

Ann Margaret Hutchison (1930–2016)

Ann Hutchison (Colour Section Plate 2) was born in Buxton, Derbyshire on 2nd July 1930, and attended Altrincham Grammar School for Girls near Manchester. As part of her university entrance requirements she needed chemistry. This meant attending the local boys' school for tuition, as the subject was not taught in her school. At Manchester University she attained a degree in Biological Sciences.

Ann worked as a scientific officer/civil servant for the Ministry of Defence at Porton Down, Wiltshire, where she was a librarian in what is now known as Public Health England but was formerly the Microbiological Research Establishment. Ann made her home in Salisbury and nearby Wilton; in later life she moved to Mere.

Of Ann's many interests, she was a founder member of the Wiltshire Trust for Nature Conservation and sat on its council for many years, and also a member of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, National Trust, Salisbury Plain Conservation Group, Wiltshire Botanical Society and Salisbury & District Natural History Society (of which she was vice President until her death), YMCA, Kew Gardens Foundation, Cats Protection League and Spana, a charity for working animals of the world.

Ann served as BSBI Recorder for South Wiltshire, v.c.8, from 1976 to 2003 and was the co-author of the main body of *The Wiltshire Flora* with her opposite number for North Wiltshire, Dave Green. The Flora was edited by Beatrice Gillam and published in

1993. To this end, she was a founder member of the Wiltshire Flora mapping group, formed with the intention of surveying plant occurrence and population sizes in Wiltshire, and systematically recording up-to-date data. She worked with a large group of people between 1984 and 1992. She sat on the Science, Publication and Steering groups throughout the period of the project to produce the Flora. Over these years she assessed the incoming records and compiled maps and text on the 1200 species surveyed. At a time when the electronic storage and retrieval of data was in its infancy, this involved a great deal of time-consuming work.

Ann was a private person who was dedicated to her botany, and she brought to the post of Vice-County Recorder the order and thoroughness of a librarian. Problems with mobility, which stemmed from childhood, led her to be limited in the field but she identified huge numbers of specimens that were brought to her, sending off bundles of critical species to national referees for determination, as part of the Mapping project.

With the instigation of the Wiltshire Botanical Society in 1993, Ann became a life-long member, and she continued to add to the annual list of rare and localised plants found in the south of the county. She corresponded diligently, replying to all requests and queries about the flora of South Wiltshire.

Ann died at home on 28th May 2016.

DAVE GREEN



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