

PLANTS UNITED!



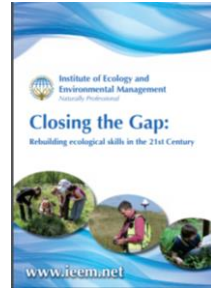
Dr Jonathan Mitchley (AKA Dr M)

WHAT IS PLANTS UNITED?!



PLANTS UNITED – THE ISSUE

- T&E Committee initiative
- Focus is the botanical skills gap (e.g. CIEEM)
- Lack of botanical and fungal identification skills
- Narrow audience base to draw new recorders from



WE NEED A PLAN!



THE BOTANISTS IN THE ROOM!

- What is the collective noun for a room full of botanical experts?



WE WANT YOUR HELP!

- Plants United Questionnaire
- Q1: What got you interested in plants and when?



SUPPORTING EXPERTISE

- BSBI Recorders are doing a fantastic job
- Increasingly important - maintain evidence base for conservation, planning developments, climate change
- How can BSBI better support and encourage?
- Q2: What is the greatest need for botanical recorders?



WHO NEEDS BOTANICAL SKILLS?

- BSBI recorders
- Botanic Gardens
- Museums
- Ecological consultancies
- Teachers
- etc



WHO IS DOING THE TRAINING?

- Q3: Who can BSBI work most effectively with to enhance botanical training at different levels?



British Mycological
Society promoting fungal science



British
Lichen
Society





MY EXPERIENCE AS A TRAINER

- Keying
- Confidence
- Kick start!
- Colleagues



FROM THIS...



TO THIS!







AGE OF AMAZING RESOURCES!



Linked in





#HERBOLOGYHUNT
THE MAGIC OF WILD FLOWERS



Twitter: @herbologyhunt
Instagram:
wildflowerhour
Facebook:
Herbologyhunt

Hedge woundwort
Stachys sylvatica

This has a lovely spire of reddish-purple flowers that have white spots on them. The leaves are heart-shaped, toothed and hairy. The plant has an unpleasant smell described as "foetid". Found along hedges and in shady places. The leaves of the plant were used in olden days to stop wounds bleeding.

When I found it:

Where I found it:



Bulrush

Typha latifolia

Very tall – 1.5 to 3 m high, with a distinctive large brown sausage-shaped flower-head made up of lots of tiny male and female flowers. Leaves are long and strap-shaped. Plants grow in clumps. Found in wet places such as river edges, ditches and marshes. The plants can clean the water by absorbing some types of pollution. Dried leaves were used to make chairs seats by weaving them together.

When I found it:

Where I found it:



= AUGUST =
SPOTTER SHEET

Can you find all the wild flowers on this sheet?
Post your pictures on the Herbology Facebook group, or on Twitter and Instagram using the #herbologyhunt hashtag.
wildflowerhour.co.uk/herbologyhunt



My name:

My age:

If you're really good at finding flowers, you can join the Wild Flower Society as a #herbologyhunt member and get a free hand lens, a diary where you can record all your plant finds, and printed copies of these spotter sheets. If you find 50 plants in one year, you'll get a T-shirt. Go to thewildflowersociety.org.uk

Ragwort.

Jacobaea vulgaris

This is a tall growing plant with bright yellow daisy-like flowers. The flowers are grouped together. The leaves have deep wavy edges, (lobed), and grow alternately up the stem. It is found growing on rough ground and in grassy places. The plant is poisonous to horses when dried and in a hay bale. Animals tend to avoid eating the living plant. Ragwort is an important source of food for many insects.

When I found it:

Where I found it:



Great plantain
Plantago major

The leaves grow flat to the ground in well-trodden areas on grass and edges of paths. It has wide leaves with parallel veins. If the leaves are very hairy you may have found Hoary plantain. It has very small flowers grouped around a long green spike. In the USA it was called "white man's foot" as wherever the Europeans went, the plantain grew.

When I found it:

Where I found it:



Figwort

Scrophularia nodosa

This plant has small flowers with a purple top lip and white parts beneath. Bees love them! The leaves are pointed and smooth. The stem is square, but if there are big "wings" on the corners you may have found Water figwort. This plant is also "foetid". Found in woods and other shady places. It was once used to treat a disease called scrofula.

When I found it:

Where I found it:



The BSBI is for everyone who cares about the wild plants of Britain and Ireland. Since 1836, we've been promoting the study, understanding and enjoyment of British and Irish botany.

We support all botanists - beginner or expert, amateur or professional - as they identify, record and map what grows where: our data and knowledge underpin the conservation of the British and Irish flora.





Welcome to the BSBI New Year Plant Hunt

Thank you to everybody who sent us records of plants in bloom for the 2018 New Year Plant Hunt. Find out what we did with your results and carry on plant hunting all year round.

[Learn more >](#)

[2018 Results >](#)

Click on the markers
to view the plant
records that have
been sent in so far.

Crymlyn
Burrows
2018-01-01

*Leucanthemum
vulgare* Coxe
Daisy

*Ranunculus
repens*
Wild Ranunculus

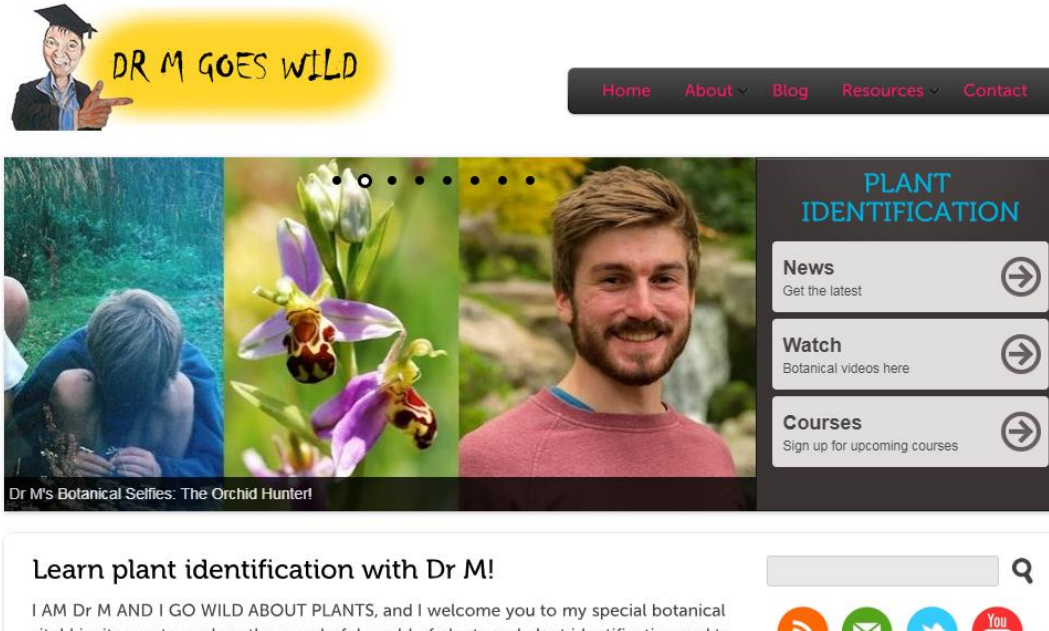
Ulex europaeus
Gorse



#NewYearPlantHunt
Tweets



DRMGOESWILD.COM



Home Moments Notifications Messages Search Twitter Tweet

 **Kelly Sheppard**
@kellyshep01 [Follow](#)

My little girl just announced she wants to study plants! No longer wants to be a vet...apparently 2/3 of the worlds plant species are in the Amazon rain forest and there is an unstorey layer without sun and is hot. She has asked I find some books for her (9years) any suggestions

9:55 AM - 4 Oct 2018

1 Retweet 11 Likes 

8 1 11

 Tweet your reply

 **Dr M** @drmgoeswild · 21h
Replying to @kellyshep01
I'm talking @BSIBotany Recorders Conference Friday will ask for suggestions. I recommend she gets Collins Wildflower Guide & identifies plants she finds on

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Events?
- Festival?
- Think wide and shallow?
- Or narrow and deep?



PLANTS UNITED FESTIVAL IDEAS

- Q4: What activities should be included & where might they be held?
 - Bioblitzes
 - Records days
 - Plant Ambassadors
 - Apprenticeships
 - Darwin Scholarship
 - Artist-in-residence
 - Symposium



WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE?

- How to engage more young people?



FIELD IDENTIFICATION SKILLS CERTIFICATE

- FISC has changed the botanical training landscape
- Industry standard for consultants (CIEEM)
- But can we do more?
- Why not a Junior FISC?
- Link to DoE Awards?





BSBI MEMBERSHIP

Year	Total membership	New members
2020	??	??
2019	?	?
2018	2915	224
2017	2859	273
2016	2768	260
2015	2708	241
2014	2654	230
2013	2896	176

WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE?

- Q5: How can we better engage with groups to promote botany training?
- Schools
- Local groups
- Universities





BOTANICAL UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE!



HELP US PASS THE BUC

Which is the odd one out: Toothwort, Birds-nest Orchid, Mistletoe, Yellow Rattle
Which is the odd one out: Summer Lady's Tresses, Interrupted Brome, Alpine Buttercup
Which is the odd one out: Meadow Saxifrage, Starry Saxifrage, Mossy Saxifrage, Carpet Saxifrage
Which is the odd one out: Calyx, Anther, Stipule, Stigma

Please
contribute
questions!

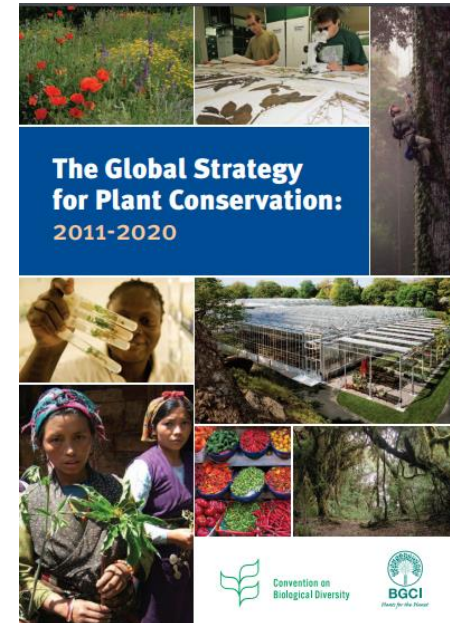
FASCINATION OF PLANTS DAY

- Every 2nd year on May 18th
- Aim to get as many people as possible around the world fascinated by and enthused about the importance of plants!



GLOBAL CONTEXT - GSPC

- Biodiversity 2020
- A timely focus for Plants United?



IL SISTEMA FOR BOTANY?





READING BOTANY 2019

Training generations of botanists since 1969

A series of events to mark the 50th anniversary
of Masters botany teaching at Reading

@Plants2019

LIMITLESS **POTENTIAL** | LIMITLESS **OPPORTUNITIES** | LIMITLESS **IMPACT**

AND FINALLY

- Please fill in the questionnaire and hand it back to me before the end of the meeting
- And come and discuss the ideas so we can take this forward!

THANKS FOR LISTENING!

