

Lanarkshire Botany

Update, August 2018



'Team 77' news

Following the revision of Data Protection legislation, and our request for a fresh mandate from you to let us continue to retain your details, we were expecting to lose contact with a significant proportion of 'Team 77' people. Happily, there was a swift and enthusiastic response from the majority and the Lanarkshire Botany network's future is assured.

As we saw last year, around half of our correspondents have already been actively involved this year in field botany, either by joining us on field outings or by sending in records, photos or questions.

At the time of writing, there have been **100** 'person-outings' (think 'man-hours') in 2018 - with plenty more to come. We have covered a lot of ground: **397** different map squares have had new records added. From urban sites such as Bellahouston Park; the Necropolis; Glasgow Botanic Gardens; Glasgow University; Glasgow Green; and some urban sections of the Forth & Clyde Canal to truly rural locations such as Woolfords; Libberton; Wandel; Duneaton Water; and the Tinto Trout Fishery at Lochlyoch, our programme has been full of interest. Thanks to everyone's careful looking, **742** distinct species are on this year's list so far - including **27** species never before recorded in Lanarkshire. A great team effort!

The final instalment of the outings programme (August to November) is being sent out with this newsletter.

End of Season Get-together

Each year we hold our one and only indoor meeting, just to summarise and celebrate our botanical season together. This year's meeting will be on **Sunday 28th October at 3pm** (gather from 2.30pm) in the same venue as last year - the coffee-lounge area of **St. Mary's For All in Auchingramont Road, Hamilton**.
Postcode: ML3 6JT Grid reference: NS721566

This is the only occasion in the year when we gather as a larger community of botany enthusiasts in Lanarkshire and Glasgow. So, whether you are a fully-committed and active participant or someone who has little previous botanical experience, this meeting is for you! Please join us if you possibly can: there will be interesting people present, exciting news, lots of spectacular photos, a display of resource material - and of course some home-baking.

A windfall of botanical data



In April, a CD containing 179 files was sent in. These are field notes made by John Hawell, who now lives in Skye but worked as a Senior Countryside Ranger with South Lanarkshire for many years (with particular responsibility at Calderglen and Chatelherault Country Parks).

When transcribed and sent off to BSBI for uploading into the database, this treasure-trove of data amounted to 5,547 records made between 2004 and 2011. Much of the data was from remote territory along the borders of the Lanarkshire vice-county area (places not often visited). We are so grateful for this input, as it greatly enhances our prospect of meeting targets for the Atlas 2020 project (the new nationwide plant distribution atlas).

Some highlights of the 2018 season (so far)

The great thing about the hobby of field botany is that you just never know what might turn up! A lot of our recording work is routine, and there are 20 or 30 species we could almost enter on the recording card every time before even leaving the house. However, careful observation and an eye for detail occasionally produces some spectacular finds.

Here are a few of the 'WOW' moments from this season so far . . .



Plantago afra (Branched Plantain)
Near Glasgow Science Centre, 25th June
(only the 4th location for this species in Scotland)



Catapodium rigidum (Fern Grass)
Also near Glasgow Science Centre, 25th June
(just the 2nd location for this species in Lanarkshire)



Vicia orobus (Wood Bitter-vetch)
Above the Clyde at Clyde's Bridge, near Abington, 10th June

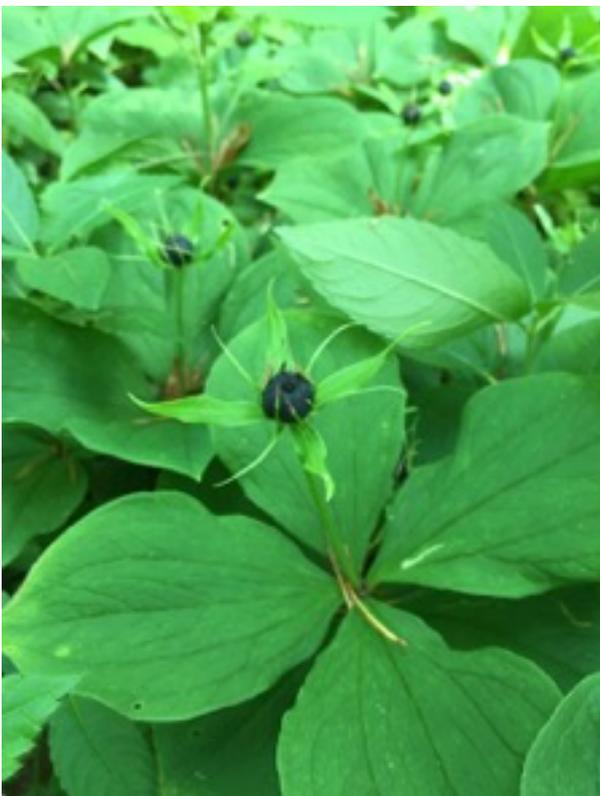


Ulex minor (Dwarf Gorse)
By River Kelvin at Maryhill, 20th May

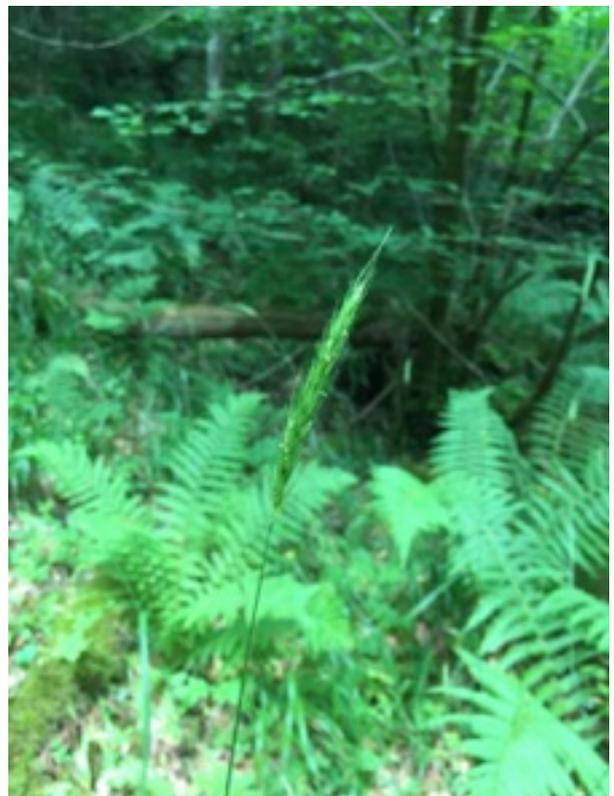


Dactylorhiza purpurella var. *cambrensis* (variant Northern Marsh-orchid)
Lochend Loch, near Coatbridge, 7th July

And here are two very special inhabitants of our deep, damp gorges.
Not easy to get to, but this natural barrier to casual visitors helps ensure the prosperity of such species.



Paris quadrifolia (Herb Paris)
Both species near Braidwood, 16th July



Hordelymus europaeus (Wood Barley)
(the only place in Scotland where this is now known)

Glasgow University

This year, the University of Glasgow is undertaking a major biodiversity survey of its two campuses: at Gilmorehill (the main site) and Garscube Estate (where the Vet School is). We have spent four separate days this summer, working with French summer intern students from the Zoology Department, helping to provide the botanical component of this wider survey.

Around 170 species were recorded on the main campus, including around University premises to the north of University Avenue.

This included the pleasure of making the first official database record of the Sessile Oak tree planted in memory of the late Dr. Peter Macpherson, who served as the BSBI Recorder for Lanarkshire for 35 years until his death in 2015. This memorial tree, whose scientific name *Quercus petraea* aptly echoes Peter's name, was chosen and planted by the Glasgow Natural History Society.



Malcolm Macneill at 'Peter's Tree' with Johanna and Elise, two summer intern students from France



The memorial plaque

The separate recording of the Garscube Estate took place on 3rd August. In the morning we recorded the area of NS5570 east of the Kelvin (over 140 species) and in the afternoon carried out a similar exercise on the west side of the river.

For the purposes of the University's records, all this data forms a single list - but from the BSBI point of view, the afternoon list is in the neighbouring vice-county of Dunbartonshire (vc99), so the resulting data has been sent to the Dunbartonshire recorder.

Once the University has collated all its findings - mammals, birds, plants, butterflies & moths, invertebrates, etc, etc. - the whole project should reveal a story of success in promoting and managing biodiversity across the University estate.

Glasgow Botanic Gardens

Over the years, 335 species of plants 'growing as wild' have been recorded in the Botanics. As you may recall, our aim this year has been to do some intensive work to re-find as many of these as possible.

138 are so far accounted for, with a further 37 seen in last year's Bioblitz. Our next recording day on the site is **Sunday 12th August**: do join us if you can. Having been there in May, we're hoping this time to find some later-flowering species - and to target some of the unusual 'aliens' known to inhabit the place.

**** STOP PRESS **** There will be some road closures in the West End on 12th August due to a cycling event in the European Championships. Please be aware of possible inconvenience for travel and parking!

Photo Project

Do please remember to send us your very best photos of wild plants taken within the Lanarkshire boundary. We have received many excellent contributions (over 3,500 images) and in due course these will be assembled into a new website to celebrate, and to help identify, Lanarkshire's flora.

For this photo project, your contact person is Peter Wiggins: pswiggins@gmail.com
He will explain protocols for filenames and uploads.

Keep in touch

I'm always glad to receive emails on any botanical matters. I may not be able to answer everything myself, but this is a network so there will be an answer!

If you know of anyone else who would be interested in receiving the programme of events and occasional newsletters, please ask them to get in touch.

I look forward to seeing you in the field whenever you can join us - you'll be made most welcome.

And remember, the Lanarkshire page of the BSBI website includes back-numbers of this newsletter, together with details of our outings programme.

Michael Philip (BSBI recorder, vc77) email: botany@opus44.co.uk

Picture credits

<i>Plantago afra</i>	Peter Wiggins
<i>Catapodium rigidum</i>	Peter Wiggins
<i>Vicia orobus</i>	Michael Philip
<i>Ulex minor</i>	Michael Philip
<i>Dactylorhiza purpurella</i>	Peter Wiggins
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	Michael Philip
<i>Hordelymus europaeus</i>	Michael Philip
"Peter's Tree"	Michael Philip