



Flora of North-west Yorkshire

A botanical newsletter for VC65

Issue 9, Spring 2017

Welcome to this our ninth newsletter for v.c.65 which is intended to keep you up-to date with botanical activities in North-west Yorkshire. For geographical details of the vice county please visit our website at: <http://bsbi.org/north-west-yorkshire> and click on 'A brief tour of v.c.65.

Last year (2016) I had to give the old house a refurb, a big job, it needed a new roof, a coat of paint and new windows. Work is still on going inside, new stairs, new kitchen etc. etc. My friend Bob the Builder (honest !) did the work and I was the gaffer as in ga-fer this, ga-fer that and take these thousands of slates (well that's what it felt like) up the ladder on to the roof scaffolding !!! As a result work in North West Yorkshire was almost confined to the Field Meetings with one or two extra visits to the Army Ranges with Tim and Eileen Laurie. It did save a fortune in petrol bills.

Field Meetings in 2016

We are still desperately trying to get a basic tetrad coverage of the v.c. completed before the 2020 BSBI Atlas is published. Again we had a lot of meetings in the under-recorded south east, these were well attended, with a couple of new Recorders joining us on the south eastern edge, many thanks Dave & Jackie Barlow and Ishbel Campbell and many thanks Allison Pierre and Nick Morgan for your continued company in the area.

Many thanks also to the Recorders on the west side, Mike Canaway and the Craven Conservation Group, Julie Clarke who is on a mission in the Dent area and Brian Burrow who sends in lots of records from his travels in the area. We also have a new Recorder Dee Halladay who is also working in the west.

Thanks also to Frances Graham from the Yorkshire Dales National Park, she has helped supply records from various projects the National Park is involved in ie. the Hay Meadow Project, Threatened Plant Project and the Notable Plants Project. Frances will be leaving the YDNP at the end of 2016 and starting a new job as the Ecologist with the National Park in the New Year. We wish her all the best.

Hancock and Jay Associates and Martin Hammond have supplied me with records collected in the course of their work, also David Broughton v.c. Recorder for v.c.64 sent in some really interesting records he made during a Survey of Yorkshire Reservoirs, many thanks to you all.

Recording

If you would like to contribute by sending in records please could you send them in Monad (1x1 km square) form, if you stray over the border into another Monad in the same Tetrad (2x2 km square – even numbers) just make a note of it and record only the extras. If some time in the future we have enough recorders to record at Monad scale the data will already be in that form. The 2020 Atlas will be in Tetrad format not Hectad (10x10 km squares) as previously so we still have a lot of work to do as no tetrad recording had been done in N.W. Yorkshire before 2007. Please do try to send records in the above format, if we get records from sites covering two or three tetrads, we cannot incorporate these into the 2020 Atlas. If you need recording cards just let me know, I can supply them hard copy or to print off yourself. Otherwise just a written list or a list on word or excel will do, please put in Recorders names, the date you recorded, GR of monad ie. NY81.11 or for notable plants perhaps an eight or ten figure GR. If you record Orchids perhaps you could send a picture too, this helps reduce erroneous records. We can

supply lists of species for each hectad and lists of old records to re-find. We have produced an excel spreadsheet with all the tetrads and number of species recorded in each, if you would like a copy please ask L.R., it helps to highlight under-recorded tetrads.

Notable finds in 2016

Agrimonia procera (Fragrant Agrimony). This was found at Leighton Reservoir by David Broughton during a Survey of Yorkshire Reservoirs, it was locally abundant in rough grassland at the high water line and on the draw-down zone where Grimes Gill enters the Reservoir. First records for v.c. since 1999.

Bromus erecta (Upright Brome) was seen on a roadside on the Masham Field Meeting in May. There are a few records for this southern species in the v.c. but this was a new tetrad record.

Carex divulsa ssp. *leersii* (Grey Sedge). This was found on a visit to Whitcliffe Wood by Tim and Eileen Laurie and myself in June. Tim had already spotted it a week or two before and this visit was to identify it. The subsp. *leersii* is a brighter yellow green than subsp. *divulsa*, photo below. This is the second record for the v.c. since 1987.

Cynoglossum officinale (Hound's-tongue) Seen in 2015 by Deborah Millward with the Yoredale Naturalists beside the Ure below Leyburn, the first record this century.



Dipsacus pilosus (Small Teasel). This was spotted on a visit to Whitcliffe Wood by Tim and Eileen Laurie and myself in June, there is a record of a few plants in a wooded area near the Richmond Railway Station but this

was quite a large population. This is the third v.c. record since 1987.

Fuschia sp. This was spotted on the verge above Whitcliffe Wood on the way home in June, it doesn't look like *Fuschia magellanica* and will probably need looking at more closely if it survives the winter. This is the second record for a *Fuschia* sp., the other other being a record from Michael Wilcox from Gunnerside in 2015.

Groenlandia densa (Opposite-leaved Pondweed) was seen at the Meeting at Ainderby Steeple in June in conjunction with the Yorkshire Naturalists Union. This was recorded at the Yorkshire Naturalists Union Field Meeting in 1946 in the same area. Unfortunately the fen known as Ainderby Bottoms has mainly been drained and is now arable land with just a small remnant of quarter of an acre remaining but with quite a few of the 1946 species still in existence.

Leucojum vernum (Spring Snowflake) This was recorded on the Field Trip to Morton on Swale in May, this was naturalised over quite a length of verge.

Limosella aquatica (Mudwort) This was found again at Leighton Moss Reservoir during the Reservoir Survey by David Broughton. Occurs on the sandy substrate of the draw-down area where Grimes Gill enters the Reservoir. This was only the second record of this species in v.c.65 this century.

Mimulus moschatus (Musk). At the Field Meeting in August near Gollinglith Foot we found this species naturalised in a small flush. Probably a garden escape. Fourth new site and first new record in v.c.65 since 1987.

Neotinea ustulata (Burnt Orchid) A new site was found near the Swinithwaite population. The farmer told LR he was sure he had found one in another of his hayfields. Sure enough, following his directions one was spotted a couple of fields away, just a few metres away from being a new tetrad record. There are probably other sites in the area awaiting discovery, might be a short notice meeting put on the website and FB page in the summer to search if I can get the other farmers permissions. Let me know if you are interested and I will put you on the 'short-notice' list.

Persicaria minor (Small Water-pepper) This was spotted at Leighton Reservoir and Thornton Stewart Reservoir by David Broughton again whilst surveying Yorkshire Reservoirs. These were the first two records in v.c. 65 this century.

Rorippa amphibia (Great Yellow Cress) This southern species was rediscovered on the banks of the Swale above the bridge at the Field Meeting at Skipton on Swale in April. It had not been recorded at this site since before 1969.

Saxifraga hirculus (Yellow Marsh Saxifrage) has been known on Great Shunner Fell since Derek Ratcliffe recorded it in the 1950's. John O'Reilly has been surveying all its sites in the north of England for Natural England and Tim Laurie and myself accompanied him last August on this trip up Great Shunner Fell. Whilst John surveyed the known sites, Tim and I explored further afield and found another sizeable flush extending into a new tetrad.

Silene noctiflora (Night-flowering Catchfly). This was found by Charles Helm, Yoredale Natural History Society, in a maize field near Jervaulx Abbey in September. Only the second record this century, the other being on the Nosterfield Local Nature Reserve a few years ago.

Spiranthes spiralis (Autumn Ladies Tresses) pictured right. A report was received of two flowering spikes spotted by Martin Hammond via Simon Warwick of the Nosterfield Local Nature Reserve. This was around in the same hectad in 1956 and 1969 but this is the first record this century.



Stellaria neglecta (Greater Chickweed) This was spotted in May on a roadside verge west of Masham towards Gebdykes Quarry, it was spotted again at another Field Meeting near Thirn in June, these are only the 2nd and 3rd records for the v.c.

Recording plans for the future

We are hoping to publish a check list for v.c. 65 in the next year or so and we are still in the process of producing a Rare Plants Register (which we can't really do until we have a baseline survey of all tetrads). We are focusing our recording efforts on species that are either nationally rare or scarce (i.e. recorded in less than 100 10 × 10 km squares) or classified as threatened in the new Red Data List of the British flora published in 2005. Currently this includes the 126 native and archaeophyte taxa listed below:

Key: **Pink highlight** species recorded before 2000 but not Since.

Yellow highlight, species discovered new to v.c.65 post 2000

No highlight, species recorded before and after 2000.

Actea spicata - Baneberry

Alchemilla acutiloba – Starry Lady's Mantle

Alchemilla glaucescens – Silky Lady's Mantle

Alchemilla glomerulans – Clustered Lady's Mantle

Alchemilla minima – Least Lady's Mantle

Alchemilla subcrenata – Large-toothed Lady's Mantle

Alchemilla wichurae – Rock Lady's Mantle

Allium oleraceum – Field Garlic

Alopecurus magellanicus – Alpine Foxtail

Anacamptis morio – Green-winged Orchid

Anthemis arvensis – Corn Chamomile

Asplenium trichomanes subsp. *pachyrachis* – Maidenhair Spleenwort

Bartsia alpina – Alpine Bartsia

Blysmus compressus – Flat Sedge

Bromopsis benekenii – Lesser Hairy-brome

Cardamine impatiens – Narrow-leaved Bitter-cress

Carex capillaris – Hair Sedge

Carex digitata – Fingered Sedge

Carex ericetorum – Rare Spring-sedge

Carex muricata subsp. *muricata* – Large-fruited Prickly-Sedge

Carex vaginata – Sheathed Sedge

Chenopodium bonus-henricus – Good King Henry

Circaea alpina – Alpine Enchanter's-nightshade

Clinopodium calamintha – Lesser Calamint

Cochlearia micacea – Mountain Scurvygrass

Cochlearia pyrenaica – Pyrenean Scurvygrass

Coeloglossum viride – Frog Orchid

Crepis mollis – Northern Hawk's-beard

Cynoglossum officinale – Hound's Tongue

Cypripedium calceolus – Lady’s Slipper Orchid
Dactylorhiza traunsteinerioides – Pugsley’s Orchid
Daphne mezereum - Mezereon
Draba muralis – Wall Whitlow Grass
Dryas octopetala – Mountain Avens
Dryopteris submontana – Rigid Buckler Fern
Epipactis atrorubens – Dark-red Helleborine
Epipactis phyllanthes – Green-flowered Helleborine
Equisetum pratense – Shady Horsetail
Equisetum variegatum – Variegated Horsetail
Eriophorum gracile – Slender Cottongrass
Erophila majuscula – Hairy Whitlowgrass
Euphorbia exigua – Dwarf Spurge
Euphrasia officinalis subsp. *monticola* – Montane Eyebright
Euphrasia officinalis subsp. *pratensis* – Rostkov’s Eyebright
Filago vulgaris – Common cudweed
Fumaria purpurea – Purple Ramping-fumitory
Galeopsis angustifolia – Red Hemp-nettle
Galeopsis speciosa – Large-flowered Hemp-nettle
Genista anglica – Petty Whin
Gentiana verna – Spring Gentian
Gentianella campestris – Field Gentian
Glebionis segetum – Corn Marigold
Gnaphalium sylvaticum – Heath Cudweed
Groenlandia densa – Opposite-leaved Pondweed
Gymnocarpium robertianum – Limestone Fern
Helianthemum oelandicum subsp. *levigatum* – Subspecies of Hoary Rockrose
Hordelymus europaeus – Wood Barley
Hornungia petraea - Hutchinsia
Hymenophyllum wilsonii – Wilson’s Filmy-fern
Hyoscyamus niger - Henbane
Hypericum montanum – Pale St. John’s-wort
Imperatoria ostruthium - Masterwort
Juncus alpinoarticulatus – Alpine Rush
Juncus compressus – Round-fruited Rush
Kobresia simpliciuscula – False Sedge
Limosella aquatica - Mudwort
Linum perenne – Perennial Flax
Luronium natans – Floating Water-plantain
Lysimachia thysiflora – Tufted Loosestrife
Melampyrum sylvaticum – Small Cow-wheat
Meum athamanticum - Spignel
Minuartia hybrida – Fine-leaved Sandwort
Minuartia verna – Spring Sandwort
Myosotis alpestris – Alpine Forget-me-not
Myosotis stolonifera – Pale Forget-me-not
Myosurus minimus - Mousetail
Myriophyllum verticillatum – Whorled Water-milfoil
Neotinea ustulata – Burnt Orchid
Noccea caerulescens – Alpine Penny-cress

Oenanthe fistulosa – Tubular Water-dropwort
Ophrys insectifera – Fly Orchid
Orobanche alba – Thyme Broomrape
Orobanche rapum-genistae – Greater Broomrape
Orobanche reticulata – Thistle Broomrape
Papaver argemone – Prickly Poppy
Persicaria minor – Small Water-pepper
Pilularia globulifera - Pillwort
Polemonium caeruleum – Jacob’s-Ladder
Polygala amarella – Dwarf Milkwort
Polystichum lonchitis – Holly Fern
Potamogeton coloratus – Fen Pondweed
Potamogeton friesii – Flat-stalked Pondweed
Potentilla crantzii – Alpine Cinquefoil
Potentilla fruticosa – Shrubby Cinquefoil
Potentilla tabernaemontani – Spring Cinquefoil
Primula farinosa – Bird’s-eye Primrose
Pseudorchis albida – Small-white Orchid
Ranunculus arvensis – Corn Buttercup
Ribes alpinum – Mountain Currant
Ribes spicatum – Downy Currant
Rosa agrestis – Small-leaved Sweet-briar
Rumex pseudoalpinus – Monk’s Rhubarb
Saxifraga hirculus – Marsh Saxifrage
Saxifraga hypnoides – Mossy Saxifrage
Scandix pecten-veneris – Shepherd’s-needle
Scheuchzeria palustris – Rannoch Rush
Sedum villosum – Hairy Stonecrop
Sesleria caerulea – Blue Moor-grass
Silene gallica – Small-flowered Catchfly
Silene noctiflora – Night-flowering Catchfly
Sium latifolium – Greater Water-parsnip
Sorbus rupicola – Rock Whitebeam
Spergula arvensis – Corn Spurrey
Spiranthes spiralis – Autumn Lady’s-tresses
Stachys arvensis – Field Woundwort
Stellaria palustris – Marsh Stitchwort
Teesdalia nudicaulis – Shepherd’s Cress
Teucrium scordium – Water Germander
Tilia platyphyllos – Large-leaved Lime
Turritis glabra – Tower Mustard
Utricularia australis - Bladderwort
Valerianella dentata – Narrow-fruited Cornsalad
Vicia orobus – Wood Bitter-vetch
Viola tricolor – Wild Pansy
Woodsia ilvensis – Oblong Woodsia

Some of these species are long extinct (e.g. *Cypripedium calceolus*, *Eriophorum gracile*, *Scheuchzeria palustris*, *Woodsia ilvensis*), a couple of these have been reintroduced recently and some like *Vicia orobus* only present at one site near Sedbergh have been seen post 2000 but now appear to be extinct. Others are relatively

common in VC65 (e.g. *Minuartia verna*, *Primula farinosa*, *Sesleria caerulea*). We would welcome any recent records or help with checking out old sites for any of these species. We have already made a good start to record the flora of the entire county at tetrad scale. Our Field Meetings this year reflect the areas where we have few or no records, along with some to turn up old records. Please feel free to come along to these.

Facebook

We now have a Facebook Site if you are on Facebook look up **North West Yorkshire Botany**, and become a member of the group, whilst it is not directly associated with the BSBI it was set up with a view to getting a 'not too serious' look at our work out there, and hopefully getting some records back, this has worked well and we have had more records coming in during 2015/16 and gained a few new members.

Field Meetings 2017

All Field Meetings start at 10.30am. If you intend to come along to meetings please try and let Linda Robinson know, contact details at end of Newsletter. If you need to know more about the Craven Conservation Meetings please contact Mike Canaway on 01729823808.

2nd January (Monday) – B.S.B.I. New Year Plant Hunt – Meet at roadside on the eastern edge of Hardraw village at SD868.912. We will book a Pub lunch so please let me know if you are coming.

11th February (Saturday) Snowdrops and other spring species weather permitting. Drive along verges and lanes looking for naturalised Snowdrops and other spring aliens (more than 25m away from habitation). Probably drop off for lunch at a Pub or Coffee Shop so no packed lunch needed. Meet at Moulton near Scotch Corner beside the Pub at NZ237.037

11th March (Saturday) – Gagea hunt on the Tees at Stapleton, Meet in Stapleton on the edge of the village green near the 3 way junction at NZ264.123.

18th March (Saturday) – Gagea Hunt on the Ure near Middleham. Meet just north of Middleham near the footpath at The Busks SE125.882.

29th April (Saturday) – West Witton, walk along roads and tracks to Witton Steeps, along to Nossil End and the old disused quarry, and back to West Witton via the waterfall and woodlands. Meet just out of West Witton near the lower single steep road arrow on the map at SE063.880.

25th May (Sunday) – Ellingstring, footpaths through Woodland and old lanes and some springs thrown in.

Meet near Milestone Bank Plantation at the junction of the footpath with Stark Bank Road at SE166.837

31st May (Wednesday) – Wraymire Gill and Fairy Gill from Bluecaster Side. Ascending the Gill habitat culminating in limestone cliffs and a pothole at the head of Wraymire Gill before returning via the moorland. Park near Cautley on the open fell up the narrow lane at SD699.960. In conjunction with the Craven Conservation Group. Difficulty – moderate.

9th June (Friday) – In conjunction with the Yorkshire Naturalists Union, A hunt to refind old *Alchemilla* records on the verges around Cotherstone, Romalldkirk and Briscoe and hopefully turn up more. High viz clothing would be useful. Meet on the verge at the junction with Hard Ings road at NZ000.207

14th June (Wednesday) – Bluecaster Lane and Ecker Secker Beck. Park near Cautley as for Wed 31st May Meeting. Recording in tree-lined lane with ancient hedgerows and ferns then descending into a Wooded Gill. Return via the foot of Fairy Gill to parking area. In conjunction with Craven Conservation Group. Difficulty – Easy except last section which is Moderate.

25th June (Sunday) – Kirby Wiske and surrounding area, to look for old records of *Persicaria minor* and other species recorded in the last century. Meet in Kirby Wiske Car Park at SE377.848

5th July (Wednesday) – Taythes Gill. Park near Cautley as previous meetings on 31st May and 14th June. We will ascend the gill and return via a segment of limestone grassland with outcrops. We will be off-paths and walking poles might be useful particularly for crossing streams. In conjunction with Craven Conservation Group. Difficulty – Moderate.

15th July (Saturday) – Boldron, verges and footpaths around Boldron with some tantalizing unconfirmed old records of rare *Alchemilla* sp. All to find. Meet Boldron village near the Pub at NZ034.144

29th July (Saturday) – Barningham, footpaths and verges over moorland, meet near the cattle grid at NZ078.100

12th August (Saturday) – Rawthey Ramble. Park at car park near SD7122.9789, 100m before Rawthey Bridge. If you can't see the bridge you have not gone far enough as confusingly there is another car park beforehand. We will explore shake holes and swallow holes on the northern part of Bluecaster before visiting some fine riverside habitat. In conjunction with the Craven Conservation Group. Difficulty – Moderate

27th August (Sunday) – A higher level Meeting starting at Cowgill Head Bridge, visiting shake holes, springs and

shaking moss. There are some tracks on the fell but we will not be sticking to them, may be quite hard going. Meet at Cowgill Head Bridge at SD786.891

9th September (Saturday) – Snape, near Bedale, looking for old wetland species along the ditches around Snape Mires. Meet near Ings Lane end just out of Snape at SE271.844

Contact details

Linda Robinson, The Cottage, Melmerby, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 1HN. Phone: 01768 881714 or 07951274951
Email: lindarobinson157@btinternet.com

Kevin Walker, 97 Dragon Parade, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 5DG. Phone: 01423 544902.
Email: kevinwalker@bsbi.org.uk