

DERBYSHIRE FLORA GROUP NEWSLETTER

EDITED: Dr ALAN WILLMOT (BSBI County Recorder)

Number 38 – WINTER 2024/2025

1. EDITORIAL

This has been an awful year for me with my wife's illness and ultimate death in November. However, I can now go forward with the remainder of my life without the worry about what might be happening at home. Despite my earlier worries I did manage to get to all 8 of our outdoor meetings last year, and we managed to record some 32,000 between us. About two thirds of these were for 2024. There were 1069 taxa in these records of which 15 were completely new plants for the county. These are detailed in Section 2 while in Section 3 I have included other records which are significant for various reasons.

2. NEW COUNTY RECORDS 2024

2.1 *Asplenium ceterach* var. *crenatum*

Claire and Mary showed me a single plant of this striking variety of Rustyback on a wall at St Mark's churchyard Cromford (SK2956) in December.



2.2 *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii* (Jacquemont's Birch)

Graeme Coles recognized this variety of Himalayan Birch growing on the reclaimed Stanton & Staveley tip (SK4275) on our trip there in June. This birch is intensely white-barked and is increasingly planted on roadsides and in restoration schemes.

2.3 *Clematis tangutica* (Orange-peel Clematis)

This species was noted on our trip to Codnorpark Reservoir (SK4351) in September by Marion. She then realized that she had seen this species before in Long Eaton in November 2022.



Clematis tangutica Long Eaton M Bryce

2.4 X *Festulolium fredericii* (A hybrid grass)

This is the hybrid of Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and Rye Grass (*Lolium perenne*). It

was reported as local abundant on a footpath verge at Alderwasley (SK3253) by D.C. Wood in June.

2.5 *Geranium x cantabrigiense* (Cambridge Crane's-bill)

This sterile hybrid is much grown in gardens. It was first found growing on a drystone wall in Dale Road Buxton (SK0672) by Jon Martin in June 2023 but not reported till later.



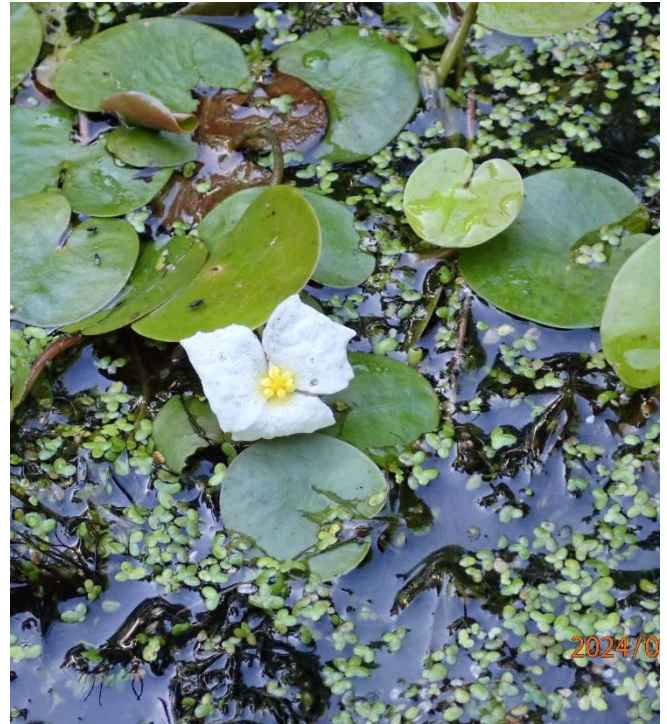
Geranium x cantabrigiense Buxton J Martin

2.6 *Helleborus argutifolius* (Corsican Hellebore)

This garden escape was noticed twice this year; at Spinkhill (SK4578) in April by Claire, Mary, Brian & Graeme and in September by Brian at Stanley (SK4140). There are also a couple of earlier records for this plant in 2019 but these may be from garden settings.

2.7 *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* (Frogbit)

This floating aquatic was recorded on a pond in Whitwell Wood (SK5277) during August by Mick Lacey. The pond was only created around 30 years ago but how this plant arrived at just this one site in the county is unknown. It was possibly introduced by waterfowl or fishermen either deliberately or accidentally.



Hydrocharis morsus-ranae Whitwell M Lacey

2.8 *Libertia formosa* (Chilean-iris)

This was noticed on the reclaimed Stanton Staveley Tip (SK4275) in June by Brian Gough and then recognized by Claire Smith for what it was. This garden throw-out has been recorded twice before but in gardened type situations. It looks superficially like *Carex pendula* (Pendulous Sedge) but has white flowers.



Libertia formosa SK4275 C Smith

2.9 *Macleaya x kewensis* (Hybrid Plume-poppy)

This hybrid does not produce seeds so must have been a garden throwout when found by Mick Lacey at Renishaw (SK4478) in August.



Macleaya x kewensis Renishaw M Lacey

2.10 *Malva sylvestris* var. *mauritiana* (Common Mallow)

This most striking variety of the Common Mallow has large deep purple flowers. It was found by me growing all over fields near Morley Brickyards (SK3841) in September. It appeared to be too abundant to be a contaminant of a crop; yet not abundant enough to be a crop itself. I can only surmise it was some part of a biodiversity package.

2.11 *Miscanthus x giganteus* (Giant Silvergrass)

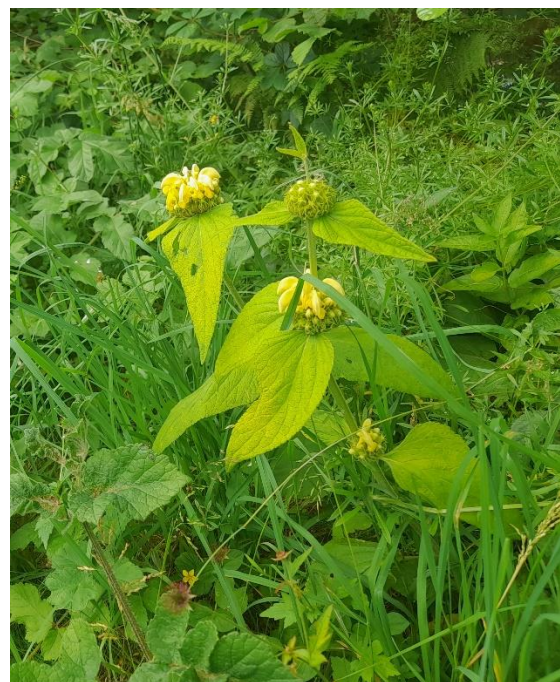
Another name for this large grass is Elephant-grass which is rather apt as it can grow to 4 metres tall. Two clumps were found in September by Mick Lacey growing in a grass verge alongside a railway line at Langwith (SK5269). It is being increasingly grown as a biomass crop and sometimes as a garden ornamental. It rarely flowers so these plants were probably garden throwouts.



Malva sylvestris Morley A Willmot

2.12 *Phlomis russeliana* (Turkish Sage)

This was found by Mick Lacey on the side of the Derwent near Froggatt (SK2475) in June. It is another ornamental plant that usually turns up in England as a garden throwout.



2.13 *Rubus fruticosus* agg. X *R. idaeus*

This rare hybrid of Blackberry and Raspberry was recorded by D.C. Wood in Littlemoor Wood (SK3158) in June. It is probably under recorded due to problems of identification.

2.14 *Rumex x ruhmeri* (A hybrid dock)

This hybrid of *R. conglomeratus* (Clustered Dock) and *R. sanguineus* (Wood Dock) was recorded by G. Kitchener (a national Rumex referee) at Ashford in the Water (SK2069) in July.

2.15 *Saxifraga 'Arendsii'* (Rockery Saxifrage)

This garden escape or throwout was recorded by Mick Lacey at Laporte Mine (SK2542) in May. It appears to be of hybrid origin from a number of cultivated saxifrages.



Saxifraga 'Arendsii' Laporte Mine M Lacey

3. OTHER NOTABLE RECORDS 2024

As usual these are just my selection and I apologize to anyone whose favorite record I have left out.

3.1 *Epilobium x dacicum* (A hybrid Willowherb)

The two records of this hybrid from G. Kitchener in July were the first records for this taxon since Linton's 1903 Flora. It is the hybrid of *E. parviflorum* (Hoary Willowherb) with *E. obscurum* (Short-fruited Willowherb). The records were from Bakewell (SK2169) and Ashford in the Water (SK1870).

3.2 *Orobanche hederæ* (Ivy Broomrape)

Nick Evans record from Nottingham Road Chaddesden (SK3836) in June was only the second ever record for the county. There were 20 flowering spikes near *Hedera helix* (Common Ivy).



Orobanche hederæ Chaddesden N Evans

3.3 *Salix elaeagnos* (Olive Willow)

Andy Amphlett recorded at least five plants of this willow on the banks of the River Derwent in Derby (SK3834) in October. Initially planted, some of these plants were self-sown. This was only the second record ever for this species in the county.

3.4 *Salix x meyeriana* (Shiny-leaved Willow)

This triple hybrid was recorded in the St Augustine's area of Chesterfield (SK3886) by Mick Lacey in June. It is the result of the crossing of *S. alba* (White Willow) with *S. euxina* (Crack Willow) and *S. pentandra* (Bay Willow). It is a natural hybrid but is also planted as an ornamental. This was the first record for this plant since 1948 and it is therefore no longer considered extinct in the county.



Salix x meyeriana Chesterfield M Lacey

3.5 *Sison amomum* (Stone Parsley)

There had been no records for this species locally since 2003 when it was recorded from three sites in the county last year. These were; Willington (SK2828), Ashbourne (SK1746) and Junction 25 on the M1 (SK4735).



Sison amomum Willington C Smith

4 OUTDOOR MEETINGS 2025

I have already circulated the list of meetings for 2025 but have repeated them below for anyone who missed the first circulation.

5. ENQUIRIES

Any enquiries concerning the identification and recording of higher plants in Derbyshire can be directed to me as below. It is always useful to include photographs with any possible new county records or queries if you can.

Dr Alan Willmot

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Tel: 01332 550373 and 0794 121 4977

E-mail: alanwillmot@outlook.com

DERBYSHIRE FLORA GROUP OUTDOOR MEETING PROGRAMME 2025

All meetings are held on Saturdays starting at 10.30 am and usually end around 4.30pm. Carry lunch.

	Month	Venue	Meeting Point for general botanising and recording.	Leader
22	March	Grange Wood	Meet in the car park at SK265143 off the road between Coton in the Elms and Overseal.	AW
12	April	Beresford Dale	Meet in the car park in Hartington off Mill Lane at SK127602	CS
17	May	Tideswell Dale	Meet in the car park in Tideswell Dale off B6049 at SK153741	CS
14	June	Calke Park	Enter Calke Abbey (NT) from A514 at Ticknall park by the house at SK366227. Free to NT members others to say at Middle Lodge entry that they are with the "Derbyshire Flora Group" for free entry.	SM
28	June	Bamford	Meet in the parking area at the recreation ground on Water Lane at SK205829 which is off Station Road south of Bamford. The rec is the first left turn after crossing the railway bridge down Water Lane.	KB
19	July	Clowne	Meet in the car park at SK492756 in North Road Clowne opposite the large Aldi sign and store.	GC
9	August	Stenson	Meet in the parking area behind Findern Church at SK309304.	BG
6	Sept.	Codnorpark Reservoir Pt 2	Meet in car park next to reservoir at SK433515 off Coach Road Ironville.	BG

N.B. Some of these meetings start from "Pay & Display" car parks where change is not usually available. Some other car parks are now card only.

Meetings organiser: Dr Alan Willmot, 2 Kedleston Close, Allestree, Derby, DE22 2RA.

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Home phone: 01332 550373

Email: alanwillmot@outlook.com

Meeting leaders:

AW: Alan Willmot

BG: Brian Gough

CS: Claire Smith

KB: Ken Balkow

SM: Simon Melen

GC: Graeme Coles

Anyone interested in botany is welcome to come on these meetings but please contact the organiser if you have not attended one of the events before.

A. Willmot 17th January
2025

Floravc57/Meetings/Meets2025