species, *Coeloglossum viride* (Frog Orchid) was found in quantity on the BSBI field trip to Whitepark Bay led by Paul Hackney. Our only other success was *Vicia orobus* (Wood Bitter-vetch), a species restricted to a very small area of the county. Roger and I were able to refind Roy Anderson's site near the entrance to Ballyboley Forest, possibly now the only extant location. The *Vicia* grows on two very short lengths of roadside bank about 200m apart, one on each side of the entrance. The associated species included *Salix repens* (Creeping Willow). John Faulkner, Ian McNeill and I briefly visited a couple of old *Oenanthe fistulosa* (Tubular Water-dropwort) sites at Montiagh Moss but only *Oenanthe aquatica* (Fine-leaved Water-dropwort) was seen. Roger and I also failed to find *Groenlandia densa* (Opposite-leaved Pondweed) at Lough-na-trosk, its sole Co. Antrim site – possibly because of the extremely high water level.

Whilst at Lough-na-trosk, we found a single plant of *Spiranthes romanzoffiana* (Irish Lady's-tresses) on the shore, only a short distance



from David Ledsham's Gortnagory site. We also visited a delightful small lough on the other side of Big Trosk, where Roger and I had our first encounter with *Carex pauciflora* (Few-flowered Sedge) and also saw *Drosera anglica* (Great Sundew) and *Vaccinium oxycoccus* (Cranberry).

The next weekend, we returned to the Garron Plateau to visit the classic rare plant sites by the Pollan and Cranny Burns. Both streams were in flood and almost impossible to cross. To further compound our difficulties, the local landowner had installed a series of vicious barbed wire fences across the Pollan Burn at frequent intervals. On our way upstream, we saw *Equisetum pratense* (Shady Horsetail) and *Rubus saxatilis* but no sign of the previously recorded *Gymnocarpium dryopteris* (Oak Fern). *Galium boreale* (Northern Bedstraw) made its only appearance at the top waterfall, after which we followed our GPS to the grid reference for the only *Thalictrum alpinum* (Alpine Meadow-rue) site in the county. Imagine our amazement when we found no *Thalictrum*, but a single plant of *Hammarbya paludosa* (Bog Orchid) instead. Convinced that the grid reference must have been wrong, we followed the burn back down towards the waterfall. And a little upstream from the waterfall, just as Arthur Stelfox must have first come upon it 60 years previously, *Thalictrum alpinum* graced the left bank for a short distance.

On our way over to the Cranny Gorge, we recorded some *Phegopteris connectilis* (Beech Fern) and *Ulex gallii* (Western Gorse). We initially approached the upstream end of the gorge and here another single plant of *Spiranthes romanzoffiana* was in full flower on the bank, this time not far from David Ledsham's Aghalumb site. Wiser people would not have attempted to enter the gorge in such conditions, but we came away with the thrill of having seen *Orthilia secunda* (Serrated Wintergreen) in what may now be its only remaining county site.

A picnic stop on Slievenanee with my two younger daughters, Alison and Sarah, resulted in the discovery of two plants of

*Cryptogramma crispa* (Parsley Fern), which had not been recorded from this mountain since 1920. *Diphasiastrum alpinum* (Alpine Clubmoss) grew plentifully at the summit.

I led a short field trip to Brown's Bay with the Belfast Naturalists' Field Club. Our best finds were *Parnassia palustris* (Grass-of-Parnassus), *Sagina subulata* (Heath Pearlwort) and *Atriplex laciniata* (Frosted Orache). Quite unexpectedly, some tiny plants of *Sedum rosea* (Rose-root) had established themselves on the strandline, having arrived from a nearby garden.

I would be pleased to hear from any BSBI member interested in joining occasional field trips in Antrim in 2010.

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## **BSBI FIELD MEETINGS, 2009**

### **CAVEHILL AND COLLINWARD, CO. ANTRIM (H39), 20 JUNE**

David McNeill

A group of 9 botanists, including 3 students from the University of Ulster, met at Belfast Zoo with plants, rather than animals, being the order of the day. The woods immediately above the zoo have yielded both *Pyrola minor* (Common Wintergreen) and *Pyrola media* (Intermediate Wintergreen) in the past and we aimed to see if either species was still present. Roger Field was able to pinpoint a streamside bank where he had seen *Pyrola minor* many years earlier, but none could be found on this occasion. Amongst the more local woodland species observed were *Galium odoratum* (Woodruff) and *Melica uniflora* (Wood Melick).

Climbing through the open woodland, we paused frequently to enjoy the views back over Belfast Lough and down into the narrow gorge cut by the stream we had followed earlier. Shortly after emerging from the woodland, a stile took us out onto the grazed slopes of

Collinward Mountain. Almost immediately we found a butterfly orchid, the first of several, all unopened. John Faulkner demonstrated that the divergent pollinia of *Platanthera chlorantha* (Greater Butterfly-orchid) could still be observed, even in bud. In the same field we saw the first *Helictotrichon pubescens* (Downy Oat-grass) of the day and also *Ranunculus bulbosus* (Bulbous Buttercup).

Nearby, we came to an attractive area of broken rocky pasture and wet flush. Swarms of brightly-coloured *Dactylorhiza maculata* (Heath Spotted-orchid), *D. purpurella* (Northern Marsh-orchid) and their hybrid kept everyone happy. *Pedicularis palustris* (Marsh Lousewort) and *Crepis paludosa* (Marsh Hawk's-beard) were also prominent, whilst a little more patience was required to spot *Carex dioica* (Dioecious Sedge) and *Eleocharis quinqueflora* (Few-flowered Spike-rush). Another target species eluded us. *Pseudorchis albida* (Small-white Orchid) was recorded on the slopes of Collinward above Belfast Zoo in 1987 and 1988. Unfortunately, without an accurate grid reference, we searched suitable habitat in vain.

The colourful flora ensured an idyllic lunch spot, and the damp conditions did not deter the students from lounging in the long grass. After lunch, we contoured round the mountain to other flushed ground. Just as we were about to turn back, Paul Hackney spotted a *Dactylorhiza incarnata* (Early Marsh-orchid) spike. The flesh-coloured flowers indicated subsp. *incarnata*. There were about half a dozen flowering spikes in the immediate vicinity.

The party then set off on a long trek between Cavehill and Collinward, in the direction of an ugly landfill site. During a short drink stop, we discussed the discovery of *Pyrola media* in a nearby moorland site in 1991. It had been rediscovered in 2008 in a basalt quarry adjoining the landfill site, and the group now proceeded into this quarry.

The *Pyrola media* was seen almost immediately, in much greater quantity and in a wider area than seen in 2008. Approximately

20 flowering spikes and 60 other plants were counted. The quarry provided an interesting contrast to the earlier habitat. The plants seen included *Filago minima* (Small Cudweed), *Arenaria serpyllifolia* (Thyme-leaved Sandwort), *Catapodium rigidum* (Fern-grass), *Erophila verna* (Common Whitlowgrass), *Listera ovata* (Common Twayblade), *Dactylorhiza purpurella* and tasty *Fragaria vesca* (Wild Strawberry). *Mycelis muralis* (Wall Lettuce) even made an appearance, venturing far from its urban home.

Another long climb brought us to the top of Cavehill. We paused at McArt's Fort, known to locals as Napoleon's Nose, and were appalled to see a lady dangling her legs over the edge of the cliff. The scramble down the steep slopes was not fun for most of the group, but we came safely to the cave which gives the mountain its name. Here *Helictotrichon pubescens* turned up again and the very local *Pimpinella saxifraga* (Burnet-saxifrage) was seen. Two members of the group, one of whom was the leader, inadvisedly decided to climb up a steep grassy slope to the base of the cliff. When everyone was eventually reunited, we chose a route back to the car park through a different part of the woods. *Pyrola minor* would have been a nice end to a long day, but it was not to be.

## **BOG & FEN IN COUNTY CLARE (H9), 11 & 12 JULY**

Stephen Ward & Sharon Parr

Grey skies and common gulls with newly fledged chicks heralded our arrival. We stood at the edge of a fen, with whale-backs of limestone protruding amidst beds of *Cladium* and *Phragmites* which stretch some four miles away to the south-west. To the north, the scenic backdrop of Mullagh Mór. Whilst there is much more to fieldwork than clocking-up species, it is a measure of the diversity of Rinecaha (R36.92) that, in a walk of less than half-a-mile, we recorded 138 species in vegetation ranging from limestone pavement and rich fen to acid bog. Highlights included *Eriophorum latifolium* (Broad-leaved Cottongrass); *Juncus subnodulosus* (Blunt-flowered Rush); all three species of *Drosera* (Sundew); *Utricularia minor* & *intermedia* (Lesser

and Intermediate Bladderwort); orchids including *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Common Spotted-orchid), *D. incarnata* subsp. *pulchella* (Early Marsh-orchid), *D. maculata* (Heath Spotted-orchid), *Epipactis helleborine* (Broad-leaved Helleborine), *Gymnadenia conopsea* (Fragrant Orchid); *Gentiana verna* (Spring Gentian) in seed on the limestone grasslands; *Calluna* with *Narthecium ossifragum* (Bog Asphodel), *Rhynchospora alba* (White Beaked-sedge) and *Osmunda regalis* (Royal Fern); *Schoenus nigricans* (Black Bog-rush) with *Selaginella selaginoides* (Lesser Clubmoss); and a variety of sedges including *Carex dioica*, *C. echinata*, *C. hostiana*, *C. ovalis*, *C. pulicaris* (Dioecious, Star, Tawny, Oval and Flea Sedge) and *C. viridula* subsp. *brachyrrhyncha* (Long-stalked Yellow-sedge).

Lunchtime found us sheltering from the rain borne on an increasingly blustery westerly gale which somewhat curtailed our afternoon recording. Beside Loch Muckanagh where the land is cattle-grazed we recorded 145 species by which time we were soaked. Here highlights included *Utricularia vulgaris* (Greater Bladderwort), *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Orchid), *Carex rostrata* (Bottle Sedge), *Potentilla fruticosa* (Shrubby Cinquefoil) and *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* (Frogbit).

The next day we visited Dromore Woods NNR and ventured down to the banks of River Fergus, flanked with *Schoenoplectus lacustris* (Common Club-rush) and the occasional *Baldellia ranunculoides* (Lesser Water-plantain) and *Butomus umbellatus* (Flowering-rush). In Dromore Loch both *Nuphar lutea* (Yellow Water-lily) and *Nymphaea alba* (White Water-lily) were in flower, and *Lythrum salicaria* (Purple-loosestrife) gave vivid splashes of purple. Heavy showers alternated with bright sun, but the exceptionally high water levels limited exploration of the wetlands.

The group comprised Sharon Parr, Fiona Devery, Michael Archer, Jenny Seawright, Megan Morris, Margaret Marshall, Mary Vaughan and Stephen Ward.

Footnote: on a visit to Rinecaha just 4 days later, Sharon recorded *Utricularia australis* in flower, making a total of 4 *Utricularia* species in all.

## **WETLAND SITES IN CO. MONAGHAN (H32): 18 & 19 JULY** Ian McNeill

The original plan was to visit the lakes and wetlands of the Dromore River system between Ballybay and Rockcorry on Saturday July 18, and to move on to Kilroosky Lough and Summerhill Lough, marl lakes NW of Clones (on the Monaghan/Fermanagh border) on the Sunday. However, in the event, this plan had to be materially altered.

Six of us assembled at the Ballybay Wetlands Centre on Saturday morning at 10.30 am, and immediately we recognised that our Saturday plan had to be abandoned. The very wet weather of the preceding fortnight had led to a 40cm rise in the water-level of the nearby lake, and we realised there would be no chance of botanising the lakes along the valley. However, the Wetlands Centre have a floating walk-way on to their own lake, and this allowed us to observe such plants as *Potamogeton crispus* (Curled Pondweed), *P. obtusifolius* (Blunt-leaved Pondweed), *Bidens cernua* (Nodding Bur-marigold), *Lemna trisulca* (Ivy-leaved Duckweed) and *Elodea nuttallii* (Nuttall's Waterweed). Clumps of sedge in the flooded marshland turned out to be *Carex vesicaria* (Bladder Sedge). Up at the Centre building we found *Geranium pusillum* (Small-flowered Cranesbill), presumably a casual arrival.

We discussed the situation. I suggested that the Clones lakes (our Sunday venue) should not flood to the same extent, and that we should transfer there. Apart from myself, no-one else in the party was committed to coming on the second day, so it was agreed. We thanked

the Wetlands Centre for opening up especially for us, and for providing us with coffee and an interesting (if somewhat unstable!) time on the floating walk-way, and drove the 25km or so to Clones.

Both Kilroosky Lough and Summerhill Lough have superb fenland flora on their margins. Their botany is superior to that of the Ballybay lakes, so our Saturday party saw the change of venue as a blessing in disguise.

At Kilroosky Lough the outstanding plant is *Pyrola rotundifolia* (Round-leaved Wintergreen), occurring as a very strong colony on the SW shore and in the adjacent fenny wood. This plant is known from similar ground much further S in Ireland e.g. in Co. Westmeath, and the Kilroosky Lough site appears to be a distant outlier. In the lake we found *Potamogeton coloratus* (Fen Pondweed), a very clear indicator of limestone. Along the wooded shoreline was much *Cladium mariscus* (Great Fen-sedge), with its fierce saw-edge. At the SE corner of the lake, lying back from the shore a little, in an area free of trees, there is a marvellous colony of *Epipactis palustris* (Marsh Helleborine), with over 200 flowering spikes. Near to here are *Gymnadenia conopsea* (Fragrant Orchid), *Dactylorchis incarnata* subsp. *pulchella* (Early Marsh-orchid), *Eleocharis quinqueflora* (Few-flowered Spike-rush) and *Parnassia palustris* (Grass of Parnassus). Further east we found *Sagina nodosa* (Knotted Pearlwort) and the beautiful flower of *Utricularia australis* (Bladderwort). Bladderwort is not often seen in flower in northern parts of Ireland. Other plants of note were *Catabrosa aquatica* (Whorl-grass), *Carex diandra* (Lesser tussock-sedge), *C. pulicaris* (Flea Sedge) and *Cicuta virosa* (Cowbane). Flea Sedge was unexpected in this habitat. Cowbane is uncommon by British Isles standards, but is, in fact, a frequent lake plant in Co Monaghan and adjacent counties.

Having drunk from such a wealth of botanical interest, we moved on to Summerhill Lough, thinking perhaps it might prove to be an anti-climax. But we soon found we were once again on excellent ground. We immediately came across *Carex pseudocyperus* (Cyperus Sedge), *Epipactis helleborine* (Broad-leaved Helleborine) (or so we thought) and *Potamogeton lucens* (Shining Pondweed). *Cicuta virosa* (Cowbane) and *Cladium mariscus* (Great Fen-sedge) were again present. Fenland on the E shore provided *Lysimachia nummularia* (Creeping-Jenny) and *Listera ovata* (Common Twayblade). In adjacent woodland we got *Euonymus europaeus* (Spindle-tree), *Prunus padus* (Bird Cherry) and *Rhamnus cathartica* (Buckthorn).

So would Sunday work out more straightforwardly? As Saturday went on, I began to have worries, for I knew that the Ulster Gaelic Football final between Tyrone and Antrim was to take place on the Sunday in, you've guessed it, Clones! Our 10.30am meeting-place was to be Kilroosky Lough, less than a mile from the ground. The match was due to start at 2pm. When I arrived in Clones on the Sunday morning in good time for our 10.30am rendezvous, the town centre was already thronged. It was clear that car-parking was going to be chaotic, and Kilroosky Lough would come under car-parking pressure. Anyhow, seven of us met up at 10.30am, and we proceeded to view the delights of our venue. I started with the *Pyrola rotundifolia* area, and then moved on to the *Epipactis palustris*. By now I could hear shouts of anticipation from football fans as they hooted their horns, banged their car-doors, and were generally whooping it up. So I returned to our parked cars, and immediately realised that we had to "get out of this place", or we would find our cars hemmed in for the afternoon. So we did a very quick further sortie, never reaching the *Utricularia australis*, and just escaped by the skin of our teeth before fans started to abandon cars in the middle of the road!



Thankfully, Summerhill Lough was a mile further out of town, and proved a haven of peace and quiet. We managed to explore it better on the Sunday than we had on the Saturday and added *Utricularia* sp. (Bladderwort) (probably *U. australis* again, but we had no flowers to aid a decision) and *Parnassia palustris* (Grass-of-Parnassus). On the Sunday, much discussion arose as to whether the Helleborine was, in fact, *Epipactis phyllanthes* (Green-flowered Helleborine) and not *E. helleborine* (Common Helleborine). The florets were mostly unopened, creamy-green in colour, and hung down somewhat inwards towards the stem. Moreover, the leaves on most spikes were in two ranks on opposite sides of the stem, rather than spiralled around the stem. Many photos were taken, but I have not yet heard an expert verdict.

We decided to break up for the day before the big match would finish, which was disappointingly early, but probably wise. Seven botanists all went home happy (I hope!). 16000 Tyrone Gaelic fans went home happy; 16000 Antrim fans went home miserable. Happiness ratio: Botany 100%, Football 50%.

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## **BSBI IRISH FIELD PROGRAMME, 2010**

**SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAY**  
**GARRON POINT, CO. ANTRIM (H39)**  
**Leader: David McNeill**

Garron Point forms the backdrop to one of the most dramatic sections of the famous Antrim Coast Road. This meeting has been arranged to hopefully coincide with the flowering period of *Neotinea maculate* (Dense-flowered Orchid), a species tentatively reported from this locality in the summer of 2008. Included in our exploration of the

area will be a visit to see the sole County Antrim population of *Crambe maritima* (Sea-kale).

Meet in the car park at Garron Harbour (D302.237) at 10.30 am.

Contact tel. (UK) 028 90942341

E-mail: dw.mcneill@ntlworld.com

**SATURDAY 29<sup>th</sup> MAY**  
**CLIFDEN, CO. GALWAY (H16)**  
**Leader: John Conaghan**

A selection of coastal sites to the west and north of Clifden will be visited. The main habitats of interest will be sand-dune, dry heath and blanket bog. The proposed sites have received relatively little botanical survey recently and there will be good potential habitat for rarer species such as *Anacamptis morio* (Green-winged Orchid) and *Viola lactea* (Pale Dog-violet) which have been recently recorded from nearby coastal areas to the south of Clifden. Meet at the front of Peacockes Hotel, Maam Cross (L977.462) at 10.30 am. Bring a packed lunch, raingear, sunblock and suitable footwear.

Further details from John Conaghan, 11 Dun Ard, Craughwell, Co.

Galway; Tel RoI. 87 2239858

E-mail: enviroscope@indigo.ie

**FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup>, SATURDAY 5<sup>th</sup> & SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE**  
**TELEGRAPH HILL, BLACKWATER HEAD, BALLYVALLOO**  
**AND WEXFORD, CO. WEXFORD (H12)**

**Leader: Paul Green**

On the Friday evening a sandpit will be visited on the coast at Blackwater Head to look at *Silene gallica* (Small-flowered Catchfly), *Lotus subbiflorus* (Hairy Bird's-foot-Trefoil), *Trifolium striatum* (Soft Clover) and a number of other small plants of sandy areas. Meet at 7 pm in car park (T138.323) on sea front at end of road at base of Telegraph Hill.

On the Saturday Kettle Holes at Ballyvalloo on the Screen Hills will be visited to look at species of the sandy tracks in the area and aquatic species of the Kettle Holes. We hope to see *Gnaphalium sylvaticum* (Heath Cudweed) and *Ornithopus perpusillus* (Bird's-foot). Park on very sharp bend (T106.303) with two tracks leading off of it at 10.30 am.

On the Sunday we will visit another sandpit on the shore of the River Slaney on the edge of Wexford, in the hope of re-finding what was seen on Friday evening, all reported at this site in 1989 and should also see *Filago gallica* (Small Cudweed). Meet at 10.30 am in parking area by castle (T016.232) on the east side of the N25 at Ferrycarrig, just north of bridge over the River Slaney. We will move on from here to the sandpit.

All three days should be easy walking. Bring packed lunch and suitable clothing and footwear.

Contact: tel (RoI) 051 445541 ; mobile 087 7782496

E-mail: paulnewross@eircom.net

**SATURDAY 12<sup>th</sup> AND SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE**  
**LOUGH REE & LOUGH FUNSHINAGH, CO. ROSCOMMON**  
**(H25)**

**Leaders:** John Earley and Michael Archer.

Saturday will be spent exploring and recording in woodlands and on lake shore, hopefully to locate new sites for *Cephalanthera longifolia* (Narrow-leaved Helleborine). On Sunday we hope to visit a bare limestone area to search for early flowering calcareous species. Meet both days at Athlone Railway Station at 10.30am, bringing packed lunch and suitable clothing and footwear.

Contact: tel (RoI) John Earley 086 2646911, or Michael Archer 086 1716286

**SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE**  
**CROM, NEWTOWNBUTLER, CO. FERMANAGH (H33)**  
**Leader: Robert Northridge**

This will be a training meeting, suitable for beginners, with emphasis on learning grasses and sedges. There is a rich variety of habitats on this National Trust estate, including woodland, grassland and lakeside fen. Meet 10.30 am in the car park beside the slipway and visitors' centre, (H371.239).

Contact: tel (UK) 028 66324502 or RobHanNort@aol.com

**SATURDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE**  
**LITTLE BROSNA CALLOWS, NORTH TIPPERARY (H10)**  
**Leader: David Nash**

The aim of the meeting will be to record the flora of the Little Brosna Callows and, time permitting, nearby Redwood Bog, with target species including *Stellaria palustris* (Marsh Stitchwort), *Butomus umbellatus* (Flowering-rush) and *Rhynchospora fusca* (Brown Beaked-sedge). Areas visited will depend on water levels. Be prepared for walking and wet terrain! Meet at Dooly's Hotel, Birr (N0603.0507) at 10.30 am. We will *pause* at Rathcabban Church (M9827.0738) to collect anyone waiting there.

Further details from David Nash, 35 Nutley Park, Dublin 4. Mobile (RoI) 087 2403402 or e-mail: davidnash@eircom.net.

**SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> & SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JULY**  
**CO. OFFALY (H18)**  
**Leader: Fiona Devery**

On Saturday, we will visit Clonfinlough, near Clonmacnoise, an area of fen with interesting sedges and orchids. Grid ref. N035.295. On

Sunday, we will go to Gallen, Ferbane, to see cranberry plantation aliens. Grid ref. N117.213.

Meet both days at 11.00 am in Ferbane at An Maidin Gael Coffee Shop, N115.243. Bring a packed lunch and suitable clothing. Wellies recommended.

Contact: [findevery@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:findevery@yahoo.co.uk)

**SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> & SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> AUGUST  
CO. MAYO (H26 & H27)  
Leader: Gerry Sharkey**

Field meetings will be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Regional Committee, to be held in Castlebar. Details will be circulated nearer the time to all members resident in Ireland and to any others who give their names to Gerry.

Contact: e-mail: [gsharkey@patodonnell.com](mailto:gsharkey@patodonnell.com)

**SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> & SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER  
DUNCANNON AND BANNOW ISLAND, CO. WEXFORD (H12)  
Leader: Paul Green**

The aim on Saturday will be to walk around the village of Duncannon to visit the many habitats on offer and collect as large a list of species as possible. Hay meadows with *Oenanthe pimpinelloides* (Corky-fruited Water-dropwort) and *Rumex pulcher* (Fiddle Dock), dunes with *Salvia verbenaca*, sea-cliffs dripping in *Petroselinum crispum* (Garden Parsley), and aliens around the village include *Polypogon viridis* (Water Bent). Meet at 11.00 am on roadside by Duncannon Fort (S728.081).

Sunday will be spent looking for and surveying *Sarcocornia perennis* (Perennial Glasswort) in the saltmarshes at Bannow Island. The dunes will also be explored. Meet at 11.00 am on roadside on edge

of dunes on Bannow Island (S822.083). Should be easy walking on both days.

Contacts: tel (RoI) 051 445541; mobile 087 7782496;

E-mail: paulnewross@eircom.net

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## **BSBI COMMITTEE FOR IRELAND AND ORCHIDIRELAND**

The Committee asked me to pen a very short note for Irish Botanical News on our position regarding the Orchidireland project. Other than in stature, I'm afraid I am not good at „very short“, sorry!

When Orchidireland was first publicly proposed some years ago your committee was supportive of it, and was represented on the Steering Group. The initial proposal implied that the Irish BSBI Vice-county recorders would be asked to carry out a complete re-survey of the Orchidaceae on the island of Ireland over a four-year time span. CFI felt that this was impracticable, given the intermittent nature of orchid appearance.

However we agreed to supply all data already published in the Atlas and to help in any way we could, and that recorders who agreed to do so would be encouraged to supplement this Atlas data with records from their own more recent work, and to add new recording if they so chose. We also agreed to dedicate field meetings to Orchids.

Besides the amount of work required to do justice to the project, many issues were raised about the „plastic“ nature of the boundaries between and within orchid taxa. The organising group envisaged a Field Guide which would address these issues, at least for the purposes of the project.

A management committee to oversee the project was proposed. CFI felt that the project leadership should include a botanist, preferably connected to BSBI and with internationally recognised expertise in the subject. We also felt that there was not a good balance in the management proposal, and we made serious and considered suggestions. No response whatsoever was received to our comments then nor since, and in May 2009 we finally decided that we no longer considered ourselves part of the project.

Before news of our decision was made public, many if not all county recorders received offers to record for the project under contract to NMNI. Neither these contracts, the terms offered, nor the areas suggested for coverage by individuals, contain any input from CFI, and they came as a complete surprise to us.

We have not been officially informed of any change to the original plan, nor of the current status of the Steering Group whose meetings have either ceased or excluded our representative, nor of the proposed management group. Unofficially some members of CFI have been told that the project is now being funded and conducted jointly by NMNI and NPWS

BSBI CFI are very pleased to note that by being offered contracts BSBI Recorders are at last being accorded some respect for their expertise and time, but as with any contract it is of course entirely up to the individual member to decide whether or not they will accept it, whether to participate at all, and what level of commitment they can offer.

Gerry Sharkey, BSBI CFI

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## BOOK REVIEW

*Wildflowers of Cork City and County*. Tony O'Mahony. 438 pp. The Collins Press, West Link Park, Doughcloyne, Wilton, Cork. 2009. €29.99, £26.99 hard back. ISBN 978-1-84889-020-6.

“My God, a coffee table book!” I said as I handed this beautifully produced hardback with its glossy paper, its purple pages introducing each chapter and its stunning photographs. But inside this gorgeous book are two recurring themes:- the lack of people with a reasonable botanical knowledge to record this huge county, and much more darkly the enormous loss of habitat since 1972 when Ireland joined the E.E.C.

It is more than two years ago when Tony O'Mahony mentioned to me the difficulties of making a book not just for botanist, but also for the man in the street who might have only a passing interest, and to encourage that interest. While the former might want a more scientific approach with distribution maps and grid references, not one to be found here, the latter would prefer pretty pictures and familiar names, not lists of Latin binominals. How to marry the two? This is reflected in the title, not a flora, more an overview of the wildflowers, what has been found, what has been lost, and what is still to be discovered.

Divided into chapters according to habitat, I found it very user friendly, but then I know the county reasonably well and for those not familiar with Co. Cork more detailed maps of villages, roads and places of exceptional interest might help to pinpoint Barley Cove from Ballincollig. The text is a complex weave of lyrical descriptions of the plants themselves – “Whorl-grass (*Catabrosa aquatica*), whose elongate, beautiful inflorescences imbue its watery environment with a purple haze in the month of May”, with glimpse of landscape, geology and an awe-inspiring botanical knowledge which sent me scurrying to the glossary for „adventive“ and „edaphic“. On the “acidic wind-exposed summit of Knockowen” in the Beara peninsula one can find the



“montane, genetically dwarf ecotype of Goldenrod (*Solidago virgaurea*) – a charming little plant, whose masses of yellow flower would adorn any garden rockery”. (I presume no one will take this literally!), while I was delighted to learn that Common Restharrow (*Ononis repens*) owes its name to its habit of snarling up the harrow with its „wiry, creeping stems“. There are separate chapters on orchids – “this genus presents apparently insurmountable taxonomic difficulties”, and on Ferns with the most beautiful picture of Irish Spleenwort (*Asplenium onopteris*). In medicinal and culinary plants I found my favourite Elecampane (*Inula helenium*), while Winter Heliotrope (*Petasites fragrans*) is dealt with under the alien influx and “the greater, single, alien plant threat to wildlife habitats in Ireland”.

Again and again Tony returns to the destruction of habitat and the loss of biodiversity “against a back drop of human indifference”. This is all brought together in the last chapter, “Nature Conservation Issues. It is a country-wide problem, - conifer plantations on bog and moorland, draining of wetlands, and especially in Co. Cork, the loss of old species-rich meadows, now acres of „improved grassland“, regularly doused with slurry, divided by fences and access roads for Friesian Queen of Cork, - the milch-cow, resulting in a soulless, uninviting and often smelly landscape. As my neighbour said, looking disapprovingly at a picture in a calendar of poppies flowering in our townland – They will think we are terrible bad farmers down here”.

Most of all this celebration of Cork by a Corkman who delights in everything around him, - from the plants of the western mountains scree to the eastern salt-marshes, from the secret limestone glens of the north to the walls of the city itself, - everything that is precious to him.

M. Morris

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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GERERAL MEETING OF THE  
BSBI REGIONAL BRANCH 2009 HELD AT THE  
OXFORD ISLAND, GRAIGAVON, CO. ARMAGH ON 12  
SEPTEMBER 2009 (unapproved)**

**ATTENDANCE**

Seventeen members attended the meeting.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from; Sylvia Reynolds, Maura Scannell, Paul Hackney, Paul Green, John Wallace, Mark Wright, Neville McKee, Jenny and Michael Neff and David Nash, Melinda Lyons.

**MINUTES OF AGM 2008**

The minutes of the AGM held at the National Biodiversity Data Centre, Waterford were read and approved.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

**NEW CONSTITUTION**

At last year's A.G.M., it was decided to refer the drafting of a revised Constitution back to the CFI for further consideration. During the year, this project was discussed at length at meetings of the Committee and eventually the task of producing an acceptable draft was undertaken by Brian Rushton. After further revision, a new draft Constitution has been circulated for your consideration before this meeting. The objective of the revision is to ensure a regular turnover of committee members and to encourage new volunteers to serve on the committee, while maintaining the balance of membership between Northern Ireland and the Republic and allowing a necessary degree of continuity. I want to thank Brian for his dedication to this important project, and my fellow committee members for their helpful input. The revised Constitution will be proposed for ratification at a later stage in this meeting.

## **ORCHIDIRELAND**

Following the breakup of the original committee and the decision of Brendan Sayers and Vincent Sex to produce their own book, the Orchid Ireland project is continuing in a new format under the direction of Damian McFerran of CEDar. The continuing project has some new personnel and has financial support from Government agencies in both the Republic and Northern Ireland. There is no formal involvement by CFI or of the BSBI as an organisation. However, Recorders are free to contribute records to the project. The project has already produced a useful identification guide and it appears the intention remains to produce a major publication.

## **VERIFICATION OF RECORDS IN NBDC DATABASE**

The National Biodiversity Data Centre has been assembling a vegetation data base, based mainly on surveys carried out for the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The centre has now extracted site-based plant records from the vegetation data and is preparing to transfer them first to individual Vice-county recorders and then to the general BSBI data base. Vice-county recorders will be offered the opportunity to verify the records before they are transferred to the BSBI data base. Records, which are presented at 8-figure grid reference level, can be held back for scrutiny in a subsequent season or if necessary, rejected. It is hoped that a significant number of Vice-county recorders will respond to the opportunity to verify the records before they are transferred to the central data base. This would help to avoid a source of irritation felt by many Irish Vice-county recorders, who have discovered strange records of which they have no knowledge credited to their Vice-Counties. Úna Fitzpatrick has begun the transfer on a pilot basis.

## **BSBI PROJECTS**

The BSBI Threatened Plants Project has continued in 2009 and a number of Vice-county recorders in both the Republic and Northern Ireland have continued to contribute updated data. As, before, although the plants chosen have been based on the list for Great Britain, a number of species are also recorded from Ireland. For those who have

taken part, the project has proved an impetus to check records of plants, some of which have not been seen for many years

### **STATUS OF SOME ALIEN SHRUBS AND TREES IN BRITAIN**

Michael Braithwaite's questionnaire on the status of alien trees and shrubs produced 48 replies from a total of 148 Vice-county recorders, only two of which came from Ireland. This reflects a relative lack of interest in recording escapes of commonly planted trees and shrubs in Ireland during the Atlas 2000 project.

### **BSBI AGM 2011**

The secretary of the BSBI Meetings Committee, John Bailey, has recently made formal contact with the CFI concerning holding of the BSBI AGM in Ireland 2011. The suggested venue is UCG and it is proposed to hold a number of field excursions, to the Burren and Connemara. John Bailey has also indicated the intention to hold a programme of talks, with a suitable theme, possibly related to conservation of biodiversity in the west of Ireland or in a wider area. Apart from input into the logistics of the venue and the field excursions, the CFI have an opportunity to become involved in the choice and preparation of this programme. This will be something for the incoming committee to address.

### **THE LATE MICHAEL TROY**

Finally, I would like to remember the late Michael Troy, a loyal supporter of the field meeting programme over many years, who died recently, and express our sympathy with his family and friends.

*Michael Archer, Honorary Secretary, BSBI Committee for Ireland*

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## **HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2008-2009**

The Committee met on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008, at Armagh, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin and on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

## **FIELD MEETINGS**

Once again John Faulkner arranged a comprehensive programme of 9 meetings most of which were well attended, despite this being another unkind year weather-wise. As usual we would ask Vice-county recorders to start thinking about organising a meeting in their area for next year's programme.

## **VICE-COUNTY RECORDERS – APPOINTMENTS**

Jonathan Shackleton has been appointed as Vice-county recorder for Co. Cavan (H30) and Pat Lenihan as Vice-county recorder for Co. Monaghan (H32).

## **COMMITTEE FOR IRELAND –CONSTITUTION**

Thanks mainly to the efforts of Brain Rushton, the committee has eventually approved a new constitution and will submit this to the AGM for ratification and hopefully thence for approval by central council.

The venue and programme for the forthcoming AGM at Oxford Island has been organised by John Faulkner and Brain Rushton and our thanks are in order.

There will be two vacancies to be filled to the AGM, due to the retiring of Brian Rushton and Ian McNeill.

## **AGM 2010**

It is proposed to arrange next years AGM at a venue in Mayo and in association with some additional events, possibly over 2 or 3 days.

## **FIELD MEETINGS SECRETARY'S REPORT**

John Faulkner reported that the nine meetings which were run during the year had required a fair amount of "persuasion" to set them up but thanked all of the Vice-county recorders who had arranged a meeting in their areas.

John hoped that there would be a good and early response to his request for notice of proposed meeting during 2010 and hopefully would include at least one meeting of a few days duration.

### **REPORT FROM VICE-COUNTY RECORDERS**

Reports were given by:

Robert Northridge – Co. Fermanagh

Ian McNeill – Co. Tyrone

Ralph Shepard – West Donegal

David McNeill – Co. Tyrone

John Faulkner – Co. Armagh

Gerry Sharkey – Co. Mayo

### **ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Two vacancies had to be filled to replace retiring elected members - Ian McNeill and Brian Rushton.

Paul Hackney was proposed by John Faulkner and seconded by Brian Rushton.

Fiona Devery was proposed by Robert Northridge and seconded by Gerry Sharkey. As there were no further nominations, Paul and Fiona were deemed to be elected.

### **RATIFICATION OF NEW CONSTITUTION**

The revised constitution which had been circulated to all members was formally read before the meeting for ratification. The adoption of the new constitution was proposed by John Faulkner and seconded by Gerry Sharkey.

There were no objections and the required constitution was therefore ratified by the CFI and will be sent to the Central Council for approval.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **REPRESENTATIVE FROM CFI TO RECORDS COMMITTEE**

The chair advised the meeting that Alan Hill had resigned his position as representative from Northern Ireland and that a replacement was required.

John Faulkner proposed, Paul Hackney, who had indicated his willingness to take on the job, if elected. His appointment was confirmed.

### **VICE CHAIRMAN**

John Faulkner proposed that the committee should appoint a Vice Chairman who would take over the position of chairman in due course. John proposed Brian Rushton for the position and the nomination was seconded by Gerry Sharkey and approved.

### **THE MEETING CONCLUDED**

The meeting was followed by a most interesting and informative presentation by Sarah Whild on the field identification skill certificates scheme that is being run by BSBI.

A discussion followed the presentation and it was agreed that the incoming committee will further investigate and progress this worthwhile assessment and training programme so that it can be available to Irish Vice-county recorders and members.

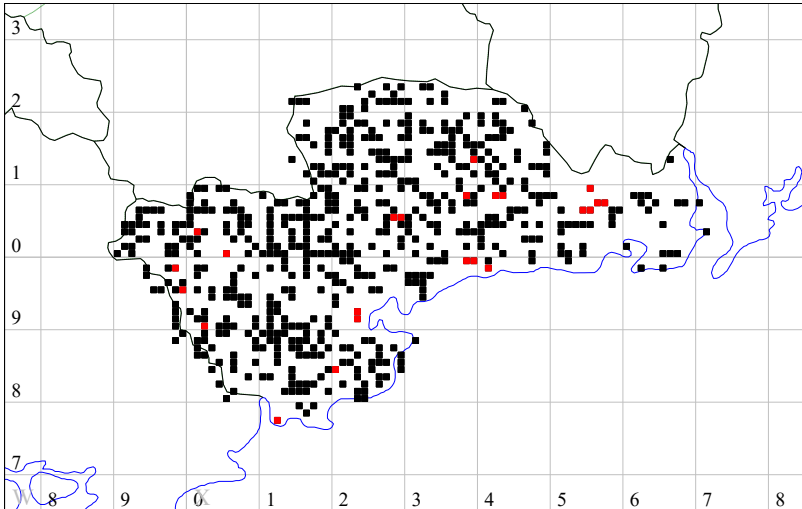
Brian Rushton closed the proceedings of the day with an entertaining talk on his personal involvement with and his love of, the natural world.

The chair thanked the speakers and in particular Sarah Whild and Alex Lockton who had travelled from the U.K. for the meeting.

Michael Archer, *Honorary Secretary, BSBI Committee for Ireland*

## MAP SHOWING 1-KM SQUARES IN CO. WATERFORD (H6) WITH NO RECORDS

Paul R. Green, 46 Bewley Street, New Ross, Co. Wexford  
Email: paulnewross@eircom.net



All the black 1-km squares on the above map have no individual plant records recorded for them. The red squares are the 1-km squares that had records added to in 2009. If you would like to take on a 1-km square in 2010 please do contact me.



*Cornus sericea*   *Catabrosa aquatica*   *Ophrys apifera*   *Epipactis helleborine*