

Warwickshire Flora Group

Newsletter No. 9 March 2015



DANDELION DAY

Did you know that 58 micro-species of Dandelions have been seen in Warwickshire? There are tall ones, small ones and stripy ones and there have been very few records from Warwickshire during the last 40 years!

We will be having a **Dandelion Day at Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve on Saturday 18 April** to try and rectify this. We will need your help to photograph, collect, write up notes and carefully press specimens to be sent off to the BSBI Dandelion Referee. We will have a valiant attempt at identification too, and no level of expertise is required. We will meet at The Barn at 10 a.m.

On **Tuesday 7 April** there will be an opportunity to take a tour around the **new herbarium** in Montague Road, Warwick. Meet at 1.30 p.m. You can park in the large car park which is through a gate on the right hand side. For those of you interested in coming to The Dandelion Day there will be a selection of *Taraxacum* specimens available to compare.

Please e mail us on johnwalton46@tiscali.co.uk or ring us on 01827-712455 if you would like to come to either event.

The Warwickshire Flora Group

INDOOR MEETING 2015

will be held on the morning of Saturday 28 March 2015 in The Barn,
Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve, CV3 3GW.

Brian Laney will be the main speaker this year giving
his new talk on Urban Botany

John Roberts will be recounting his experiences of
Plant Hunting in Warwickshire Villages, and more.

Join us for at 10 a.m. for tea and biscuits, the talks starting at 10.30 a.m.

We will aim to finish by 1 p.m.

There will also be a walk around the reserve after lunch.
(Bring sandwiches or use the cafe).

Admission is free.

Contact us at:

John and Monika Walton, johnwalton46@tiscali.co.uk or 01827 712455

FIELD MEETINGS 2015

The spring and summer Field Meetings Calendar will have been sent to you with this Newsletter.

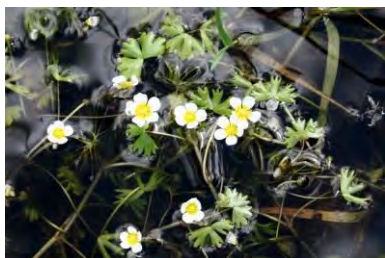
We will continue to cover the less visited parts of the county to provide records for the BSBI 2020 Atlas project and also visit some of the county's more important sites. Highlights include:

- Warwickshire's second Green Hellebore site
- our first trip to a large urban cemetery
- a visit to Burton Dassett CP, one of the best areas of limestone grassland in the county

We will be travelling out of county again with Brian Laney, this time to the Peak District to look for rarities and special plants of the limestone hills.

DIFFICULT PLANTS - HOW YOU CAN HELP.

We have decided to try and tackle the following "nasties", as well as Dandelions (see previous page) during 2015, all of which are poorly recorded in the county. Please e mail us or ring us (see above) if you find any colonies of the following plants:



Water Crowfoots.

These have white Buttercup-like flowers growing on mud or in ponds or rivers. Collect material and keep in fridge if you are likely to see us. Make sure you collect both surface and underwater leaves and flowers. The key in The Plant Crib is 12 pages long!



Eyebrights (*Euphrasia sp.*)

Small plants usually of limestone grassland, but there are records from Sutton Park. **Do not collect material.** We attended a workshop on this group at Leicester University in January and have draft keys for the new BSBI handbook on the genus. There is also a project to sort out the genetic relationships between the species. We want to know the whereabouts of any **LARGE** colonies, i.e. colonies of more than 20 plants, as the BSBI recorder needs at least five specimens to make a decision.



Hawkweeds (*Hieracium sp.*)

These are usually large, yellow flowered daisies that often have a leafy stem and overlapping un-equal involucral bracts on the flower head. **Do not confuse with *Crepis*.**

An excellent new book has been published on the Yorkshire Hawkweeds that includes all of the Warwickshire species.

Do not collect material.