

JOHN PETER SAVIDGE (1933–2021)

John Savidge was born on 10 February 1933 on the Wirral, joined the BSBI in 1951 and remained a member for 66 years. He studied at the University of Liverpool, and got his PhD there on the cytotaxonomy of *Callitriche*. He wrote this up (Savidge, 1960a; 1960b) and for a time was a BSBI referee for the genus. At Liverpool he was the lead editor of *Travis's Flora of South Lancashire* (1963), working with Vernon Heywood and Vera Gordon and writing most of the introductory chapters as well as an innovative key to the *Rubus* species. *Fumaria* was another of his taxonomic interests (Wilson et al., 1990). He came to lecture at the Botany Department of the University College of Wales in Aberystwyth in 1959 and remained in the area for the rest of his life. Climate in relation to plants, a subject he was BSBI referee for during most of his time, was a great interest, and he wrote



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a chapter on it for Gwynn Ellis's *Flowering Plants of Wales* (Savidge, 1983). He was a significant figure in the early days of the BSBI Committee for Wales, being the Chairman in 1966–1967, and the editor of the first eleven issues of the *Welsh Region Bulletin*

(1964–1969). In 1964 he made detailed proposals for ‘A “00” Survey of Plant Diversity in Wales’, in which the 221 bottom left hand 1 km squares in each hectad in Wales were to be surveyed for species presence, habitats, etc. Another scheme, that he proposed in 1965, was a Flora of Central Wales, covering v.c.c. 43, 46, 47 and at least part of 42. Neither scheme actually got off the ground, but they attracted a good deal of interest. John was an early expert on computing, and accumulated a great quantity of information and records, although little of this was written up or submitted to VCRs. From 1967 until the mid-1970s he was Recorder for Cardiganshire (v.c. 46). Among contract surveys he did for the Nature Conservancy Council was a major one on the Cors Caron National Nature Reserve, a large raised mire complex. He was consulted and involved in the development of the National Botanic Garden of Wales in the 1990s. After retirement in 1998 he became a very significant figure in the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust, an expert on apple varieties, and ran the volunteer gardeners’ group at Llanerchaeron for the National Trust, as well as being active, especially with his wife Pam, in the local Wildlife Trust. He died on 18 October 2021 and will be much missed in these circles, as well as among

older members of the BSBI, for his friendliness and knowledge.

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