

## **BSBI CHESHIRE RECORDING NEWSLETTER – 2018**

The year began in April with a visit to Styal Woods where the bluebells were just getting going. *Viola reichenbachiana* was flowering and *Daphne laureola* still hangs on at Giant's Castle, though *Prunus laurocerasus* threatens to crowd it out. *Rubus spectabilis* was well established and displayed its pretty pink flowers. Later in April, we wandered along the canal at Ellesmere Port in SJ47D and recorded 90 of which 83 were new! An open area had *Saxifraga tridactylites*, *Cerastium diffusum* and *Erophila verna*. We also came across *Hedera colchica*, and lots of Veronicas. The canal had a nice colony of *Caltha var polypetala*, a robust garden escape. Julie Clarke lead the May meeting in SJ65A where we added 82 species including *Ranunculus fluitans*, *Fumaria bastardii*, *Allium triquetrum*, and lots of *Ranunculus bulbosus*. There was no sign of *Calagrostis* on the canal towpath which was closely mown.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lower Whitley, we added 74 to SJ67E including *Ulmus laevis*, *Crataegus persimilis*, but both planted. In Higher Whitley, we added 21 to SJ68A. *Iris sibirica* was by a duck-pond, and *Myosotis discolor*, *Vulpia bromoides*, and *Anagallis arvensis* were on a sandy area by a fishing pool. June 17<sup>th</sup> was a very hot day in Sound, but we added 142 making 179. *Malva neglecta*, *Carduus nutans*, *Carex muricata ssp pairae*, *Ceratochloa carinata*, and *Lepidium ruderales* were interesting records. A few of us just had enough energy to look at *Drosera intermedia* in its newly found site on Sound Common, now apparently the only VC58 location (see below). July found us at Eastham Ferry where we found 136 records making 152 in monad 3681, and 174 in the tetrad. *Calystegia x lucana*, (det Eric Greenwood), *Dryopteris affinis*, (det John Hawksford), *Polystichum setiferum*, *Cotoneaster simonsii*, *dielsianus*, and *rehderi* (det JEH) were seen. There was plenty of *Clematis vitalba* but no sign of *Mentha pulegium* which used to be there. Martyn did some morning recording in SJ38R and the rest of us joined in afterwards. *Sherardia arvensis*, *Catapodium marinum*, *Aster tripolium*, and *Arenaria leptoclados* were interesting finds. Total 159 all but 6 new.

August in Frodsham monad 5176 was targeted on *Trichomanes speciosum* gametophyte and *Melampyrum pratense*. We recorded 101 taxa of which about 45 were new which is quite surprising in such a limited habitat. They included *Pteridium*!, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Ceratocarpus*, *Solierolia* and *Oxalis exilis* along with other common plants. The total is now 250. We actually found the target species this time even if it meant peering into dark, muddy crevices with a torch halfway up a steep cliff to see *Trichomanes*! The lack of variety was offset by the dramatic cliffs and woodland scenes. September on Thurstaston Common in SJ28M was sad as there was no sign of *Droseras* or *Scutellaria*

minor. The habitats were very dry and/or overgrown. We did add a planted *Sorbus croceocarpa*, and saw *Plantago coronopus*, *Spergularia rubra*, *Lythrum portula*, and plenty of *Osmunda regalis*. An extra meeting was held in SJ54H and added 84 making 244, including *Crataegus laevigata*. *Juglans regia*, *Verbascum speciosum*. *Rosa x dumetorum*, *R. sherardii*, and *Ranunculus fluitans*. We passed briefly through SJ54G and were delighted to come across *Carduus nutans* and *C. nutans x crispus*, a 1<sup>st</sup> VC record. Also noted were *Bidens frondosa*, *Darmera peltata* and *Potentilla x mixta* as the bridge and 200m along the canal were that square, a fact not realised at the time! 9 records, none previously.

There is still scope for solo recording. Why not record your local tetrad or monad. There are always common species missing and you never know what you might find. In 2017, Stewart Robert Hinsley found *Malva pseudolavatera* and *Malva parviflora*. Jack Swan discovered *Cuscuta campestris* on *Persicaria hydropiper* on Chester Zoo land with no obvious source. *Pyrola rotundifolia* spp *maritima* was a fine find by R. Freeth at Red Rocks. Ron Warne found *Cyrtomium fortunei* in Dibbinsdale. Prompted by an article in BSBI News, I realised that the parsnip found abundantly on the Ringway motorway system and scattered west along the M56 was *Pastinaca sylvestris* ssp *urens* which was previously only known from E Anglia. Take care if handling it. Also on the M56, Paul Stanley spotted *Dittrichia graveolens* which is spreading by main roads.

## CHESHIRE PLANT RECORDING MEETINGS FOR 2018

Meetings begin at 2pm unless otherwise stated and last until about 5pm. It is usually a gentle stroll and all are invited but these days it is at your own risk.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March Plumley. Park at end of lane SJ705752. Coming from the east, you need to go on to the traffic lights and follow Plumley sign but do a U-turn back down A556.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April Crewe. Park in old road at SJ681575 and go east.

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May Wrinehill. Park at SJ750467, just E of bridge. We will search to the W in VC58.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Farndon. Park on N of river just S of bridge at SJ412544 to go N to cover 3955. Hopefully, we will see *Thalictrum flavum*.

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June Hilbre Island. Meet at the slipway SJ210868 at 10.30am and bring lunch.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July Grindley Brook SJ514437 at 11am. Another look at the hybrid thistle and SJ5044. Bring lunch.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August Sound. Park as last year at SJ623479 and go west.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August Little Budworth. Park in village and meet by the church SJ598653, recording to the east.

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September Alderley Edge Park at SJ860783 to record in tetrad 8478.

Graeme M Kay 4, Geneva Road, Bramhall, Cheshire SK7 3HT  
0161 439 7995 mobile on meeting days 07981 935643.  
email [graeme.m.kay@gmail.com](mailto:graeme.m.kay@gmail.com)



*Drosera intermedia*, Sound (Stewart R Hinsley)



*Lepidium sativum* in Cheadle.



*Lepidium sativum* in Cheadle.



*Cuscuta campestris* at Chester Zoo.



*Cuscuta campestris* at Chester Zoo. (Jack Swan)



*Pyrola rotundifolia* spp *maritima*, Red Rocks. (R. Freeth)





*Lycopodium clavatum* at Holme Moss. A few meters outside VC58!