

BSBI CHESHIRE RECORDING NEWSLETTER – 2016

The year began in SJ74A/B and SJ64V where a total of 107 records was added. It was a sunny day, full of roadworks and mud, with the highlight being several small strips of woodland with *Adoxa*, *Allium ursinum*, *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*, *Anemone*, and *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*. In April we visited SJ64Z at Walgherton. *Cerastium semidecandrum* was not where previously seen, but as we left the pub after lunch, we found it on the road verge just outside, along with *Cerastium diffusum*, *Plantago coronopus* and *Stellaria pallida*! Later we saw *Adoxa* again, *Ribes rubrum* and an odd form of *Spergula arvensis* which puzzled us for quite a while. 112 additions were made. In May, we visited Bell o' th' Hill where the designated pub was shut causing a few problems. We added 160 to SJ54H with plenty of *Stellaria neglecta*, and an abundance of *Lamium album* and *Chelidonium majus*. A roadside *Sagina* later proved to be *S. filicaulis*, not *maritima*, as hoped. *Viola odorata* was found along with a Herb Robert with finely divided leaves, named as *Geranium robertianum* var *tenuisectum*. *Fraxinus angustifolius*, which has brown buds and narrow leaflets, was found planted by the A41.

The joint venture with the WFS in SJ76L added 95 with *Ranunculus peltatus* and *R auricomus* as notable species. *Centranthus ruber* was naturalised on a railway bridge. A day's recording near Minshull Vernon in 4 tetrads, 66Q 194(14), 66V 128(66), 65U 141(24), 66Z 201(36), yielded good colonies of *Cicuta*, *Veronica catenata*, *Rorippa palustris*, *Carex pseudocyperus*, *Equisetum fluviatile* and *Myosotis laxa*. One pond even had *Allium christophii* on its bank. *Carex sylvatica* made a churchyard interesting along with *Pilosella aurantiaca* ssp *carpathicola* and more *Stellaria neglecta*. In early July we spent the day by the R. Weaver near Aston finding *Bromus secalinus* on the way down. *Carduus tenuiflorus* was still there despite the attempts of cattle to remove it. It caused much discussion, as it is atypically large in height and flower size and looks like *C. crispus*, but the later find of a genuine specimen of this, settled the matter. SJ57N yielded 165 records adding 38 to 252 including *Apium graveolens*, *Carex disticha*, *Oenanthe fistulosa*, but *Thalictrum flavum* was not relocated. We moved into SJ57T making 132 records adding 41 to 186. *Tilia cordata*, *Campanula latifolia*. *Galium odoratum*, x *Schedolium loliaceum*, and *Euonymous europaeus* were welcome sights. More *Bromus secalinus* and *B. commutatus* illustrated their spread in recent years. *Viola arvensis* was new to SJ57P. Later in July, *en route* to 56A, we added 16 to SJ46V, including *Carex spicata*, *Pimpinella saxifraga* and *Prunus padus*. In SJ56A, we found 2 *Populus nigra* ssp *betulifolia*, a fine patch of *Silaum silaus*, *Cicuta virosa* and a curious red *Trifolium repens*. *Veronica catenata* was seen but not the hoped-for *Anagallis tenella*. 46 additions made a total of 235.

In SJ66H, we added 95, making 202. *Serratula* and *Populus nigra* ssp *betulifolia* were not refound, but *Urtica dioica* ssp *galeopsifolia* was a very nice spot in the hedgerow, being the only modern record of it. The previous one is a herbarium specimen from 1901. *Euonymus europaeus* was in a hedgerow, and some ponds yielded *Oenanthe fistulosa*, *Acorus*, and *Veronica scutellata*. *Potentilla x mixta* was also seen. The September venture up into the hills above Tintwistle was diverted by the weather, but even so, a very heavy shower halted progress for a while. In SK09P we added 30 including *Polygonum parvulum*, *Isolepis setacea*, and *Aira caryophylla*. By the reservoir in SK09I was an area of disturbed earth, where we saw *Polypogon viridis*, *Agrostis castellana*, *Aethusa cynapium* ssp *elata*, (another first record) and *Veronica anagallis-aquatica* which is otherwise not found in VC58. *Spiraea x billardii* was among the 83 additions that were made.

Other recording produced *Typha x glauca* at Winsford, *Inula hookeri* by Marple canal, and *Levisticum officinale* at Antrobus. *Corylus avellana* var. *grandis* and var. *glomerata* (both of which are forms of *avellana* x *maxima*, but not apparently separated taxonomically as such) were found on the Trans-Pennine Trail, the latter being very popular with squirrels.

CHESHIRE PLANT RECORDING MEETINGS FOR 2016

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.

Saturday 16th April 2pm Warburton Church SJ687896 to visit SJ69V

Sunday 8th May SJ636410 on verge. Lunch from noon in the Lord Combermere in Audlem if you like.

Saturday 28th May SJ684415 on verge. Audlem pub again if desired.

Saturday 18th June SJ615680 Whitegate Way old station 11.00am. Leader Julie Clarke colin.julie@gmail.com, 01539563504

Saturday 2nd July Park in layby S of Peckforton SJ537561 to search for Melampyrum in the Peckforton Hills. Lunch in the Yew Tree Inn, Spurstow

Saturday 16th July Park in the car park by Lamaload Reservoir SJ975753 to go east for sedges and Brachypodium pinnatum agg.

Sunday 7th August 11am Alvanley. Park on verge at SJ510742 to go N to seek Anagallis tenella and Melampyrum pratense. Bring lunch.

Sunday 28th August Northwich bypass. Park by houses W of Weaver bridge at SJ649712, NB only accessible from the east. We will look for Cicutia to the south.

Sunday 11th September Wirral. Initially, park at SJ250852 to check Rosa x margerisonii, then move to the promenade at SJ233906 at ca 12 noon for Rosa x hibernica and recording to the east. Bring lunch.

Graeme M Kay 4, Geneva Road, Bramhall, Cheshire SK7 3HT
0161 439 7995 mobile on meeting days 07805 748732.
email graeme.m.kay@gmail.com



Carduus tenuiflorus by the R. Weaver at Aston.



Urtica dioica ssp *galeopsifolia* at Winsford.



Inula hookeri by the canal at Marple.



Coryllus avellana var *grandis* (= *C. avellana* x *maxima*).



Trifolium repens forma *atropurpureum*.



*Brachypodium pinnatum/rupestr*e at Lamaload. To be visited in 2016.