

JOAN BANKS

(1937–2011)

Joan Banks was born and brought up at Tadworth, Surrey, a county for which she retained great affection, particularly Thursley Common where she spent many happy hours. Her love of natural history was nurtured by her parents both of whom were keen naturalists and it was perhaps this interest which tempted her to settle in Jersey soon after holidaying in the island in 1953. Married life and the demands of bringing up her four children, particularly following the death of her husband when their youngest child was only fourteen months old, precluded much early active involvement in Jersey's wild life.

As the children grew older Joan was able to devote more time to her leisure pursuits, especially botany, although she was also keenly interested in other branches of natural history, particularly butterflies and dragonflies.

In 1986 Joan joined the Botany Section of the Société Jersiaise, the local society for research into all aspects of island life, past and present, and immediately became involved in recording plants for the BSBI survey in which Jersey was taking part. Following the retire-

ment of Frances Le Sueur as Chairman of the Section in 1992 Joan took her place and was an active and enthusiastic leader for seven years, which included an immense amount of plant recording in the Bailiwick for the BSBI New Atlas project which was undertaken very largely by Joan and myself.

In 1996 Joan and I became joint Vice-County Recorders for Jersey and it was only failing health over the past two or three years which forced her to give up this position in 2010.

Joan's interest in the Jersey countryside was not confined to her participation in the work of the Société. She was also an active member of the National Trust for Jersey and, through her position on the Trust's Lands Committee, was always prepared to offer advice and assistance to the Trust's rangers on the management of its numerous countryside properties.

Joan made valuable contributions to our knowledge of plants in Jersey and she will be greatly missed by her many friends and colleagues.

MARGARET L. LONG



Joan Banks at a Société Jersiaise Botany
Section field meeting in May 2010
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