

**Front Cover Photo:** *Lilium martagon* (Martagon Lily) found in an abandoned churchyard at Tintern, v.c.35. Photo: Caroline Howard. (See article, page 31).

**1:** Chris Cleal **2:** Heather Pardoe **3:** Sally Whyman, Welsh National Herbarium, Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales. (See article, page 4).

**4:** *Cirsium acaule* (Dwarf Thistle) on Llantrisant Common, Glamorgan, v.c.41. Photo: David Barden. (See article, page 22).

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Items for inclusion in the next Welsh Bulletin should be sent to R. Pryce by **28th April 2014**.

Back issues over one year old are uploaded to the website. [www.watsonia.org.uk/html/welsh\\_bulletin.html](http://www.watsonia.org.uk/html/welsh_bulletin.html). Most back issues are still available on request @ £2 per issue, please contact Sally Whyman or Katherine Slade. Cheques are payable to BSBI Wales. Future issues are available to BSBI members living outside of Wales by sending £2 in advance.

# Changes at Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales

HEATHER PARDOE, *Department of Natural Sciences, Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NP*

The National Museum Wales is currently undergoing a period of restructuring due to funding cuts. Unfortunately, as a consequence, we have lost several valued colleagues including Dr Tim Rich (see page 5), who left the Museum at the end of December, 2013 after 17 years of exemplary service. Dr Peter Wakelin joined the Museum in January, 2014 as the Director of Collections and Research.

The following curators (see images 1 to 3 on inside front cover) are currently responsible for the vascular section of the Welsh National Herbarium:

Dr Chris Cleal, Head of Botany (chris.cleal@museumwales.ac.uk) 029 2057 3310

Dr Heather Pardoe, Principal Curator, Botany Section  
(heather.pardoe@museumwales.ac.uk) 029 2057 3294

Miss Sally Whyman MPhil, Assistant Curator for Vascular Plants  
(sally.whyman@museumwales.ac.uk) 029 2057 3345

Researchers may study specimens in the vascular herbarium by making an appointment with one of the curators named above. We also welcome groups wishing to see the herbarium and related collections such as the Economic Collection and the Botanical Illustration Collection, as well as the Cryptogamic Herbarium. Group visits can be arranged by contacting one of the curators in advance. On March 19th, there is chance for BSBI members to see behind the scenes of the Welsh National Herbarium, see page 5.

Don't forget about our open days held a few times a year which often include behind the scenes tours to selected parts of the Natural History Collections. Look at the Museum's What's On guide for more information (<http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/whatson/>).

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## New address for Dr Tim Rich

TIM RICH, 57 Aberdulais Road, Cardiff CF14 2PH. [tim\\_rich@sky.com](mailto:tim_rich@sky.com)

Following financial cuts and reorganisation at Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales, I have taken redundancy and I left the Museum on 31 December 2013. I am happy to continue as referee for *Sorbus*, *Brassicaceae* and *Gentianaceae*, which can be sent to me at the address above. Apologies, I will no longer be in a position to help with more general botanical enquiries.

For access to, and enquiries concerning the Welsh National Herbarium, please see above.

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## BSBI Field Meetings Wales - 2014

SARAH STILLE, *BSBI Field Meetings Secretary*. 38 Foregate, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8LA. Tel. 01772 718249 mobile: 0777 893 2268. [mossysal@btinternet.com](mailto:mossysal@btinternet.com)

As ever, many thanks to those who have offered to lead meetings this year. Please consider doing one in 2015 and feel free to talk to your local vice-county recorder with any ideas you may have - your input is invaluable. Or you can throw ideas at me, Sarah Stille at [mossysal@btinternet.com](mailto:mossysal@btinternet.com). See back cover for BSBI North Wales Local groups.

### Sunday 2nd March

Winter trees training. Denbighshire, v.c.50.

Leader: Polly Spencer-Vellacott

### Saturday 26th to Sunday 27th April

*Taraxacum* training. Treborth Botanic Garden, Bangor, v.c.49/52.

Leaders: Paul Green & John Richards

### Wednesday 19th March

Behind the scenes at the Welsh National Herbarium, Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales, Cardiff, Glamorgan, v.c.41.

Leaders: Sally Whyman & Paul Green

### Sunday 1st June

Alien plant training. Cardiff Docks, Glamorgan, v.c.41.

Leader: Paul Green

**Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th June**

Welsh AGM, Tintern, Monmouthshire, v.c.35. See page 7.

Leaders: Elsa Wood & Steph Tyler

**Saturday 12th July**

Ystradfellte, Breconshire, v.c.42.

Leader: John Crellin

**Saturday 19th to Saturday 26th July**

Glynhir recording week, Carmarthenshire, v.c.44.

Leaders: Richard & Kath Pryce

**Friday 25th to Sunday 27th July**

*Rubus* training. Betws y Coed, v.c.48/49.

Leader: Dave Earl

**Saturday 2nd August**

Kenfig Burrows, Glamorgan, v.c.41.

Leader: Andy Byfield

**Sunday 3rd August**

Aberporth, Cardiganshire, v.c.46.

Leader: Steve Chambers

**Tuesday 5th to Friday 8th August**

Plas Caerdeon, Merioneth Residential, v.c.48.

Leader: Sarah Stille

**Saturday 9th August**

Conway Mountain, Caernarvonshire, v.c.49.

Leader: Wendy McCarthy

**Friday 22nd August**

*Hammarbya* hunt & general recording, Elan Valley, Radnorshire, v.c.43.

Leaders: Liz Dean & Paul Green

**Saturday 6th September**

Duckweed training, Gwent Levels, v.c.41.

Leader: Paul Green

**Sunday 21st September**

*Atriplex* training, Newport, Monmouthshire, v.c.35.

Leader: Paul Green

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## Errata (Welsh Bulletin no. 92, June 2013)

Welsh Plant Records 2012:

Stephanie Tyler and Elsa Wood are the vice-county recorders for Monmouthshire (v.c.35) rather than Trevor Evans as stated.

*Elatine hexandra* was reported in error for Monmouthshire (v.c.35). It should only have been included under the Carmarthenshire list (v.c.44) at Pencarreg Lake.

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# **52nd Welsh AGM & Field Meeting** **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> –Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

**based at:**  
**The Royal George Hotel,**  
**Tintern,**  
**Monmouthshire**  
**NP16 6SF**

We should like to welcome the BSBI to Tintern in the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for this AGM. Tintern is situated on the river and is steeped in history, including the famous 12<sup>th</sup> century Cistercian Abbey. The Wye Valley Woodlands are SSSIs and part of the Wye Valley Woodlands SAC. They are considered to be one of the most important areas of ancient semi-natural woodlands in Britain.

The field trips will include a visit to these woodlands as well as to some of the floral rich meadows in the area. There will also be an opportunity to visit the Gwent Levels or a brown field site to the west of the county with a botanically diverse valley nearby.

All members and their guests are welcome.  
Booking for the accommodation and field trips is essential

Elsa Wood & Stephanie Tyler  
Joint recorders for Monmouthshire (v.c.35).

## 2014 Welsh AGM. Provisional Programme

ELSA WOOD, *Tel. 01291 689253, info@thenurtons.co.uk*

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June:

Field meeting to the Blackcliff / Wyndcliffe – part of the Wye Valley Woodlands.

- 12.30 Meet at the Forestry Commission Tintern, Lower Wyndcliff car park at ST526973 on the side of the A466 (private cars).
- 16.30 Travel the 3-4 miles to Tintern to register with accommodation. Refreshments will be available.
- 16.45 Settling in and informal visits to the famous Tintern Abbey with *Rumex crispus* ssp. *uliginosus* growing alongside or to the Nurtons Garden for some weed spotting!
- 18.30 Dinner in the function room at the Royal George Hotel, followed by a talk (TBA).

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June:

- 7.30-8.45 Breakfast in the Royal George dining room (residents).  
Collect pre-ordered packed lunches (approx £5/head).
- 9.00 Short meeting of the Committee for Wales (Committee members only).
- 9.30 BSBI Wales AGM in the function room.
- 10.15 Assemble and depart for field trips to:
  - a) Newport Wetland Reserve or
  - b) Blaenserchan Valley and the “British”, a brown field site (sharing private cars for both trips)
- 16.00 Return to Tintern.
- 18.30 Dinner in the function room at the Royal George Hotel, followed by a talk (TBA).

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June:

- 7.30-8.45 Breakfast – collection of pre-ordered packed lunches.
- 9.00 Check out of accommodation and assemble for field excursions to some of



the floral-rich Monmouthshire meadows starting at Newgrove Meadows (private cars).

12.30 Departure of those wishing to leave at lunchtime.

13.00-15.30 Visits to other meadows.

## **Accommodation, Parking, Exhibits & Other Arrangements**

### **Accommodation:**

The AGM is based at the Royal George Hotel in Tintern, tel 01291 689205, ([www.bw-royalgeorgehotel.co.uk](http://www.bw-royalgeorgehotel.co.uk)). Their 16 double/twin rooms have been reserved for the BSBI for the nights of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June. Please inform your accommodation of any dietary requirements.

### **Bookings:**

All bookings should be made directly with the hotel/B&B.

i) At The Royal George guests will be required to pay 50% deposit at the time of reservation and 50% 28 days before arrival. Mention BSBI on booking.

Prices are: £85/night for a twin/double room and £75/night for single occupancy. (B&B only).

ii) The Wye Valley Hotel ([www.wyevalleyhotel.co.uk](http://www.wyevalleyhotel.co.uk)) Tel: 01291 689441. A deposit to confirm booking will be requested.

iii) Parva Farmhouse ([www.parvafarmhouse.co.uk](http://www.parvafarmhouse.co.uk)) Tel: 01291 689411.

iv) The Old Rectory B&B ([www.tintern-oldrectory.co.uk](http://www.tintern-oldrectory.co.uk)) Tel: 01291 689920.

v) Forest Cottage B&B ([www.bedandbreakfastintern.co.uk](http://www.bedandbreakfastintern.co.uk)) Tel: 01291 689654.

vi) The Nurtons. Accommodation in the house is now full, but there are spaces for tents and camper-vans in the grounds, with access to bathrooms in the house and breakfast if required. Contact Elsa Wood (details on page 8).

### **Dinner:**

Dinner on Wednesday and Thursday evenings is available for all delegates (residents and non-residents) in the Royal George Hotel at 18.30. The cost is £21.50/per head/evening for a 3 course meal. There is a choice of 4 each of starters, mains and desserts with a different vegetarian option both evenings. Delegates will be asked to choose their menu options nearer the time.

**Packed lunches:**

The Royal George will provide packed lunches for residents and other accommodation will also provide packed lunches if ordered in advance. There are village shops in Brockweir and Llandogo to buy ingredients to make your own lunch.

**Car Parking:**

The hotels and B&Bs have ample parking for their residents. There is additional parking at the village hall across the road from the Royal George and 2 riverside car-parks in the village itself.

The Royal George is within walking distance of all other accommodation, although Forest Cottage and the Nurtons are a bit further away, but there is plenty of space to bring cars down to the village riverside car-parks.

**Public Transport:**

There are coach stations at Chepstow (National Express) and Monmouth as well as a railway station at Chepstow (Newport-Gloucester line).

The Wye Valley between Chepstow and Monmouth is served by the no.69 bus service. It stops at the Royal George, The Wye Valley Hotel and the bottom of The Nurtons Drive. Times leaving Chepstow: 10.10, 12.10, 14.10 and leaving Monmouth: 11.10, 13.10, 14.35.

**Meetings fees:**

A fee of £10 to cover meetings expenses is requested at the time of booking.

**Exhibits:**

The Village Hall opposite The Royal George will provide ample space for exhibits. There will be tables and display boards available. If you wish to book exhibition space please contact Elsa Wood (details on page 8).

**Book sales:** TBA

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## Exhibits shown at the 2013 Exhibition Meeting

- Bewildering Bindweeds: variations in pink *Calystegia* species on Anglesey – **Ivor Rees**.
- *Limonium vulgare* (Common Sea-lavender) in rocky shore habitats in Anglesey – **Ivor Rees**.
- Lowland Peatland Survey of Wales – preliminary results – **Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru/Natural Resources Wales**.
- Population Dynamics of Potentially Invasive Weeds in the Protected Environment – **Sam Thomas**, M. Phil student (Prifysgol-Aberystwyth University - Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) & National Botanic Garden Wales (NBGW). Supervisors: John Warren, Dylan Gwynn-Jones (IBERS) & Natasha de Vere (NBGW & IBERS).
- Welsh Wood Stitchwort (*Stellaria nemorum* ssp. *montana*) under threat – **R. A. Jones**.
- Fluctuations in *Sibthorpia europaea* (Cornish Moneywort) in Cardiganshire - **Arthur Chater**.
- Looking for *Sibthorpia europaea* (Cornish Moneywort) under the snow – **Paul Green**.
- Biological Flora of Central Europe: *Baldellia ranunculoides* – **Gregor Kozłowski, R. A. Jones, Flora-Lise Nicholls-Vuille**.
- Creeping Water-plantain (Dyfr lyriad ym lusingawl) *Baldellia ranunculoides* ssp. *repens* (Lam.) **R. A. Jones, A. Love & D. Love**.
- *Carex x deserta*: a rare hybrid of the Atlantic biogeographic zone – **R. A. Jones**.
- *Carex binervis* (Green-ribbed Sedge) specimen.
- *Carex x deserta* specimen (in poor condition due to drought).
- *Carex laevigata* (Smooth-stalked Sedge).
- Starved Wood-sedge (*Carex depauperata*) – time for a comeback – **Capita Simons**.
- *Equisetum x meridionale* (*E. ramosissimum* x *E. variegatum*) from Llyn Penrhyn, Anglesey.
- Better Wildlife Verges.

For the benefit of people not attending the AGM, exhibitors are invited to provide a short abstract of their exhibit for inclusion in the following issue of the BSBI Welsh Bulletin.

# Monmouthshire Plant Group

## Review of meetings in 2013 and plans for 2014

STEPHANIE TYLER, *steph\_tyler2001@hotmail.com*

ELSA WOOD, *info@thenurtons.co.uk*

*BSBI Recorders for Monmouthshire (v.c.35)*

### Meetings in 2013

2013 was the first year of the Monmouthshire Plant group. Participants came from the BSBI, Gwent Wildlife Trust, local authorities and the South East Wales Biological Records Centre. There were five successful field meetings with numbers ranging from 6 to 14. There was a range of botanical ability and the group provided an opportunity for the beginners to learn plants that are common in v.c.35, as well as to see some rarer species.

The first group in May visited MOD Caerwent and despite a slight tangle with one of the military manoeuvres, we managed to record many of the calcicolous plants that grow there! The populations of *Ranunculus parviflorus* (Small-flowered Buttercup), in its only site in the county, were thriving, along with hundreds of *Ophioglossum vulgatum* (Adder's-Tongue); *Erodium maritimum* (Sea Stork's-bill), that has increased dramatically in numbers over the last few years; and *Erodium cicutarium* (Common Stork's-bill), far less common on the MOD base than the former species but more frequent in the county.

The Group visited some of the species-rich meadows in the Shirenewton area in June in conjunction with the Monmouthshire Meadows Group's Open Day and saw interesting assemblages of both wet and dry meadow species. The July visit took us to the west of the county and 'The British' brownfield site. We found *Filago minima* (Small Cudweed), a species that is also in decline, and *Drosera rotundifolia* (Round-leaved Sundew), whilst both *Scutellaria minor* (Lesser Skullcap) and *Wahlenbergia hederacea* (Ivy-leaved Bellflower) were growing in wet flushes.

The coastal saltings at St Brides presented a different assemblage of plants for the group in August. The highlights were *Limonium vulgare* (Common Sea-Lavender), *Hordeum marinum* (Sea Barley) and *Atriplex portulacoides* (Sea-purslane). After the dry summer resulting in the salt pans drying-out, we were unable to re-find the *Ruppia maritima* (Beaked Tasselweed) that had been found

in abundance the previous year by Julian Woodman. Visits inland to some reens produced a range of reën specialities from various duckweeds to *Sagittaria sagittifolia* (Arrowhead), *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* (Frogbit) and *Butomus umbellatus* (Flowering-Rush).

The last organised visit of the year was to Penyvan Pond in September. Highlights there included *Littorella uniflora* (Shoreweed), a small established population of *Ranunculus lingua* (Greater Spearwort), *Artemisia absinthium* (Wormwood) and more *Scutellaria minor*.

Following the success of this year, we look forward to seeing familiar and new faces at those meetings planned for 2014.

### **Plant surveys in 2014 in Monmouthshire (v.c. 35)**

All are welcomed, whether beginners or more experienced botanists. We hope to visit a variety of interesting sites and, on some dates visit tetrads (2km x 2km squares) for which we have few data, so that we can record all that we see for the New Atlas.

Walks will start at 10 a.m. and continue usually into the afternoon, so please bring a picnic lunch, drinks etc. Venues to be announced or confirmed nearer the time, but all will be in vice-county 35, Monmouthshire.

**Sat 26<sup>th</sup> April:** Wye Valley Woodland.

**Wed 21<sup>st</sup> May:** Plant recording in SO32 near Llanvihangel Crucorney.

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> June:** Grasses, sedges and rushes day at Springdale Farm near Usk.

**Wed 16<sup>th</sup> July:** Tarren yr Esgob in the Black Mountains. Joint meeting with Brecon Plant Group; you need to be fit to climb up to the crags.

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Aug:** Rogiet Countryside Park near Severn Tunnel Junction.

**Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Plant recording. Beech woods near Crumlin.

# Anglesey Plants and the Flora Group in 2013

IAN R. BONNER, *BSBI Recorder for Anglesey (v.c.52)*  
*Cae Trefor, Tynyngogl, Anglesey, LL74 8SD. BSBI@caetrefor.co.uk*

This year the Anglesey Flora Group started with an indoor meeting at Treborth in March. 15 of us talked through recording possibilities for the year, concentrating on the next Atlas and monad recording towards a future county flora.

Atlas 2020: although the BSBI has not yet decided on content we assumed that post 2000 records for each hectad would be required. We were able to show that for the 16 hectads covering Anglesey we had rerecorded between 63 – 85% of the taxa in the previous Atlas (average 78%). It was agreed that our general monad recording should continue to aim to improve on this. Spreadsheets were produced highlighting “missing” species, and that apart from SH68 (with the 63% figure), no special effort would be made in 2013.

Rare Plant Register: we would continue to check old records and generally keep the Register as up to date as possible.

Towards a future Anglesey Flora: a map had been prepared showing the total number of records (mainly post 2000) from each of the 800 monads covering Anglesey. This made it easier to spot the areas with few records, which would form the focus for the field meetings for 2013 - with the eventual aim of securing a reasonable list from at least one monad in each tetrad.

The first field meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013, based at Llanerchymedd, was on a very chilly day and with the generally late spring, was rather unrewarding. Despite this it resulted in basic lists for six previously 'empty' monads.

In early May, our second meeting covered the four monads around the Tre Ysgawen Hotel, Capel Coch, in more spring-like conditions, but with no notable discoveries.

Jane Rees and others have continued with road verge surveys, and during May have spotted *Ficaria verna* ssp. *verna*, (the Celandine with bulbils in the leaf axils) from six additional monads. All were from road verges close to habitations with Jane picking the patches out at a distance by their larger leaves and matt green colour.





**Image 5.** Anglesey Flora Group having a break from recording at Carreglwyd, Llanfaethlu, 1st June 2013. Photo: Ian Bonner.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June, the Flora Group met at Carreglwyd, Llanfaethlu, making good basic lists from the four monads around the estate (see image 5, above). We failed to re-find the 2008 record for *Torilis nodosa* (Knotted Hedge-parsley), previously recorded from the remains of the former Telegraph Station which was now being used as a livestock feeding station.

In mid-June, Anglesey hosted the BSBI AGM and Welsh AGM, with some 19 groups visiting 11 of the best and most accessible botanical localities on the island. During the visit to the Butterfly Orchid field at Plas Newydd, SH51.69, Tim Rich and others spotted a single flower spike of *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* (Southern Marsh-orchid). This was confirmed by Ian Denholm and is the first definite record for Anglesey, though the species has been known for some years from the Parc Menai area of Bangor, just the other side of the Menai Strait. A fuller report on the AGM excursions will appear in the 2014 BSBI Year Book.

Martin Rand kindly undertook some extra monad recording during his visit and noted *Vicia tetrasperma* (Smooth Tare) near a farmyard at Bryntwrog, SH41.79. This is the first record since J.E. Griffith recorded it from Beaumaris in his 1895

*Flora of Anglesey and Caernarvonshire* (Griffith, 1895).

On 8<sup>th</sup> July, the Flora Group met at Cemlyn and, with the agreement of the National Trust and their farm tenants, recorded from several of the monads surrounding the nature reserve. Although extensive lists were made, especially from the diverse habitats around Tyn Llan to the west of Cemlyn, the most notable species was the reconfirmation of *Typha angustifolia* (Lesser Bulrush) beside the pool in SH32.93.

In early July, Anglesey benefited from a visit by Richard Lansdown looking at aquatic plants on the RSPB reserves. He quickly spotted *Lemna turionifera* (Red Duckweed) on watercourses at both Malltraeth Marsh (SH46.72) and Valley Lakes (SH33.76). These make the first and second vice county records and since then we have been able to identify this duckweed elsewhere on the Malltraeth marshes. The assumption seems to be that it is not a new arrival – it is just that we have not known about it before!

Richard's visit to the Criugyll part of the Valley Lakes reserve (SH334.764) added a locality for *Carex vesicaria* (Bladder Sedge), an uncommon sedge with only seven current sites on Anglesey. His visit also added the first record for the hybrid between *Carex rostrata* (Bottle Sedge) and *C. vesicaria* = *Carex x involuta*, the specimen being confirmed by Arthur Chater.

On 16<sup>th</sup> July, Ian Sims lead a Flora Group visit to look further round the Afon Criugyll and Plas Bog parts of the RSPB's Valley Lakes reserve. The diverse topography and varied levels of grazing result in a rich flora. The highlight was the discovery of a small colony of *Lathyrus palustris* (Marsh Pea) growing up between a mixture of rush, horsetail and sedge species. Marsh Pea has apparently not been recorded on Anglesey before, yet it seems unlikely that such a relatively showy plant should have been overlooked by earlier generations of botanists.

Also from the Valley area, Debbie Evans reported *Cyperus longus* (Galingale) growing round the margin of a marshy field. Another new record for Anglesey, but closer examination showed it had almost certainly spread over the fence from nearby gardens!

Continuing the wetland theme Richard Lansdown's report to the RSPB, following his August 2012 visit, includes two records for *Alisma lanceolatum* (Narrow-leaved Water-plantain), from Llyn Dinam (SH30.77) and Llyn Treflesg (SH30.76). These appear to be the first records since J.E. Griffith's 1895 Flora (Griffith, 1895). A potentially exciting report this summer was of *Luronium natans* (Floating Water-

plantain) from a shallow pool, recently created along the line of a former ditch, at Cors Erddreiniog (SH47.82). However close examination of a specimen by Andy Jones has concluded the plants were juvenile *Alisma plantago-aquatica* (Water Plantain). Andy has retained a specimen in his herbarium. There were 19<sup>th</sup> century records of *Luronium* from Llyn Coron, L. Dinam and L. Maelog; but the few records from the 1980s have subsequently been amended to records of *Baldellia ranunculoides* (Lesser Water-plantain). This shows how difficult it can be to separate non-flowering members of the *Alismataceae* (Water-Plantain family) and that *Luronium* still awaits re-discovery on Anglesey!

In August, Tim Blackstock led the Flora Group around the Penmon area, updating records from several monads. It was good to re-find *Erigeron acris* (Blue Fleabane) on a vertical rock face behind the Priory in SH63.80, with *Clinopodium ascendens* (Common Calamint) growing nearby – apparently at the same location as given by Hugh Davies in his 1813 Flora. Arthur Chater confirmed a specimen of *Arenaria leptoclados* (Slender Sandwort) from the limestone, the first post 2000 record for this possibly rather overlooked taxon.

In September, Hugh Knott arranged access and led the Flora Group to visit some of the cut-off river meanders along the former route of the Afon Cefni. In the more open areas, we noticed more *Lemna turionifera*, plenty of *Hippuris vulgaris* (Mare's-tail) and both *Bidens cernua* (Nodding Bur-marigold) and *Bidens tripartita* (Trifid Bur-marigold).

In late summer, Ivor Rees and IRB have looked at oraches in several coastal localities. Along the Menai Strait shore between Foel and the mouth of the Braint, oraches are abundant and caused some confusion! We have a collection of specimens, which include *Atriplex prostrata* (Spear-leaved Orache) and something that resembles *A. glabriuscula* (Babington's Orache), but not like more typical plants from exposed coasts. Arthur Chater kindly looked through our specimens, and has concluded that we have material of both *A. prostrata* and *A. glabriuscula*, but that the majority of our specimens are referable to the hybrid *A. glabriuscula* x *A. prostrata*. There was also a specimen of the hybrid between *A. glabriuscula* and *A. longipes* = *A. x taschereaui* (Taschereau's Orache). Both the hybrids are first records for the vice-county. However, there are no records of *A. longipes* (Long-stalked Orache), one of the parents, from Anglesey. We would be delighted if anyone reading these notes would like to examine the material and offer confirmation – or indeed alternative determinations!

Continuing the coastal theme – Martyn Stead has sent in specimens of *Elytrigia atherica* (Sea Couch), complete with ciliate margins to the leaf sheaths, from

Rhosneigr, SH32.72. This is the first record since 1998 and the first from the west coast. The few earlier records all came from Red Wharf Bay and the eastern end of the Menai Strait.

For some time, Hugh Knott has been interested in the identity of a whitebeam on Church Island, Menai Bridge (SH55.71), and this autumn he sent material to Dr Tim Rich, *Amgueddfa Cymru*-National Museum Wales, Cardiff. Readers of the BSBI Handbook on whitebeams (Rich *et al.*, 2010) will know that taxon 36 is an as yet un-named *Sorbus*, (the Menai Strait Whitebeam), described from the Caernarvonshire side of the Strait at Nantporth, near Bangor. Tim has now confirmed that this Anglesey specimen also belongs to this taxon.

In October, we ended the season recording between Pentraeth and Red Wharf Bay, then enjoyed scones and tea in Tynyngogl, followed by a brief review of the year and some first thoughts on 2014.

Interesting records of introduced species continue to be sent in. Barry Wrightson noted the first record for *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* (Ragweed), counting 24 plants growing with *Datura stramonium* (Thorn-apple) and *Echinochloa crus-galli* (Cockspur) in limestone chippings near Penlon, SH43.65.

Debbie Evans found the first record for *Amaranthus retroflexus* (Common Amaranth) on waste ground at Gwalchmai, SH39.76. Determination was confirmed on a fragment of fruiting inflorescence retrieved from her compost bin – as a second visit to collect a specimen found the plants destroyed in a trench digging operation! However, who knows what will come up in the disturbed ground next year.

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## Welsh Officers' Update

PAUL GREEN & POLLY  
SPENCER-VELLACOTT,  
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It's been a hectic time for Welsh Officers as Polly spent most of the last year getting used to motherhood. Although she did manage to attend a few field meetings – generally with a baby on her back! Paul, as many people will know, had to have nine weeks of sick leave in the peak of the field season, but despite this he managed to get round a lot of fieldwork and a lot of Wales in his year in charge.

Now Polly is back we have agreed that Paul will continue in the role in a job-share basis. Polly continues to be based in the *Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru-Natural Resources Wales* offices, Mold, and Paul at *Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales* in Cardiff, which will enable us to visit most of the country more easily. Polly intends to work Wednesday-Friday while Paul can be a little more flexible but also to work Wednesdays whenever possible. There will be a largely north-south split in our work programme, but Paul will take a lead on rare plant monitoring and organising training meetings, while Polly will lead on Vice-County Recorder support.

One of our major priorities, especially over the winter months, is to work with Vice-County Recorders to improve or update the County Rare Plant Registers. We have a vision of Wales as the first country in the world to have complete coverage

of Rare Plant Registers, and we hope that the Vice-County Recorders will support us in this aim.

Most of our counties have existing Rare Plant Registers, but we would like to:

- (1) publish Registers where none have previously been published and,
- (2) work on a programme to update the older registers.

Paul is working on a programme of rare plant monitoring for 2014 and once more, we hope that volunteers, not just Vice-County Recorders, will be keen to come out and record some of the most interesting species in Wales. Hopefully, this will include species such as *Trollius europaeus* (Globeflower) and several species of orchids, plus some interesting ferns in the winter season.

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## 2013 Report for Merioneth

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2013 was characterised by the very long cold spring and to balance that, a generally mild autumn. Sadly, the plants we didn't find early in the year had all disappeared by October with the blazing summer that we all enjoyed! [I went up the hills above Bala Lake at the end of July to see a *Dianthus deltoides* (Maiden Pink) which had been reported there – no doubt a garden throw-out - and found literally **everything** dried up – even the Rosebay had died!]

Our local group, Merioneth Nats, continued to meet every month throughout the year, and notched up a significant 1451 records. We began with a nice haul, including both Filmy-ferns, *Hymenophyllum wilsonii* (Wilson's Filmy-fern) and *H. tunbrigense* (Tunbridge Filmy-fern), from a February meeting in Coed y Parc near Dolgellau. We visited Dolgoch Falls (see photo 12 on back cover) and some coastal sites, as well as more remote hill tetrads and the North Wales Wildlife Trust Reserve, Traeth Glaslyn, for a delightful day which included good sightings of Osprey! We are, at the time of writing in early December, about to have our annual



“soup and social” meeting when we review the year and put some plans in place for the next 12 months.

A Caerdeen Residential took place again, at the end of May. It was early this very slow-starting year, so records were limited, but it was still a very worthwhile and enjoyable event – enhanced by the youngest attendee ever, Polly Spencer-Vellacott’s baby son, Jay! We covered a number of sites in the general area of Barmouth, the highlight undoubtedly being Andy Jones’ group re-finding *Stellaria nemorum* ssp. *montana* (Wood Stitchwort), in two of its sites after at least 13 years. We also re-found *Hypochaeris glabra* (Smooth Cat’s-ear) at Morfa Dyffryn, probably not seen since 1986, and *Carex oederi* ssp. *pulchella* (Small-fruited Yellow-sedge) from a new hectad. A second site in the county for *Antennaria dioica* (Mountain Everlasting) was also confirmed. Watch out for notice of the next convivial botanical event, to take place 2-5<sup>th</sup> August – we always have a few spare places!

Each year I keep a running list of Welsh Plant Records to appear in the summer issue of the Welsh Bulletin and any exceptional records for The New Journal of Botany. The current list is already well over 100: many of them are aliens which are increasingly recorded, such as the *Cornus sericea* (Red-osier Dogwood) seen suckering freely in wet woodland on the Caerynwech Estate. There are some fine native ones too, for example *Luzula forsterii* (Southern Wood-rush), found for the first time in the county by John Harold.

I am really grateful for the support of everyone who attends our meetings. Some people turn out month after month, not just botanising, but sharing their knowledge of other taxa, which adds to the interest of our meetings. I would be delighted to find someone who could share my work on a more regular basis, so if you think you could offer assistance please get in touch.

I would also like to thank all the other people who help to run things, the landowners who are generally helpful and interested in what we do, and particularly staff of Natural Resources Wales, the Snowdonia National Park Authority and North Wales Wildlife Trust.

Finally, although I have relocated to Preston, Lancashire (see my new address above), I will be keeping a static caravan as a base in Merioneth and will continue to spend as much time as I can recording in the county.

# *Cirsium acaule* (Dwarf Thistle) on a non-calcareous substrate in Glamorgan (v.c.41)

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*Cirsium acaule* (Dwarf Thistle), a rosette-forming perennial that reaches the western edge of its contiguous British distribution in Glamorgan (v.c.41) [but see following article – ed.], is generally regarded as a strong calcicole. I was therefore somewhat taken aback on 5 August 2012 when I found *Cirsium acaule* in distinctly non-calcareous grassland overlying the South Wales Coal Measures, and several miles from the nearest known colony (see image 4 on inside front cover).

The colony was on a relatively dry ridge on Llantrisant Common SSSI to the north-west of Cardiff (ST0522.8432), and comprised about 25 rosettes, fairly tightly concentrated in an area of 1m by 1.2m. This suggested that it was a single clone, and one likely to be at least several decades old, given that rhizomes are known to extend by only 1.0–2.5cm per year (Pigott, 1968). The plants had just started to come into flower when I first found them, and reached their peak over the course of the next month. *C. acaule* is gynodioecious, with hermaphrodite and female plants occurring in a ratio of 2:1 in large populations (Pigott, 1968). In this case, the absence of any stamens indicated that the clone was female, and indeed, I could find no fertile fruits in either 2012 or 2013.

The plants were growing in moderately well-grazed grassland at an altitude of 95m with a north-easterly aspect of 5°. The soil was a well-drained brown earth of pH 5.5–6.0 (at 5cm depth) overlying a gritty sandstone, with an acid test indicating the absence of calcium carbonate. Species associates in a 2m x 2m quadrat (centred on the middle of the patch) were typical of the drier parts of the Common, and were as follows:

*Agrostis capillaris* (Common Bent) (O)  
*Carex caryophyllea* (Spring-sedge) (A)  
*Carex panicea* (Carnation Sedge) (R)  
*Cerastium fontanum* (Common Mouse-ear) (R)  
*Cynosurus cristatus* (Crested Dog's-tail) (F)  
*Danthonia decumbens* (Heath-grass) (R)  
*Euphrasia* sp. (Eyebrights) (O)  
*Hypochaeris radicata* (Cat's-ear) (F)

*Lotus corniculatus* (Common Bird's-foot-trefoil) (locally A)  
*Pilosella officinarum* (Mouse-ear-hawkweed) (O)  
*Plantago lanceolata* (Ribwort Plantain) (F)  
*Potentilla erecta* (Tormentil) (F)  
*Prunella vulgaris* (Selfheal) (O)  
*Pteridium aquilinum* (Bracken) (F)  
*Ranunculus acris* (Meadow Buttercup) (O)  
*Rumex acetosa* (Common Sorrel) (R)  
*Scorzoneroidea autumnalis* (Autumn Hawkbit) (O)  
*Succisa pratensis* (Devil's-bit Scabious) (A, locally D)  
*Taraxacum officinale* aggregate (Dandelions) (R)  
*Trifolium pratense* (Red Clover) (A)  
*Trifolium repens* (White Clover) (F)

D = Dominant

A = Abundant

F = Frequent

O = Occasional

R = Rare

In the National Vegetation Classification, this appears to tally with MG5c (*Cynosurus cristatus*–*Centaurea nigra* mesotrophic grassland, *Danthonia decumbens* sub-community) (Natural England, 2013), although lacking *Centaurea nigra*, in common with some more nutrient-poor soils in Wales (J. Woodman, pers. comm.). The pH is also a little high for MG5c, the most likely reason for this being the application of lime. Indeed, MG5c is noted to occur on acid soils that have been recently limed (Natural England, 2011), and it is known that this practice used to be carried out on the Common. Although I have been unable to find out when liming ceased, the fact that the site is both relatively dry and easily accessible makes it quite likely that liming was once carried out in the area where the *Cirsium* now grows.

Pigott (1968) notes that *C. acaule* can grow and regenerate in chalk/limestone heath with a soil-surface pH as low as 5, but that 'it is nevertheless absent from similar soils developed from non-calcareous parent materials'. The presence of *C. acaule* at Llantrisant Common appears to be an unusual exception to this rule, although one must acknowledge that in this case the soil conditions are probably not entirely 'natural'.

Pigott also suggests that the occurrence of isolated plants in a few places in the north-west of its British range suggests that achenes can be carried over substantial

distances. Given this, perhaps the most likely possibility for *C. acaule* arriving on the Common is a wind-blown seed from the colonies at Cefn Onn near Caerphilly (about 8 miles east), or the south Glamorgan coast (over 12 miles south). Speculating further, the *Cirsium* could have established itself on the Common at a time when liming was being carried out and the soil pH was more favourable to germination.

### **Acknowledgement**

I would like to thank Julian Woodman for commenting on a draft of this article.

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## **The discovery of *Cirsium acaule* (Stemless Thistle) in Carmarthenshire**

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*Cirsium acaule* (Stemless Thistle) was first recorded in Carmarthenshire when, on 21st August 2011, RDP & KAP discovered a single small plant, c.30cm in diameter, with five flowers ranging from bud through to dying flower head, on the north-northwesterly facing Brest Cwm Llwd on Mynydd Du at an altitude of 320m (SN70641949). The plant was growing in tightly sheep-grazed calcareous grassland, clothing long-disused, small-scale, Carboniferous Limestone workings near a small, but prominent lump of limestone/lime "breccia" from a lime spoil-

	Brest Cwm Llwyd Aug/Oct 2011	Banc Wern-Wgan Jun/Aug 2013	Banc Wern-Wgan Aug 2013
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> (Yarrow)	LF	O	
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i> (Common Bent)	O	R	
<i>Aira caryophyllea</i> (Silver Hair-grass)		O	O
<i>Aira praecox</i> (Early Hair-grass)		R	
<i>Bellis perennis</i> (Daisy)	R	LF	
<i>Briza media</i> (Quaking-grass)		O	
<i>Carex caryophyllea</i> (Spring-sedge)		LF	
<i>Carex flacca</i> (Glaucous Sedge)	F	LA	R
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i> (Common Mouse-ear)		R	
<i>Cirsium palustre</i> (Marsh Thistle)	R	R	
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i> (Spear Thistle)		R	
<i>Euphrasia confusa</i> (Dwarf Eyebright)	O		R
<i>Euphrasia nemorosa</i> (Woodland Eyebright)		O	R
<i>Festuca ovina</i> (Sheep's-fescue)	LA	A	R
<i>Galium saxatile</i> (Heath Bedstraw)		LF	
<i>Linum catharticum</i> (Fairy Flax)	O	R	
<i>Nardus stricta</i> (Mat-grass)	R	O	
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i> (Mouse-ear-hawkweed)	F	O	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> (Ribwort Plantain)	LF	LF	R
<i>Potentilla erecta</i> (Tormentil)		R	
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> (Selfheal)	O		
<i>Thymus polytrichus</i> (Wild Thyme)	F	LF	O
<i>Trifolium dubium</i> (Lesser Trefoil)	R		O
<i>Trifolium repens</i> (White Clover)	R	O	O
<i>Veronica officinalis</i> (Heath Speedwell)		O	

**Table:** Species associated with *Cirsium acaule* in Carmarthenshire.

D = dominant, A = abundant, F = frequent, O = occasional, R = rare &amp; L = locally

mound nearby. This was the first vice-county record and most western in Wales, except for one in west Pembrokeshire, which may have been brought in with sewage sludge. A second visit was made to the site on 2nd October 2011 when the turf was found to be grazed more tightly than on the first visit.

The plant looked healthy, albeit rather nibbled, and past flowering, although most capitula appeared to have aborted. The capitula were desiccated and separated from the plant, which may have been a result of the unusually stormy August and September weather followed by the previous week's exceptionally dry, hot spell.

No achenes were apparent and it was not possible to determine whether any seed had been set and shed or whether no seed had been produced. A search for additional plants in the area was made but without success.

A second, much larger plant covering 1.05m x 80cm, with at least 100 growing points, was discovered on 29th June 2013 by Martyn Stead during the annual BSBI Glynhir recording meeting, at Banc Wern-Wgan (SN68391833) at an altitude of 348m, about 2.5km west-southwest of the first plant. The plant was growing in similar habitat with similar aspect and, although in bud, no flowers had yet appeared. A second visit was made by RDP & KAP on 14th July 2013. It had apparently been left alone by grazing sheep, but only one bud in one growing point was showing purple and no other buds were advanced as far.

A third visit was made on 11th August 2013 (see image 8, inside back cover), when eight flowers were open, together with numerous buds and some seed heads but, again, no achenes could be found. It was observed that the plant was growing so densely that very few other species were growing through it: those recorded are shown in column 4 of the table, on page 25.

Associate species were recorded from within approximately 1m around the circumferences of each *Cirsium acaule* plant and these are recorded in columns 2 and 3 of the table on page 25. The species sparsely growing through the Banc Wern-Wgan clump in August 2013 are shown in column 4.

It is unclear as to why this species had not been seen previously on Mynydd Du. This part of the mountain, with its rich (albeit sheep-impoverished) calcareous flora, has been quite closely botanised in the past, and early in the 20th century, when the likes of Augustin Ley and H.H.Knight were tramping the area, the land would not have been so intensively grazed so any plants would presumably have been more conspicuous. But perhaps that might provide a clue as to why *C. acaule* might not have been there, as the species requires a tightly grazed sward to survive.



More recently, it is possible that plants may mistakenly have been dismissed as non-flowering rosettes of sheep-grazed *Cirsium palustre*, which is very frequent in this habitat.

Is the species therefore a new arrival? The closest native populations are in the Vale of Glamorgan (eg St. Bride's), Llantrisant (see article on page 22) and in the Brecon Beacons. The Pembrokeshire plant, discovered at Kilpaison Burrows (SM897008) in 1973, is thought to have been introduced with sewage sludge. It has been suggested that seeds can be carried on the wind over considerable distances although the closest population is some 40km to the east, contrary to the prevailing wind. Birds are unlikely to have been responsible but, as it has been customary practice for many years for farmers in England and east Wales to overwinter sheep in the warmer west, is it possible that tack-sheep could have brought seed on their fleeces which might subsequently have fallen to the ground and germinated? However it arrived, it must have been a rare chance occurrence, as seeds are apparently only produced in the warmest and driest seasons, even in the plant's favoured eastern populations (R.G.Woods, pers. comm.) - bumble bees (*Bombus hortorum*) were seen pollinating the Banc Wern-Wgan plant in August.

At present, the species does not appear to be in any way common on Mynydd Du, with only two plants having been found despite some quite intensive limestone grassland monitoring having been undertaken in recent years. Now established however, the population could increase, particularly if future summers become more extreme.

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## Looking for *Sibthorpia europaea* (Cornish Moneywort) in Wales. The highs & lows.

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You may have read about John Crellin and me finding *Sibthorpia europaea* under the snow in the last issue of the Welsh Bulletin (Green, 2013). This report gives updates on the other sites around Wales that I have found.

It is not always plain sailing to research possible sites for *Sibthorpia* as some of the

old historical records are rather vague; often just giving the name of the nearest village or town the *Sibthorpia* was found close to. At one of the sites I visited, it turned out that what had been recorded as *Sibthorpia europaea* was probably in fact *Chrysosplenium alternifolium* (Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage), a species with very similar looking leaves.

The first very successful outing was in Glamorgan (v.c.41) in early March on a visit to Eglwysilan Common between Pontypridd and Senghennydd, where *Sibthorpia* had been found in 1992 by G.M. Barter and J. Woodman. It took a little while to find, but once I did, it proved to be very common in the area, growing in a number of *Juncus effusus* (Soft-rush) flushes. Where there was disturbance by sheep, keeping the ground open between the clumps of dense rushes, the *Sibthorpia* was in large numbers. If there was no or little disturbance from sheep, various mosses were the dominant ground cover between the rushes instead, while the *Sibthorpia* was in extremely small numbers or absent. Passing a small stream



**Image 6:** *Sibthorpia* habitat in Mill Bay Marsh, Pembrokeshire, v.c.46. Photo: Paul Green.



**Image 7:** *Sibthorpia* habitat in Cerdin Valley, Cardiganshire, v.c.46. Photo: Paul Green.

near St. Ilan's Church, on the way to Eglwysilan Common, and thinking that it looked nice for *Sibthorpia*, I decided to stop there on my return journey. Climbing over the newly erected fence, I found *Sibthorpia* almost straight away, but not along the bank of the stream as I had expected, but amongst a very large sward of *Molinia caerulea* (Purple Moor-grass). Here again, it was obvious the sheep were an important part of the survival of the *Sibthorpia*. There were many sheep highways through the *Molinia*, keeping the ground open between tussocks: this is where the *Sibthorpia* was found in abundance. As soon as the *Molinia* was a solid mat and there was no exposed ground, the *Sibthorpia* disappeared. This is likely to be the site found by A. Jones in 1954, as the information says near St. Ilan's Church.

The next outing was a week later, to Dale, to join Stephen Evans (vice-county recorder for Pembrokeshire, v.c.45), Ian Bonner and Andy Jones. We wanted to look for *Sibthorpia* at Castlebeach where it has been known since 1949, when

found by a group from University College, Cardiff. We searched the riverbank to no avail, thinking it could now be an extinct species in the county. Stephen just happened to mention that UC Cardiff had also reported *Sibthorpia* from Mill Bay Marsh, but the record had not been accepted, as it had not been reported since. Andy and I suggested we should go and have a look as it was within walking distance of where we were. A reservoir had been built in the valley since, but not being deterred by this, we continued up the valley. In a damp area, on a fallen trunk of a willow, I found a small patch of *Sibthorpia*. Not extinct in the county after all! (See image 6, page 28 and image 9 on inside back cover).

At the end of April, I ventured into Cardiganshire (v.c.46) to try my luck at finding *Sibthorpia* where J.H. Salter had first found it by a tiny spout on the roadside, 400m NW of Felin Cwm-hyer in the Cerdin Valley in 1907. Even though I didn't expect to find it, I still had a good look in the area. Studying the map and seeing there was a spring marked less than 1km away, I walked along the road to the spring. The habitat certainly looked nice under the willow trees, below the spring, but no luck. Walking over to a pile of branches in the field, to my surprise there was a patch of *Sibthorpia* and, looking amongst the rushes, there were a few additional tiny straggly bits. I really hadn't expected to find a new site in Arthur Chater's patch! (See image 7, page 29 and image 10 on inside back cover).

I wasn't always on a high as after some days out, I came away feeling rather low and disappointed, like a visit into Monmouthshire (v.c.35) to the only ever known county site on the left bank of Nant-y-Draenog, north of Cwmfelinfach. I visited the wooded river valley in September with Julian Woodman and joint vice-county recorders, Steph Tyler and Elsa Wood, but we were unable to locate the *Sibthorpia*. Possibly, it is now extinct in the county.

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# Extinct species in Monmouthshire (v.c.35)

## When can a species be really considered extinct?

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*BSBI Recorders for Monmouthshire (v.c.35)*

Plantlife, in its report '*Our vanishing flora – how wildflowers are disappearing across Britain*' (2012) detailed extinction rates in various counties. Monmouthshire was 22<sup>nd</sup> in the league table for losses (equal with Radnor) at 0.41, i.e. a loss of four species per decade. Responses to this report have already been made by Braithwaite (2013) and Amphlett (2013), who argued that extinction rates were lower in their vice-counties than stated by Plantlife. We will not argue the case for Monmouthshire here, but suffice it to say that some species that Plantlife counted as extinct are now known not to be so. Despite this apparently rosier picture, many species in the vice-county have declined alarmingly with intensive agriculture probably the main reason.

In Monmouthshire, Evans (2007) detailed 72 species as being extinct in the vice-county. He put these in his Flora to encourage botanists in the county to go out and re-find them. Nine, possibly ten species (12.5-14%), have since been re-found.

*Carex montana* (Soft-leaved Sedge) re-found at Wyndcliff in April 2012 and 20 June 2013 by Dave Green.

*Filipendula vulgaris* (Dropwort) re-found at Penallt Old Church in SO5210 by Steph Tyler on 4 August 2007 and seen every year since.

*Leonurus cardiaca* (Motherwort) found at Jingle Street SO4610 in August 2012 by Heather Colls.

*Lepidium campestre* (Field Pepperwort) found at Hadnock SO51H in August 2013 by Heather Colls.

*Lilium martagon* (Martagon Lily) a doubtful native in the Wye Valley but a single plant appeared in an abandoned churchyard at Tintern SO5300 on 5 June 2011 by Caroline Howard. See image on front cover.



***Onobrychis viciifolia*** (Sainfoin) seen in SO4910 at Mitchel Troy in 2012 by Heather Colls, in ST5497 near Livox quarry by Adrian & Elsa Wood on 1 June 2012 and in a pasture in SO4316 near The Hendre by Steph Tyler on 8 July 2013.

***Osmunda regalis*** (Royal Fern) found in a wood in the northwest of the county by Steve Butler and also found by a stream near Skenfrith (SO4617) by Steph Tyler on 6 October 2011. The latter may have originated from a garden but no known plants are in nearby gardens.

***Ruppia maritima*** (Beaked Tasselweed) found at two sites along the Severn Estuary - at West Usk Lighthouse ST3082 on 30 July 2012 by Julian Woodman and near Severn Tunnel in ST4887 on 11 August 2012 by Elsa and Adrian Wood.

***Trollius europaeus*** (Globoseflower) seen in a hay meadow in SO2512 on 27 June 2007 by Trevor Evans and Colin Titcombe.

**Possible: *Salvia verbenaca*** (Wild Clary) two plants, a rosette and a fruiting spike, found on a vegetated old refuse tip at Silent Valley, Ebbw Vale SO1806 on 23 September 2013 by Steph Tyler and Adrian and Elsa Wood were thought to be this species. Confirmation will be made in 2014.

Undoubtedly, some other 'extinct' species still grow in the vice-county. If you are a keen botanist, why don't you look for an 'extinct' species at its previously known locations; you could be rewarded. Please let us know if you do re-find any species.

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# ***Egeria densa* (Large-flowered Waterweed) at Cardiff Bay. The usefulness of the Welsh National Herbarium**

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A visit to Cardiff Bay last October to check out parking for a BSBI walk I am to lead there in June 2014, gave me another chance to explore the area. Looking into one of the closed off areas of water, I could see a large patch of a water weed that I did not recognize. To start with, I thought it was *Eloдея callitrichoides* (South American Waterweed) because of the size of the plant and the whorls of leaves I could see. There was no way I was going to be able to get a sample as the water level was at least 4m below me.

I revisited the site a couple of weeks later with an apple picker, which looked more like a large yellow cockerel head with a large red crown on the end of a pole. I certainly got some funny looks from the public!

On examining my catch and looking in various books, I came to the conclusion that I had found *Egeria densa*, a rarely established alien from South America. This is where the Welsh National Herbarium came in to be very useful. I could compare my specimen with what was in the collection at the museum. Like the dried material, my plants had minutely serrated leaves. Without the herbarium, it would have been much more laborious and time consuming to confirm the determination.

A specimen has been placed in the herbarium along with the others collected by Trevor Evans and specimens collected as vouchers for pond surveys by J. Alder, R. White, I. Juettner and M. Rich. One specimen from Fairwater Park, Cardiff states it is the first Welsh record, collected by M.E. Gillham in 1988.



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**Images on inside back cover :**

**8:** Habitat of *Cirsium acaule* (Stemless Thistle) at Banc Wern-Wgan, Carmarthenshire, v.c.44, 11th August 2013, showing the *C. acaule* plant in the right foreground. Photo: Richard Pryce. (See article, page 24).

**9:** “In a damp area, on a fallen trunk of a willow, I found a small patch of *Sibthorpia*. Not extinct in the county after all!” *Sibthorpia europaea* (Cornish Moneywort) at Mill Bay Marsh, Dale peninsula, Pembrokeshire, v.c.45. Photo: Paul Green. (See article, page 27).

**10:** *Sibthorpia europaea* (Cornish Moneywort) “a new site in Arthur Chater’s ‘patch!’” in the Cerdin Valley, 450m NW of Felin Cwm-hyer, Cardiganshire, v.c.46. Photo: Paul Green. (See article, page 27).

**Images on back cover :**

**11:** A field day with the Anglesey Flora Group, v.c.52, on the Cefni Estuary looking towards Newborough Warren. Photo: Joanna Robertson.

**12:** Dolgoch Falls, near Tywyn, Merioneth, v.c.48. Photo: Sarah Stille.

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# BSBI North Wales Local Groups

There are ongoing programmes of field meetings in all the North Wales vice-counties. Everyone is welcome and it is a brilliant opportunity for people interested in plants to enjoy days in the field with like-minded people. There is always something new to learn!

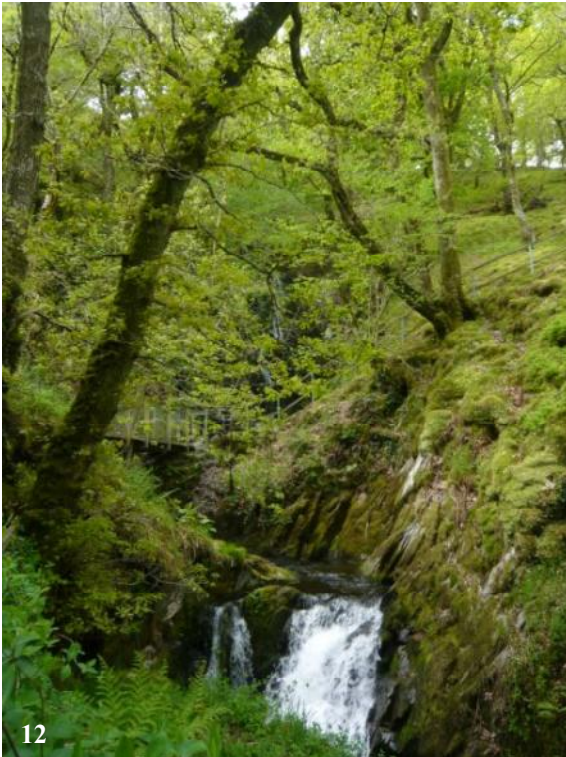
## Anglesey Flora Group

<http://bsbi.org.uk/anglesey.html>

Contact: Joanna Robertson  
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(see photo opposite)

## Caernarfon Group

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## Merioneth Naturalists/Grwp Natur Meirionydd

<http://bsbi.org.uk/merioneth.html>

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## Denbighshire Group

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