

2018 Wales Annual Report Round up

This is a collation of the Annual reports submitted by VCRs for 2018 by April 2019. They again show the great range and depth of botanical activities carried out by VCRs and their associated volunteers. A huge thank you to all involved.

VC35 Monmouthshire Joint VCRs Steph Tyler and Elsa Wood

Elsa Wood and Steph Tyler entered over 19,000 records onto Mapmate in 2019 and they visited over 50 tetrads, concentrating on those with less than 200 species recorded. Several volunteers also contributed records and helped fill gaps in tetrads. Validation of records is progressing well. There are now 22 tetrads with >400 species, two of these having >500. There are just 14 complete (not border) tetrads with <200 species.

There were many new hectad records among which were *Stellaria nemorum* (Wood Stitchwort) in the Black Mountains, the first site away from the Wye Valley, *Erodium marinum* (Sea Storksbill) in Usk, previously only known from the coast and MOD Caerwent and *Chenopodium hybridum* (Maple-leaved Goosefoot) near Clytha, the first record since 2000 away from two established garden populations..

The Rare Plant Register is being revised and surveys were directed during 2019 to sites known for species prior to 2000. Some species have been removed as they have proved to be more common than previously thought.

Monmouthshire Botany Group held 6 meetings during the field season plus the New Year Plant Hunt; these were well attended and led by us in a diversity of habitats and geographical locations. Teaching and atlas recording were combined. Liaison continued with Local Authorities biodiversity partnerships and the local wildlife Trust and Records Centre.

VC 41 Glamorgan. Joint VCRs Julian Woodman and Barry Stewart.

The following is a synopsis of the 2018 Excursion report.

This year we homed in on less well recorded parts of VC41 and found plenty of interest. The first field excursion was to Coity Castle on April 15th where the highlights were *Stellaria pallida* (Lesser Chickweed, a remarkable find here, *Lathraea squamaria* (Toothwort) near the woodland edge and a the locally distributed *Asplenium adiantum nigrum* (Black Spleenwort)

This trip was followed by one to Graddfa farm, Llanbradach on the 20th May where *Wahlenbergia hederacea* (Ivy leaved Bellflower) was found, an unusual epiphytic colony of *Umbilicus rupestris* (Pennywort) on an Ash tree and some flushes with *Narthecium ossifragum* (Bog Asphodel) and *Carex pulicaris* (Flea Sedge)

The botany group next visited Ferndale on 16th of June a notable record being *Polystichum setiferum* (Soft Shield Fern) a third site for the hectad.

The group visited Lisvane in high Summer on July 21st and working their way along the road they spotted *Rorippa islandica* (Northern Yellow Cress) This was followed by *Spirodela polyrhiza* (Greater Duckweed) as a new hectad record in a pond and *Ceratophyllum demersum* (Rigid Hornwort) an uncommon plant for the vice county)

The following foray was to Garw Forest on August the 12th with a lucky find of *Osmunda regalis* (Royal Fern)

Early Autumn took the group to Blaenrhondda on the 15th of September with the find of the day being *Epilobium lanceolatum* (Spear-leaved willowherb). Their last field trip of the year was a hunt for *Arum italicum subsp. neglectum* (a Rare Lords-and-ladies) on a Woodland trust reserve near Dinas Powys; this was scheduled for December 1st before the leaves of the commoner *A. maculatum* (Lords-and-ladies) appeared to confuse everyone. Over 200 plants were found. Finally, they also beat their own record for the New Year Plant hunt finding 94 species in flower in Cardiff Bay.

VC 44 Carmarthenshire. Joint VCRs Richard Pryce and Kath Pryce.

Tetrad recording is still needed, particularly in the NW of the county, but recording for the Atlas is adequate at hectad level. All records up to the end of 2016 are in the DDb. 2017 and 2018 records will be sent to Tom Humphrey when checked.

RPR updating is ongoing but the Carms dataset is being augmented by the addition of full data (where available) of all pre-1990 records that have, to date, only been input to tetrad precision. When this is done we'll run the RPR routine in Biorecs to produce the RPR.

The County Flora is progressing only very slowly much to our concern, due to priority being given to Atlas and RPR work.

The annual Carms. recording week yielded a good number of records: the theme in 2018 was *Rubus*, and we were fortunate to have both Dave Earl and Rob Randall as experts to do all the determination. This has been written-up in the Yearbook and is also on the BSBI Carms webpage.

Surveys undertaken in Carms in connection with our ecological consultancy yield many records (virtually all to 10m or 1m precision). One or two other consultants have provided quality records when they have visited Carms.

Highlights include *Erigeron x stanleyi* from Burry Port, new to Wales, discovered by Barry Stewart, written-up in Feb. 2019 BSBI Welsh Bulletin. It was also just in time to make the new edition of *Stace!* Other highlights will be published in the Llanelli Naturalists Newsletter in March.

VC 45 Pembrokeshire. VCR Stephen Evans.

Continued progress was made with Atlas 2020 but there will need to be a more targeted effort during the remaining year to hunt for missing species. 10,978 (7,925 in 2017 and 8,313 in 2016) records have been compiled from 307 (235 in 2017 and 298 in 2016) monads during 1,414 (1,054 in 2017 and 1,277 in 2016) 'visits' in 2018. The totals since the start of the Atlas recording period are 183,433 records from 1,325 monads collected during 31,179 'visits'. 'Visits' are defined as records made from a location and can vary from full species lists to individual records of notable species or missing species not found in the hectad since 2000. Howard Williams continued to seek out such 'missing' species in 3 hectads in the north of the county and Jane Hodges continued to record under-recorded monads in mid- Pembrokeshire. All records are entered into the BIORECS programme and await transfer into the BSBI database- this was last done in October 2015.

Validation of Atlas records in the DDB has yet to be undertaken.

As usual annual survey reports for *Rumex rupestris* (Shore Dock), *Melittis melissophyllum* (Bastard Balm) and *Platanthera bifolia* (Lesser Butterfly-orchid) were circulated. A review of *Asparagus*

prostratus (Wild Asparagus) in Pembrokeshire is in progress. It had a better year in 2018 owing to the hot dry early summer. Recent wet summers had not suited this important population.

An exciting **NCR** in 2018 was the identification of and confirmation of *Ophioglossum azoricum* (Small Adder's-tongue) on Skokholm where it was found by Fiona Gomersall whilst re-recording permanent quadrats in May. It had been tentatively identified from neighbouring Skomer island in the 1960's but never confirmed.

VR 46 Cardiganshire VCR Stephen Chambers

Slightly fewer records were added to MapMate from the year compared with 2017, but progress towards a satisfactory level of coverage for Atlas 2020 remained on track thanks to a dedicated, if small, band of recorders. In the southwest Howard Williams targeted DDb 'missing species' in hectads SN14, 15 & 24, providing detailed spreadsheets, while along the Teifi corridor in the south Tim Rayner and Richard Williams worked several under-recorded tetrads, submitting a continuous flow of cards in the process. Other unfailing 'busy bees' included Arthur Chater, Chloe Griffiths & Matt Sutton.

The main event of the year was the BSBI Welsh AGM, 17-19 August, at Aberystwyth University, organised by Andy Jones, to whom I am exceedingly grateful. Attendees enjoyed seeing a selection of the county's special plants on excursions to contrasting habitats on the Dyfi NNR and the abandoned metal mines at Esgair Hir & Esgair Fraith. Recording days organised by Kate Smith of the West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre provided additional productive recording opportunities.

Only a few notable finds from the year can be mentioned in the space available. These included first VCRs for *Chenopodium (Oxybasis) glaucum* (Oak-leaved Goosefoot) & *Tetragonia tetragonioides* (New Zealand Spinach). *Potamogeton perfoliatus* (Perfoliate Pondweed) was found, as a presumed introduction, in a former mine reservoir pool - the 1st VC record since Salter's two pre-1935 native sites on the Afon Teifi. New sites for VC-scarce or uncommon plants included *Alchemilla filicaulis* ssp. *vestita* (Hairy Lady's-mantle), *Berberis vulgaris* (Barberry) & *Ranunculus parviflorus* (Small-flowered Buttercup). A new hedgerow site was reported (by J. Bell) for *Sorbus torminalis* (Wild Service-tree) near Llanfair Clydogau.

VC 42 Brecknock Joint VCRs Mike Porter and John Crellin

The Brecknock Botany Group had 46 outings in 2018 – the last one being the “2019” New Year Plant Hunt. Our 2018 New Year Plant Hunt returned a very high number of plants in flower for the county (53) and even had a first sighting in the county of *Polypogon viridis* (Water Bent or Barfwellt y dŵr) (NCR). Other notable finds of the year included *Cerastium semidecandrum* (Little Mouse-ear or Clust-y-llygoden fach) (NCR) found by Ray Woods in Hay-on-Wye car park. We were also delighted to find a patch of *Erica cinerea* (Bell Heather or Grug y mêl) on Llangattock mountain where it hasn't been seen for decades. The species largely shuns Brecknock apart from the extreme north-west. We also found several species at apparently record-breaking altitudes, including *Viscum album* (Mistletoe or Uchelwydd, 390m) and *Taxus baccata* (Yew or Ywen, 610m found by Graham Motley and Sam Bosanquet). The analysis of gaps in coverage for the Atlas continues and will be the focus of 2019 meetings. Cooperation with the Brecknock Wildlife Trust, now part of the Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales continues to be fruitful and local recorders of all species are pleased that the Brecknock Conservation Committee continues under the new stewardship. Several meetings of the Botany Group in 2018 were held jointly with Trust Staff surveying local wildlife sites in hectads under-recorded since 2000.

VC 43 Radnorshire Joint VCRs Liz Dean and Sue Spencer.

During the year we have been endeavouring to catch up on inputting into Mapmate all of our old records going back to 2000. This includes checking David Humphrey's records and accumulated records of our own which had built up in previous years. This work plus validation of Ddb records is ongoing.

Recording was concentrated in hectads with lower levels of coverage, based on comparison with Ddb records of pre and post 2000 records and hunting for absentees.

Although we have excellent botanists in Radnorshire we have no regular “square-bashing” groups and, although we hope to remedy this in the future, it is difficult in the short term especially as we do not live in the county.

We do, though, have an annual visit from the Herefordshire Botanical Society. We visited Pentrosfa Mire and then Llandrindod Lake, by pedalo. Little was found out in the Lake except for massive, pedalo clogging amounts of *Myrriophyllum spicatum*, flowering beautifully. *Carex pseudocyperus* has also appeared on the lake margin, its origins unknown.

Other notable recent records were:

Confirmation by Steve Chambers of the continuing presence of *Potamogeton x gessnacensis* at Gilfach; *Blymus compressus* found on The Begwyns By Hannah Shaw; Messrs Bosanquet, Drewett and Reed found *Carex lasiocarp*, the first record since 2001.

Some botanical training has been taking place in the county as Barbara Brown, before taking up her post as Welsh Officer, was grant funded by Heritage Lottery to deliver botanical training to volunteers through the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust.

VC47 Monmouthshire Joint VCRs Dr Kate Throne and Gillian Foulkes

Recording in 2018 As at 31st December 2018, over 19,000 records have been made in Montgomeryshire and submitted to the BSBI Database. These records have been made on Flora Group outings (seven 1-day meetings, plus a 3-day intensive session), on Field Society trips, and by individual recorders. We are grateful to everyone who has contributed.

Atlas Progress As at 31 December 2018: 17 hectads have >600 species recorded 8 hectads have >500 species recorded 2 hectad have 400-499 species recorded; 3 hectads have 300-399 species recorded; 6 hectads have <300 species recorded. Montgomeryshire has 36 hectads (some are part-hectads and quite small). How Well recorded is VC47? The BSBI concept of a well-recorded tetrad is based on certain recording thresholds; they use a minimum of 100 species per hectad and 75% of species re-recorded since 2000. Using the BSBI thresholds we currently have the following % refind rates

- 80% or more 2 hectads (SJ12 and SJ02 both at 80%)
- 75-79% 4 hectads (SJ01, SN87, SO39 and SN89)
- 70-74% 8 hectads (SJ11, SO08, SH90, SJ00, SN88, SO09, SO29, SO38)
- 65-69% 9 hectads (SH70, SH80, SJ21, SJ31, SN69, SN99, SJ20, SJ22, SN97)
- 60-64% 5 hectads (SH91, SN79, SO19, SJ10, SN98)
- 50-60% 6 hectads (SH92, SH81, SO18, SJ03, SN78, SO28; plus SO07 at 41%) all very small part-hectads except SH92
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Interesting finds in Montgomeryshire in 2018

- New County Records: four are native* species and two are neophytes**. *Carduus tenuiflorus* * (Slender Thistle) at two sites near Clatter/Pontdolgoch (SO09). *Atriplex glabruscula* * (Babington's Orache) on saltmarsh at Dyfi Junction/Cors Dyfi (SN69). *Salicornia europaea* agg.* (Glasswort) on tidal mud at Dyfi Junction (SN69). *Spergularia media** (Greater Sea-spurrey) on saltmarsh at Dyfi Junction (SN69). *Lagarosiphon major*** (Curly Waterweed) at two non-native sites (SJ31 and SO18) *Rubus spectabilis*** (Salmonberry) Montgomery Canal (SO19).
- Additions to Rare Plant Register (RPR) Note: the RPR was updated in Jan 2017 Priority Species in Wales (Section 1 of the RPR) *Cephalanthera longifolia* (Narrow-leaved Helleborine) - new site near Kerry (SO18). *Dactylorhiza purpurella* (Northern Marsh-orchid) - refound at three sites (SJ01, SO08, SN99). *Lycopodium clavatum* (Stag's-horn-Club-moss) - further finds in the West (SH91, SN89), first hectad record for SH91. *Platanthera chlorantha* (Greater Butterfly-orchid) - new record from an SSSI (SJ01). *Vicia orobus* (Wood Bitter-vetch) - some new sites and refinds in Llangurig/Wye valley (SN88, SN97, SN98) but also loss of this species at two Roadside Nature Reserves destroyed by roadworks/cable-trenching. Records for Species in sections 2 and 3 of the RPR See county website

Other tasks completed in 2018

All records for 2018 have been put into Mapmate and sent into the big Database, and validation on the Database is up to date. The Local Record Centre at Brecon (BIS) has received all our Mapmate data up to the end of 2017. Verification of Cofnod records is up to date. Several SSSI's and Local Wildlife sites were surveyed in 2018 and records have been submitted to each body. All *Vicia orobus* sites have been reviewed by the Flora Group in 2018 and a report was drawn up (voluntarily) for NRW, MWT and Powys Council.

Plans for 2019

A table has been drawn up to list the tetrads with low numbers of records or none. The Flora Group and some Field Society outings are aiming to cover some of these through a number of day meetings and a three day intensive recording session centred on Carno. Most of those involved in recording have taken on one or more of the other tetrads, and many of the relevant tetrads will be covered. Recording is already underway for 2019. Some plant teaching will continue to be included in the Group outings. The Welsh Officer is planning to offer a teaching day to the Field Society, and a *Rubus* weekend is planned for August.

VC 48 Merionnydd VCR Sarah Stille

Once again we have had a busy year's recording for Atlas 2020 with a full programme of nine monthly field meetings. Support for Caerleon was the best ever and we could have had more participants if we'd had more rooms. We had a great weekend, making over 3000 records [out of a total of almost 5000 for the year] and enjoying some lovely weather. A report on our outings there will appear in the Yearbook.

In February we went to a 'virgin' tetrad and recorded in a lovely deep, wooded valley on the north border of the vice-county, shared with Denbighshire. Next was Heather's meeting at Peniarth, on the Afon Dysynni near Tywyn, where there was new hectad record, *Carex distans*, Distant Sedge, a Scarce plant in our RPR. In March we had a warm welcome – with chocolate biscuits – from Rachel and Geraint at Fedw Arian, near Bala, and although the sheep were still on most of the fields, we made a good list for the farm and the surrounding tetrad.

In April we were joined in Llanegryn by Dafydd Roberts, Senior Ecologist at the Snowdonia National Park Authority and, for the last time, Paul Green as Welsh Officer. At the end of the day we unexpectedly found ourselves in a delightful little valley with Kingcups, *Caltha palustris*, *Carex remota*, Remote Sedge, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage, and sheets of flowering Wood anemones, *Anemone nemorosa*.

Jo Clark led a walk in June, in the difficult and rocky ground of Craig Aberserw, high above the widened and straightened A470. She was in action again in October, leading at Hafod y Llyn on the Glaslyn estuary where we saw a number of interesting and strange *Persicarias*! We have just wound up the recording year in Llan Ffestiniog – which as a Local Change tetrad already had a very good list but we were delighted to improve on this to over 300 species post-2000 [a 79% refind rate!]

Visitors to the county have sent me some great records such as Paul Day's *Botrychium lunaria*, Moonwort, from the Moel Fferna area and *Cyperus longus*, which Faith Anstey found at Portmeirion. Barbara Brown introduced herself [before even being appointed as our new Welsh Officer!] by finding a new site for *Antennaria dioica*, Mountain Everlasting, on Rhobell Fawr. Gillian and Peter Foulkes sent me records for *Carex magellanica*, Bog Sedge and *C. limosa*, Tall Bog Sedge, from high up in the Berwyn mountains near the Montgomeryshire border: Ivor Rees made two new Vice-county records with *Atriplex longipes*, Long-stalked Orache, and its hybrid with *A. prostrata*, *A. x gustafssoniana*. Finally, Mark Duffell and John Handley sent me a wonderful list of over 400 records after their holiday here in May.

As ever I feel very grateful for the support of my 'regulars' who come out month after month in all weathers and who volunteer to lead meetings when I can't. My thanks too, to everyone else who has sent me records.

VC 49 Caernarvonshire. VCR Wendy McCarthy.

Recording in 2018 focused on progress with Atlas 2020 recording. The Caernarvonshire Recording Group met for 6 official meetings and at least once a week unofficially between April & October. Under-recorded tetrads took priority and the only remaining unvisited tetrad now has over 100 species recorded, thanks to a visit by Mari Roberts and Julie Rose. Top hectad with 7880 records is SH77 while the hectad with the lowest total of 562 records is SH64 which is acceptable though as most of it is in another county. Approximately 85 records have been prepared for publication in Welsh Plant Records.

Updating of the CRPR continues as and when time allows.

Four wild flower identification walks took place at Pencychnant Conservation Centre. A further wild flower walk was led there in July as part of Chris Packham's nationwide bio-blitz. A national BSBI meeting due to be held at Morfa Dinlle had to be cancelled as no bookings were received, in common with meetings in Merioneth and Anglesey.

Highlights include sheets of flowering *Luronium natans* on the Afon Gwyrfai. This species was also recorded in Llyn Padarn by Robbie Blackall-Miles. Robbie also updated records for the endemic *Sorbus arvonensis* by the Menai Strait at Bangor. A visit to the site of *Carex x deserta* (*C. binervis x laevigata*) near Llyn Du proved successful and showed that there were six good sized clumps present. This was a good year for *Orobancha minor* at its only known site in the county, 70 plus spikes were present where there are usually just a handful in most years. *Centaureum littorale* also fared well, taking advantage of eroding clay cliffs at the base of the Great Orme, with up to 100 flowering plants counted.

VC50 Denbighshire VCR Delyth Williams

Progress with Atlas 2020 recording has yet again been our main thrust. The Denbighshire Recording Group met as per the programme on about 20 occasions in under-recorded tetrads. Impromptu meetings and a handful of loyal recorders added significantly to the data, amassing in total over 24,750 records from a large number of tetrads. About 15 records are new to the vice-county and there were 402 new hectad records. We are optimistic that almost every tetrad will have had reasonable coverage by 2020. Only about six upland tetrads have no records. New to the VC include *Pinus radiata* (Monterey Pine), a group of about 10 magnificent mature trees on a verge not far from Bodnant Gardens at SH7971, *Alnus rubra* (Red Alder) in a plantation at Coed Sara, SH8366, *Setaria pumila* (Yellow Bristle-grass) at Marford Hall SJ3655 – probably of bird-seed origin. *Verbena bonariensis* (Argentinian Vervain) was found on disturbed ground at Wrexham Industrial Estate SJ3850, of unknown origin although trucks abound and a single native representative, a hybrid willowherb *Epilobium x vicinum* was found on a verge in SH9249. We enjoyed many splendid days in the sun, finding some more *Trollius* (Globeflower) records as well as new sites for *Veronica spicata* (Spiked Speedwell), *Hordelymus europaeus* (Wood Barley), *Samolus valerandi* (Brookweed) and *Bolboschoenus maritimus* (Sea Club-rush). *Agrimonia procera* (Fragrant Agrimony) and *Euphrasia tetraquetra* were also rare and pleasing finds. Digitising and synchronisation of records to the DDB are a regular occurrence although validation is still incomplete.

VC51 Flintshire Joint VCRs Emily Meilleur & Gail Quartly-Bishop

After a bumper recording year in 2017, with the Annual Summer Meeting held in the county, we returned in 2018 to our more usual level of activity with around 5,500 records received.

Our top recorder was once again Jonathan Shanklin and we thank him heartily for his contribution to our understanding of the Flintshire flora. Jon found *Atriplex x taschereaui* (Taschereau's orache) at Point of Ayr in September, so he adds another new county record to his tally, which already included *Coincya monensis* (Isle of Man cabbage) in 2017.

We also added *Crassula tillaea* (mossy stonecrop) to the Flintshire flora for the first time - found by Matt Pickard whilst visiting friends near Shotwick in June. We have plenty of open sandy soils on the Flintshire coastline, so I expect to see this plant at other sites in future.

Interesting new 10km records included:

- *Artemisia absinthium* (wormwood) near Bodfari
- *Salicornia dolichostachya* (long-spiked glasswort) and *S. ramosissima* (purple glasswort) near Talacre
- *Carex vesicaria* (bladder-sedge) near Penycloddiau
- Inland records of *Catapodium marinum* (sea fern-grass); *Sagina maritima* (sea pearlwort) and *Spergularia marina* (lesser sea spurrey) associated with road salting
- *Vulpia fasciculata* (dune fescue) near Shotwick

We would like to thank all our recorders and in particular James Towers and Julie Rose for leading field meetings early in the season when Gail was still recovering from a broken foot.

We will be running six field recording meetings in Flintshire in 2019, one per month April to September inclusive, as usual. Details will be published on the BSBI website in due course

VC52 Anglesey Joint VCRs Ian Bonner & Nigel Brown

There have been 12 field meetings during 2018 and Debbie Evans, Ted Phenna and Ivor Rees have also been very active in submitting records individually.

Additions to the Native Taxa.

Carex x pseudoaxillaris, the hybrid between *C. otrubae* (False Fox Sedge) and *C. remota* (Remote Sedge), were spotted by Richard Birch near the mouth of the Afon Lleiniog, SH61.79 in October. There were two additional *Atriplex* taxa. *Atriplex praecox* (Early Orache) was found by Ivor Rees by the shore of the Menai Strait, SH45.63. Growing close to the Anglesey plants was the hybrid between *Atriplex praecox* and *A. glabriuscula* (Babington's Orache) identified with help from Paul Green.

While mentioning Oraches – *Atriplex glabriuscula* along the more exposed west has been found by Ivor Rees in a new area. This was along the sheltered shore of the Menai Strait in 9 additional monads.

Additions and reconfirmations of rare and scarce species were more numerous and included:

At least 500 plants of *Teesdalia nudicaulis* (Shepherd's cress) were in evidence along sandy tracks west of Malltraeth SH40.68 in April.

Baldellia ranunculoides ssp repens (Lesser Water-plantain) was doing well at Llyn y Fydlyn SH29.91, despite the low water levels this summer and it was also still at nearby Mynachdy SH30.92. Recent agricultural intensification has meant that some of the eutrophication sensitive plants like *Apium inundatum* (Lesser Marshwort), *Littorella uniflora* (Shoreweed) & *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* (Alternate Water-milfoil) present in 2017 could not be found this year by Andy Jones.

Bromopsis erecta (Upright Brome) was reconfirmed by Tim Blackstock from calcareous grassland at Penmon Point SH64.81.

The dry summer caused significant draw-down on water bodies and this resulted in fine displays of some of the small aquatic species. At Llyn Alaw, SH38, *Eleocharis acicularis* (Needle Spike-rush), and both *Elatine hexandra* (Six stamened Waterwort) & *E. hydropiper* (Eight-stamened Waterwort) were locally abundant all around the reservoir. They were also at Cefni Reservoir, SH47.

The dry summer also enabled Nigel Brown to explore further into the fen at Cors Goch Nature Reserve and re-find a single *Osmunda regalis* (Royal Fern) with just two sterile fronds. John Bratton also re-found Royal Fern on the cliff near Ffynnon Eilian. SH46.93,

Conversely the dry summer resulted in a major reduction in the gentians on the dunes around Rhosneigr, both *Gentianella campestris* (Field Gentian) and *Gentianella amarella* (Autumn Gentian) were very scarce and *spp. septentrionalis* of the latter species was not found at all.

The trips to Llyn Alaw enabled reconfirmation of *Rorippa islandica* (Northern Yellow-cress) SH406.865.

A visit to Llanddwyn in May showed the single patch of *Empetrum nigrum* (Crowberry) still where first noted by Liz and Mike Howe in 2004 – its only known locality.

Llanddwyn also gave the opportunity to re-find *Ophioglossum azoricum* (Small Adder's-tongue) at its only Anglesey location, growing with what appeared to be *O. vulgatum* (Adder's-tongue). With the warden's agreement a sample of both were collected and sent to the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh where in September Markus Ruhsam confirmed that we had indeed found both species.

At the north end of Tywyn Trewan, SH31.76 Flora Group members found more Adder's-tongue resembling both species in rather coarse grassland and gorse scrub on damp peaty sand. Again Markus confirmed the presence of *O. azoricum* – at last a second Anglesey locality.

Still at Tywyn Trewan we failed to find *Chamaemelum nobile* (Chamomile) in its damp hollow. However *Moenchia erecta* (Upright Chickweed) was quite plentiful on the golf course. SH32.75 Sunshine also enabled us to spot small patches of *Hypochaeris glabra* (Smooth Cat's-ear) scattered across the dune system.

A nice surprise on a visit to Cae Hywel SH33.77, (RSPB's Valley Lakes), was discovering about 100 plants of *Filago vulgaris* (Common Cudweed) on a rocky outcrop – only the third post 2000 locality.

On the RSPB's Cors Ddygai reserve Lesley Ball noted *Utricularia australis* (Greater Bladderwort) in flower in one of the drains beside the Afon Cefni

Two British natives in unusual situations were *Lathyrus nissola* (Grass Vetchling) and *Viburnum lantana* (Wayfaring-tree). The Grass Vetchling was spotted by Steph Hoare at the Woodland Trust's Coed Cwr y Pwyll site, SH34.73,

The Wayfaring-tree was a straggly specimen spotted by the Flora Group at Lleiniog SH62.79, probably originally planted.

Neophyte taxa:

An addition to the flora was *Telekia speciosa* (Yellow Oxeye) photographed on a road verge near

Penhesgyn SH53.74 by Jane & Ivor Rees.

Another first record was of *Solanum physalifolium* (Green Nightshade), several plants spotted by John Bratton on Church Island, Menai Bridge, SH55.71.

On a bank between Valley and Four Mile Bridge Debbie Evans noted a first record for *Rhus typhina* (Stag's-horn Sumach), along with *Weigela florida* (Weigela), *Forsythia x intermedia* (Forsythia) and *Buddleja globosa* (Orange-ball-tree).

Claytonia perfoliata (Springbeauty) was confirmed as still present by the Flora group and well established in sandy grassland on the western edge of Malltraeth SH402.685.

Following a first record for *Zantedeschia aethiopica* (Alta-lily) in 2016 a second location was spotted by Nigel Brown at Pentre Berw, SH466.725

Another second record was for the bamboo, *Phyllostachys bambusoides*, well established on a coastal bank near Valley

The presence of *Yucca gloriosa* (Spanish-dagger) at Newborough has always been intriguing. Plants now occur in three monads, SH38.64, 38.65 & 39.65, mainly between the fixed dune and the plantations. In 2018 Nigel Brown counted 22 shoots of which 14 were flowering spikes. In addition in 2018 the Flora Group found 3 plants (one a variegated specimen) on soft coast at Lleiniog, north of Beaumaris, SH61.78 & 62.79.

As we approach the final year of recording for the 2020 Atlas a summary of progress is relevant. The BSBI Database shows that for the 16 hectads the average refind rate is 80% and the average number of species not refound since 2000 is 152, these figures seem disappointingly high; but the figures are based on all date classes – so will include species that may well have been lost many years previously or were only recorded as casuals. However on the positive side the average number of additional taxa per hectad is 130.

Finally some very sad news, Barry Wrightson died unexpectedly in mid November. Barry was one of our most regular attenders of Flora Group meetings with a special knowledge of the Newborough area and a deep understanding of the geology of Anglesey. We will miss him and his eagle eye very much.