

## **BSBI CHESHIRE RECORDING NEWSLETTER – 2017**

### **Please note new mobile phone number.**

The year began at Warburton, close to the VC boundary in SJ6989 where the old churchyard made an interesting start. We added 24 making 212 including *Veronica agrestis*, *Persicaria bistorta* with *Helleborus foetidus* on the verge opposite. A *Primula x polyantha* cultivar was naturalised by the old stocks.

We ventured ever closer to S Lancs in SJ69V, a small triangle of the county by the Ship Canal. Here we added 32 making 83 in total. *Petasites hybridus*, *Brassica nigra* and lots of *Reseda luteola* grew by the track with *Hypericum perforatum* looking very like *H. humifusum* this early in the season. May saw us at Wilkesley in SJ64F where the lanes provided a very limited habitat. We only got 83 species but they included *Lamium hybridum*, *Geranium pusillum*, and *Erophila verna*. The hedgerow contained *Malus pumila* and *M. sylvestris* along with *Prunus cerasifera* and a stretch of *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*. A strip of woodland was dominated by *Allium ursinum* but *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* had survived. A good record for *Scirpus sylvaticus* was confirmed in Audlem before lunch at the pub. Later in May we went to SJ64V and added 115 making 125 total. A nice sandpit had a surprise with plenty of *Filago vulgaris* and *Spergula arvensis*. We also saw *Cochlearia danica* in a track (presumably made from Mway waste) and *Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*.

In June, we joined forces with the WFS beginning on Whitegate Way in SJ66D and scored 197 of which 150 were new. The most remarkable record was *Pyrola rotundifolia* which Julie Clarke spotted by Marton Hole. It is only the 2<sup>nd</sup> record for VC58 and may be a new subspecies for the VC. Beside this, *Nasturtium microphyllum*, *Frangula alnus*, *Clematis vitalba*, *Melissa officinalis* and *Ceratochloa carinata* seem quite routine! Next to Peckforton for an unsuccessful attempt to localise a record for *Melampyrum pratense* in SJ55I. However, a surprising total of 170 included 53 additions among which was a small patch of *Ornithopus perpusillus* spotted by Martyn, *Lamium hybridum*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Umbilicus* and more *Melissa*.

Dense mist drove us off the hill by Lamaload Reservoir, but we did spot *Carex pilulifera*, *Viola lutea* and *Schedonorus pratensis*. *Brachypodium pinnatum* ss was confirmed. A large colony of *Rumex alpinus* was an excellent new find (visible on the Google map!) and the verge yielded *Hypericum humifusum*, and an odd *Hieracium* with 21 new in a total of 145 for SJ97S. In August we wandered around Woodhouse Hill in SJ57C on another unsuccessful hunt for *Melampyrum*. We did achieved a satisfying total of 203 of which 113 were new. Notable records were *Hypericum humifusum* and *Ornithopus* again, with *Tilia platyphyllos*, *Populus nigra* ssp *betulifolia* and a good patch of *Selaginella kraussiana*, which was new to most people, naturalised outside the arboretum.

Amazingly, about a week later, I had an email from Rebecca Wheeler who just happened to mention seeing the *Melampyrum* just north of where we looked! One for 2017, I think. The trip down the Weaver Valley from Davenham did not yield *Cicuta* as the ponds it was in were no longer there! However, 208 taxa were seen with at least 38 new for SJ67K. A marshy area had *Myosotis secunda*, and *Oenanthe aquatica* while Vale Royal locks had flourishing *Lemna gibba*, *Spirodella polyrhiza*, *Soleirolia soleirolii* and *Asplenium ceterach* among other little ferns and duckweeds. Finally, a September trip to the seaside started by confirming the continued presence of *Rosa x margerisonii* at Irby where *Rosa x nitidula* was added and *R. x hiberica* at Meols. There, in SJ29F, we recorded 127 taxa with 15 new including *Glaux maritima*, *Hirschfeldia*, *Humulus*, *Leymus*, *Mentha x villosa*, *Parietaria* and the rapidly spreading *Polypogon viridis*. In SJ29K the total was 143 adding 26 including *Ammophila*, *Epilobium ciliatum*, *Fallopia baldschuanica*, *Knautia arvensis*, *Poterium sanguisorba*, *Salix cinerea x viminalis*, and *Solidago gigantea*.

Perhaps the most remarkable other new find is *Carex oederi* ssp *bergrothii* on Ashton's Flashes by Stephen Lemon. So far the only confirmed records are in Ireland though some other English ones are under investigation. *Sonchus arvensis* ssp *uliginosus*, which lacks the yellow glands, was found on the Mersey bank by Debbie Wallace and Gail Quartly-Bishop. Eric Greenwood found *Muscari botryoides* on the Red Rocks dunes. *Sedum kamtschaticum* was found on a survey by John Handley near Winsford and I found *Sedum stoloniferum* well naturalised on Lymm Dam.

## CHESHIRE PLANT RECORDING MEETINGS FOR 2017

Meetings begin at 2pm unless otherwise stated and last until about 5pm. It is usually a gentle stroll and all are invited but these days it is at your own risk.

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April Ringway. Park in narrow lane by hotel SJ816829 and walk to Styal Woods to enjoy spring flowers. (inc. *Daphne laureola*)

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April A meeting with the Warrington group at Spud Wood . Meet at 10am at SJ701874.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April Ellesmere Port SJ47E. Park at 410762 and follow canal N.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May Julie's meeting. 11.0am in SJ65A. Phone 01539 563504 or 01614397995.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June Lower Whitley. Meet at 2pm in layby at SJ612795 and head S & then N.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June Sound . Park at SJ623479 to go E and S. Meet at 11am and bring lunch.

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July Eastham Ferry park on verge at SJ364806 to see if *Mentha pulegium* survives.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August Frodsham, park at SJ519766 Follow Sandstone Trail SW to find *Melampyrum pratense*.

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September Thurstaston SJ246846 to see if *Drosera intermedia* and *Scutellaria minor* survive.

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*Brachypodium pinnatum* at Lamaload.



*Euphorbia cyparissias* at Meols.



*Lathyrus latifolius* at Meols.



*Erigeron glaucus* at Meols.



*Sedum stoloniferum* on Lymm Dam.