

VINCENT JONES (1947–2020)



Vincent Jones botanising near his home in Ingleby Greenhow, 2018. *Dave Barlow*

Vincent Jones was born on 10 December 1947. He moved to the village of Ingleby Greenhow when he was six as his father was the school headteacher. Vincent never lived anywhere else and in fact he never travelled abroad throughout his life as there was enough to interest him in Yorkshire and the UK.

All Vincent wanted to do was to be a teacher. He went to Yarm Grammar School, Birmingham University and gained a BSc and MSc in mathematics and a PGCE at the University of York. He was a maths teacher and was fond of saying that he only taught the high achievers at the only school he taught

at in his life: South Park Sixth Form College in Normanby. He was a fantastic historian and had a real passion for literature. He chose the most difficult crosswords, eschewing the easier ones: *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sunday Times* crossword. He was also a bridge player: a good one.

Vincent was an eccentric and he was passionate – almost obsessive – about the things that he liked and had little time for the things he didn't like. He kept meticulous records of his petrol consumption and would travel everywhere at the most efficient speed (40 mph). He was proud of having never smoked

or drunk alcohol. Well known for paying his cricket match fees at the end of the season, and by cheque! Most things Vincent did he was very good at, such as village cricket.

Vincent was a prominent member of the Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club. His botanical skills reached a high level when he undertook to study the Hawkweeds (*Hieracium*) in Yorkshire. He spent some thirty years of dedicated field work and time in producing keys which culminated in the publication of his impressive book, *Yorkshire Hawkweeds*, in 2014. He became BSBI Recorder for N.E. Yorkshire (v.c. 62) in 2006 – the area between River Tees, Filey and York – hitherto severely under-recorded. His commitment to this role was total. Few if any other Vice-county Recorders could identify and name Brambles (*Rubus*), Dandelions (*Taraxacum*) and of course Hawkweeds (*Hieracium*) – I consider him to be one of a very small and select band of botanists who really know *Hieracium*. Vincent even has a species named after him, *Hieracium jonesianum* McCosh, and David McCosh and Tim Rich have

recently published three new (for science) *Hieracium* species Vincent discovered in the Yorkshire Dales. His extensive herbarium is now in Leeds Museum.

Vincent had suffered from Alzheimer's and apparently also from Dementia with Lewy bodies. His illness really took hold as I was botanising with him in 2018, and in the winter of 2018/19 he deteriorated very quickly. He was taken into a care home in the spring of 2019. I continued to take him out once a week to do some botanising which he really enjoyed as it gave him something to look forward to. He deteriorated even more when he was given a drug which had a massive negative impact on him. He never really recovered from that. He died on 14 July 2020.

Vincent will be remembered for his somewhat eccentric ways, his undoubted skills in botany and as a kind helpful man who always wanted to help young botanists.

Dave Barlow