





Front Cover: *Linaria supina* (Prostrate Toadflax) which occasionally appears in post-industrial sites at Burry Port after soil disturbance. © R.D. Pryce (see page 20).

1: *Carex digitata* (Fingered Sedge) in Monmouthshire © Gemma Wood (see page 14).

2: *Tilia platyphyllos* (Large-leaved Lime) from Tintern churchyard, Monmouthshire, 3 May 2017 © Gemma Wood (see page 14).

3: *Luronium natans* (Floating Water-plantain) where cattle wade through Maendewi Pool on Dowrog, Pembs. © Stephen Evans (see page 24).

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Items for inclusion in the next Welsh Bulletin should be sent to Richard Pryce by **1st December 2017**.

Back issues over one year old are uploaded to the website.

www.watsonia.org.uk/html/wales.html. Most back issues are still available on request @ £2.50 per issue; please contact Sally Whyman or Katherine Slade. **Cheques are payable to BSBI (not BSBI Wales)**. Future issues are available to BSBI members living outside of Wales by sending £2.50 in advance.

Then and Now - the June 1963 Pembrokeshire Field Meeting 'revisited' in 2017

STEPHEN EVANS, *vice-county recorder for Pembrokeshire, v.c.45*

In October 1962, the Welsh Regional Committee of the BSBI was formed and at the Annual General Meeting in September 1963, the late Tommie Warren Davis became the Field Secretary for Wales. He joined the Society in 1958 and became the first resident Recorder for Pembrokeshire until his demise in 1980.

The Welsh Regional Bulletin No. 1, produced in January 1964, has an all too brief note by Tommie on a week-long Pembrokeshire field meeting, based in Haverfordwest, from 15th to the 22nd June 1963. The week was attended by 18 botanists, of whom about half were from Wales, and many classic Pembrokeshire habitats were studied. Fortunately, although the note in Bulletin No. 1 was a mere 2 paragraphs, Tommie's Botanical Diaries include a two-page description of some of the week's finds. The following article attempts to 'revisit' one or two of the sites, such as Dowrog Common (Dowrog), and to discuss how the main species observed by the BSBI members have fared over the intervening half century.

At the time, Dowrog was part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest and was owned by the Church in Wales. By the 1970s, ownership was transferred first to the University of Wales and later to the National Trust. It had become a nature reserve of the Wildlife Trust when owned by the University and from the outset, the BSBI recorder for Pembrokeshire has served on the management committee for the reserve.

St. David's Head and Dowrog, near St. David's, were visited on 15th June 1963. It is odd but there is no mention of any of the notable plants of St. David's Head whereas many finds were reported from Dowrog. *Pilularia globulifera* (Pillwort) was found in the small South Pond where it was thought, at the time, to be the first record in Pembrokeshire since its discovery at Dowrog, eighty years earlier. Specimens were collected from this small disused clay-pit for the herbaria at the Natural History Museum, London (NHM) and the National Museum of Wales (NMW). Since the 1970s a huge amount of effort has gone into restoring traditional rough grazing by cattle and ponies supported by patch burning. This pastoral activity combined with digging ponds down into the clay underlying the wet heath, fen and swamp, has led to a large increase in populations of *P. globulifera* on the site.