

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF THE BRITISH ISLES

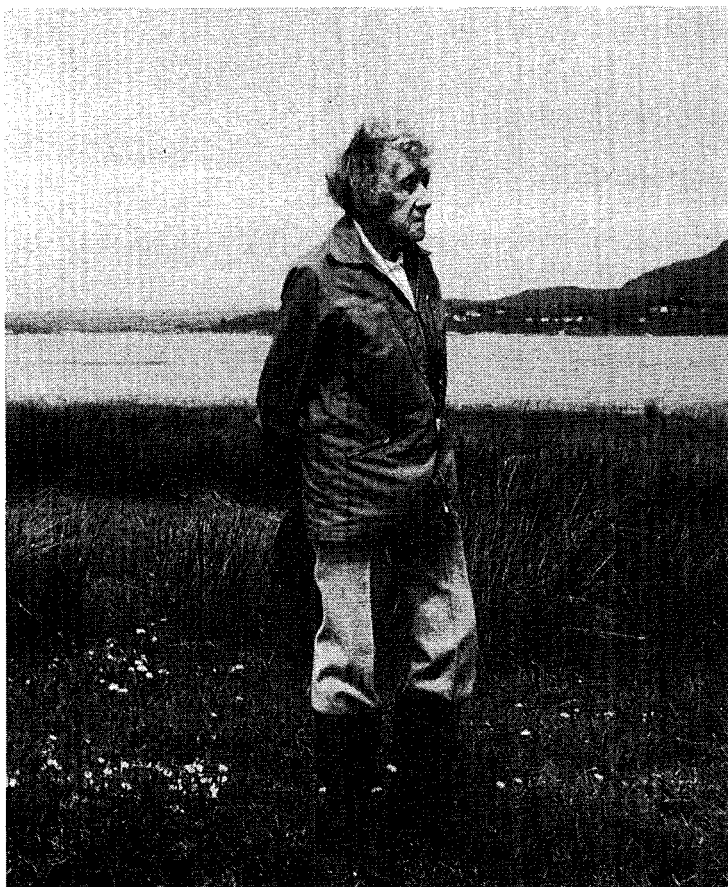
WELSH BULLETIN

Editor: I.K.Morgan

No. 48, WINTER 1989

CELEBRATORY ISSUE

Mrs I.M. VAUGHAN'S 100th BIRTHDAY



Mrs Vaughan
Morfa Harlech, 3/7/77

Photo S.G. Harrison

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WELSH VICE-COUNTY RECORDERS

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EDITORIAL

In this special edition of the BSBI Welsh Bulletin, a range of members acknowledge the deep debt that the study of botany in Wales owes to Mrs Irene M. Vaughan, for long the BSBI County Recorder for Carmarthenshire, erstwhile Editor of this Bulletin, and who recently (20 November 1989) achieved the grand age of 100.

There are many of us - myself and the present incumbent of the VC 44 Recorder's post - Richard Pryce - who owe Mrs Vaughan a considerable debt for the help and enthusiasm that she gave many young botanists and naturalists. I recall that - however mundane one's records were - an informative reply would soon be received from Mrs Vaughan; when records of local or rare species were despatched, one could readily sense her enthusiasm bubbling through her reply.

May I then, on behalf of BSBI members who live or botanize within Wales, express our thanks and very best wishes to Mrs Vaughan on this memorable occasion.

It is appropriate to tender thanks to George Hutchinson and Gwynn Ellis of the National Museum of Wales for their help in the compilation and production of this special Welsh Bulletin. This issue will be my last as Editor, so may I offer my gratitude to those who have supported this worthwhile publication, by the submission of articles and notes over the last five years. I hope that the membership will support the new Editor by putting pen to paper and supplying articles on any aspect of Welsh botany.

I.K. Morgan, 4 December 1989

ON THE OCCASION OF MRS IRENE VAUGHAN'S HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY

Thirty-two years ago I was appointed Headmaster of the village school at Rhandirmwyn. It is in an area of great natural beauty in the Upper reaches of the Vale of Tywi, the varied nature of its terrain contributing to a diversity of habitats rich in wildlife. Add to this a community of hill farmers wholly Welsh in character and I felt I had found my niche. But this was not all; an additional bonus I was soon to discover was the presence in the village of an outstanding field botanist in the person of Mrs Irene M. Vaughan of Nantymwyn.

Over the next twenty years or so I got to know Mrs Vaughan very well and came to appreciate her endowments of honesty and integrity, her meticulous attention to detail and accuracy of observation as well as her careful compiling of records, qualities and habits which had contributed to the making of a fine naturalist. Her love of the countryside and of wild nature soon impressed itself upon me and since I shared some of her interests I found myself accompanying her on some field visits, either those organised ones by the BSBI or Naturalists' Trust or private ones with some few friends. They were intensely enjoyable occasions spent in the company of knowledgeable botanists. Death has removed from the botanical scene many of her contemporaries, such as Tommie Warren Davis of Pembrokeshire, Janet Macnair of Montgomeryshire, Mrs Mary Richards of Dolgellau and Mr H.A. Hyde, past Keeper of Botany at the National Museum of Wales. The contribution they and Mrs Vaughan made to our knowledge of plant life in Wales was immense.

The despoliation and destruction of habitats in the upper Tywi by inundation, afforestation and changing farm practices were matters which concerned her deeply for her love of the area was apparent to all who knew her. The reduction in numbers or disappearance of such plants as: Trollius europaeus, Meconopsis cambrica, Viola lutea, Vicia orobus, Serratula tinctoria, Genista tinctoria, Platanthera chlorantha and Gymnadenia conopsea troubled her greatly for she is an ardent conservationist and has fought courageously in public inquiries and elsewhere against developments which are detrimental to wildlife.

In a lighter vein, I recall a period in the sixties when she was the proud possessor of a 'bubble-car' in which she travelled on her frequent field visits. This piece of machinery of dubious reliability and unstable equilibrium was not the ideal vehicle for the rock-strewn tracks of the upper Tywi, notwithstanding the wholly misleading title of 'county roads' bestowed upon them by misguided County Surveyors. However, as befits one who saw service as an ambulance driver in the Balkans in the First World War, she would not permit the state of the roads to frustrate her botanical ambitions and thus it was that she risked life and limb during her plant forays. She suffered the inevitable consequences - the car would be deflected by a boulder and she would end up in the ditch; the sole merit of the machine was revealed on occasions such as these for it was easily manhandled and put back on its proper course so that she could proceed with her botanising. I reckoned then that should she survive the perilous period of ownership of this vehicle then she would live to see her hundredth birthday for she belongs to that class of deceptively frail-looking old ladies who are light, compact, tough and have an iron constitution.

She is of course particularly devoted to the study of wild roses, a subject which has so deterred many of us that it is consigned along with the brambles and hawkweeds to the care of the expert. When identifying roses she would often refer to Wolley-Dod's 'Revision of the British Roses' and I do recall a time when she was trying to trace with her usual dogged persistence Wolley-Dod's unpublished Revision of the 'Revision' but whether she ever succeeded I never did find out. Be that as it may, her copy of Wolley-Dod's work was in a well-thumbed and precarious state of preservation and in constant danger of being blown away leaf by leaf; the pursuit and retrieval of these precious leaves on windy field trips provided some diversion and vindicated the presence of less competent botanists.

I was not aware until very recently that Mrs Vaughan was celebrating her hundredth birthday this year. This bit of intelligence set me thinking so that I now realise that she must have been in her eighties when she, Ann Conolly and I scaled those delectable but treacherous Old Red Sandstone cliffs above Llyn y Fan Fach, negotiating a difficult gully to gain the summit some 500 feet above the lake, an ascent which she managed without difficulty. It also means that her visit with me to see the Bog Orchid (Hammarbya paludosa) in the Twrch valley took place during the ninetieth year and as I recall it the trek to the site had to be interrupted whilst she scoured near-vertical coal tips for possible aliens and adventives.

For 17 years she served as the BSBI's Recorder for the vice-county of Carmarthenshire until her resignation in 1978. During this period and prior to it she tramped the county for its botanical treasures acquiring in the process an intimate knowledge of the flora of this the largest of the vice-counties of Wales. Her tireless work in recording the county's plant life was invaluable when Mr R.F. May undertook the publication of A List of the Flowering Plants and Ferns of Carmarthenshire in 1967 for Mrs Vaughan's records figure prominently in that publication. The frequency with which her initials appear in the publications of the National Museum of Wales - Welsh Ferns (1978) by H.A. Hyde, A.E. Wade & S.G. Harrison and Flowering Plants of Wales (1983) by R.G. Ellis - testify to the diligence with which she recorded in the county & elsewhere in Wales. Her widespread knowledge of the county's flora also greatly influenced the Dyfed Wildlife Trust in its choice of sites to be set up as Trust Nature Reserves, Roadside Verge Nature Reserves and Farm Nature Reserves. In the same way her botanical and ornithological data assisted the Nature Conservancy Council in its establishment of SSSI's and a National Nature Reserve in the county.

The voluntary service which she has rendered in various offices and capacities to conservation bodies in Wales has been an outstanding one and the gracious manner and infectious enthusiasm with which she carried out these self-imposed tasks affected all those around her.

Dafydd Davies, Ty'r Ysgol, Rhandirmwyn.

IRENE VAUGHAN

It was in the cause of protecting the rare red Kite that I first met Irene Vaughan. One day in the late 1940's I cycled over the then rough and bridgeless moorland road from Tregaron to the upper Tywi valley to attend a preliminary meeting of the Kite committee which Captain and Mrs Vaughan were just setting up. They were living in a charming house called Nantymwyn where Irene kept herself very busy with her gardening and her bee-keeping. But despite these and many other commitments she used to spend long hours in the field trying to locate the nests of Kites and persuading local farmers to protect them. And wherever she went she kept a keen eye open for wildflowers and ferns, for one of her great natural history passions was for the flora of Carmarthenshire.

In those days my wife and I were rather untutored in both botany and gardening but over the next many years we were to be hugely helped and encouraged in both these pursuits by Irene Vaughan who so generously shared her knowledge and her plants, all of which still flourish in our north Ceredigion garden.

Botanising with Irene, we soon discovered, that though her enthusiasm for all wildflowers was vast it was the wild roses that were her special delight. Very patiently she taught us how, because of their peculiar genetic make-up, the roses have almost unlimited opportunities for variation and hybridisation and that they are evolving and changing all the time. A wild rose, she explained, can never be named from any one character. Instead we need to take account of a whole packet of different features like the quantity and shape of the prickles, the tooting of the leaves, the presence of hairness and glands, the details of the sepals and the styles, the size, shape and number of the leaflets, the length of the flower stalks, the scent and colour of the flowers and the shape of the hips.

Irene Vaughan has a wonderful way of looking at a rose. Never does she make a snap judgement. Instead she stands long and thoughtful before every specimen, silently ticking off points in her mind and only after many minutes will she declare it is micrantha, stylosa, obtusifolia or whatever.

After the death of her husband in 1978 Irene went to live in Suffolk, the land of her fathers; and there my wife and I went to visit her in July 1986. Having reached a truly venerable age she maintained she was getting a little forgetful but we found her to be as encyclopaedic as ever when we took her along the local lanes and discussed the finer points of the hedgerow roses. Though they were mostly past flowering she soon found six or seven species, demonstrating them in those precise botanical terms - "haploids", "diploids", "tetra-ploids" - which have always come easily off her tongue. And we were delighted to see that she still carries her old bible of rose identification: Wolley-Dod's Revision of the British Roses (1931). Hers must be the most thumbed copy of this precious book in the world. All its pages were loose and likely to be blown away by every wind. But does it matter?. Even if she lost her Wolley-Dod completely, Irene Vaughan would still be able to name the wild roses far better than most of us ever will.

William Condry

HAPPY MEMORIES

It is with much pleasure, and a great privilege, to contribute this birthday greeting in honour of one who has done so much for Welsh botany - and whose botanical pursuits are just one of many facets of a life-time, with her husband, of so many activities linked not only to environmental-conservation issues but of service to the community in a broader sense.

What can I say to show my gratitude for all the pleasurable and rewarding times together?. Often as the happy recipient of hospitality in their lovely timber house at Cilycwm with its glorious view to Carmarthenshire hills. There was always much to hear about - news of botanical finds, of local Carmarthenshire conservation concerns, of Kites and special sites; no idle-small-talk here. Roses were scrutinized at one end of the kitchen bench, an evening meal in preparation the other (a delicious 'Castanea' concoction for dessert), potted plants to be watered, cuttings to be cared for, all with this beckoning view without and so many enticing books within.

I, at first felt some awe for this Welsh botanist held in such high regard, but I was soon to discover Mrs Vaughan's infinite kindness and a sharing of her wisdom. Happy field memories - my earliest of her leaping over muddy creeks (in Gower was it?); then, later, there were expeditions (with an enormous dog in the car) to search for Lamium album at Myddfai (had the Physicians of old ever cultivated it, it was not now near their farm, though it grew on the village wall). Her delight at discovering Rosa stylosa at Llanstephan, the outing to the steep hillside north of Rhandirmwyn to wild Quercus petraea woods and splendid Lycopodium clavatum (I still have the tree growing in Llyn from the acorn collected that day). Then the Elatine hexandra in the lake at Talley and of course the Reynoutria sachalinensis by Edwingsford. But above all I think of Mrs Vaughan scrambling up the central gully above Llyn-y-Fan-Fach with a strong helping hand from David Davies, up the cliffs with Saxifraga hypnoides, and Sedum rosea close by, and the urgent request not to let on to her caring husband that we had not, as instructed, climbed up the easy slope beyond the cliffs.

Then there were the outings to the Cross Hands region, a gap in a hedge with Equisetum hyemale beyond (just south-west of Carmel (Ed.)), the expanse of Carum verticillatum and Cirsium dissectum, and the exploration below the 'back' of Carreg Cennen castle for its rarities.

But to return to Cilycwm and that delightful house so full of books and reports of Societies and many concerns: no easy-chair relaxing here - so much to do. What a wonderful rewarding life of dedication: an inspiration to us youngsters. All honour to Irene Vaughan.

A.P. Conolly

THE DAY THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

I had a keen interest in wildlife since the primary school nature table had taught me the difference between bramble and bryony so, not long after moving to Llanelli, reading Nature in Wales enticed me to join the West Wales Naturalists' Trust. Little was I to know how much my first Trust meeting was to influence future events.

The Bulletin advertised: "2nd June 1973, Botanical meeting at Carreg Cennen... Leader: 'Mrs I.M. Vaughan". It turned out to be a typical Welsh summer's day: continuous rain and low cloud, which, no doubt, accounted for the fact that only three other hardy souls appeared at the rendezvous!. A tiny, white-haired lady of very slight stature introduced herself as Mrs Vaughan and welcomed us: Mrs Molly Jennings, Mrs Margaret Humphrey, my wife and myself. She then handed out a typed sheet of species we were likely to see which rather took me aback as the names were all in Latin with no vernacular transition. It was obvious I was to be thrown in at the deep end. I decided that to get the best out of the excursion, I would annotate the list with the common names as we saw the plants.

The five of us trudged up the castle mound; I was already soaked in the driving rain, despite my Coal Board oilskins. As we neared the top, as if by the magic of Merlin himself, three mystical figures appeared out of the gloom dressed in what appeared to be magicians' cloaks, but which unromantically turned out only to be very worn waxed jackets!. Mrs Vaughan was obviously acquainted with this trio who I later found out were Mr and Mrs Tallwin and George Hutchinson, all of whom were to become close friends in later years.

The enjoyment of the expedition was, for me, in no way dampened by the weather. The limestone flora included Allium schoenoprasum, Veronica spicata and Helianthemum nummularium, but nearly every species, rare or not, was new to me as I had little previous botanical knowledge. The party took the path down through the hanging oak woodland on the adjacent Old Red Sandstone which provided some welcome shelter before reaching the River Cennen. Saxifraga granulata was frequent along the banks and a few plants of Geum rivale were noted in the hedges. By the ruins of Hengrofft, an old cottage near the river, Mrs Vaughan led us to see Aconitum anglicum in flower in the abandoned garden. By the little bridge, however, she proudly showed us several species of her beloved roses including Rosa afzeliana, R. dumetorum, R. micrantha, R. sherardii and R. canina sensu stricto, these were in addition to the single bush of R. pimpinellifolia she had previously shown us on the cliff above.

The day still recalls very fond memories, and, of course, was the foundation for my own passion for the Carmarthenshire flora. Many field days were subsequently spent with Mrs Vaughan, who was always very patient with novices like myself and did her utmost to recall the English plant names to supplement the Latin, which always came more naturally to her (I sympathise here, always having the same trouble myself!). She was obviously satisfied with her teaching ability, as when she "retired" to Woodbridge in 1978, she asked that I succeed her as B.S.B.I. recorder, and I have striven to equal her exacting standards. I hope that she is able to continue to impart her botanical wisdom for many more years to come.

CARMARTHENSHIRE FLORA PROJECT, PROGRESS IN 1988

1988 was probably the most successful year of recording for the flora to date. Particular attention was again paid to the monitoring scheme squares but not exclusively so. A total of no less than 223 cards (mostly RP17s) were completed for these squares in the two years. Several first-class sites were discovered in 1988 together with 24 new vice-county records (ncr) fifteen of which were *Taraxacum*, one a new Welsh record, ten second vice-county records (2nd vcr) and two third vcrs.

The first record I received for the year, in February, was from Denys Smith who reported a good colony of *Petasites albus* growing on a roadside bank near a farm at Dryslwyn (SN52) (ncr). The following month saw the discovery, by Nigel Stringer (RNS) and Richard Davies whilst carrying out their comprehensive historical and ecological study of the limestone woodland near Carmel, of a small stand of *Daphne mezereum* (2nd vcr) growing in the vicinity of *Lathraea squamaria*, *Paris quadrifolia* and *Convallaria majalis* (SN61). Later in the year RNS, Ian Morgan (IKM) and RDP made the first post 1970 record of *Poa compressa* on railway ballast at Llwynhendy (SS59).

The B.S.B.I. joint Pembs-Carms meeting in April was not only a memorable social occasion but also produced some interesting records from the largely wooded Eastern Cleddau valley (SN12) (RDP & George Hutchinson (GH)). The characteristic valley-mire species here appears to be *Iris pseudacorus*, whether because it is naturally more abundant in the district or whether it is merely unpalatable to the rather concentrated cattle population, I am not certain. More acid wetland nearby supported small quantities of *Wahlenbergia hederacea* and *Hypericum elodes*. One fine, riverside heath had a large area dominated by *Myrica gale*, a species also seen sporadically elsewhere in the locality, whilst flushed oak-ash woodland frequently contained *Geum rivale* in the ground layer.

The volatile political situation pertaining to the Pembrey Saltings area gave extra encouragement to recording SS49 for the monitoring scheme and in early May, Frank Webb and RDP noted several new plants for the site. These included *Avenula pubescens* on the grey-dunes and an interesting assemblage growing along the Cefn Sidan strand line consisting of *Oenanthe crocata*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Salix viminalis*, *Rosa rugosa* and cultivars of *Iris* and *Cytisus*. Later in the year a brief visit was made to check on the continuing presence of notable species such as *Silene conica*, *Oenothera stricta* and *Limonium binervosum*. Also, a very pleasant voyage was made (RDP) in August in an attempt to refind *Zostera* offshore, last seen in the 1930s, but unfortunately it was to be in vain.

Another pleasant monitoring scheme "chore" was to check on the population of *Moenchia erecta* near Llangadog (RDP), which largely due to the protection of the farm's owner was found to be doing well together with its associates including *Poa subcaerulea*, *Aira praecox*, *Briza media*, *Aphanes arvensis*, *Ornithopus perpusillus*, *Sedum anglicum*, *Rumex acetosella* ss and *Veronica arvensis*. Nearby in the Bran valley, *Chrysosplenium alternifolium*, last recorded in 1979, was not refound but a new and extensive population of *Saxifraga granulata* was discovered. *Chrysosplenium alternifolium* was, however, re-recorded for SN72 near Craig ddu, Myddfai.

A high-powered team which included Peter Jones (currently researching a Ph.D. into duneland ecology with particular reference to *Liparis*), John Etherington (U.C.W.Cardiff), Vicky Morgan and Brian Pawson (both N.C.C.) and RDP, visited Tywyn Burrows (SN30) in late June with a view to ascertaining why *Liparis* has become extinct at the site within the last twenty years. The opinions expressed were that the habitat has become unsuitable due to hydrological changes and lack of grazing, resulting in the rank growth of *Salix repens* and mosses such as *Calliargon cuspidatum* which have smothered the orchid out: really a case of natural succession as the dune system becomes more mature with time. Three weeks

later members of the same team visited the dune system at Laugharne Burrows (SN20 & SN30) and Peter's expert eye was enough to pick-out a likely-looking habitat at "a hundred paces". The Land Rover was stopped, the crew piled-out and within thirty seconds a major new colony of *Liparis* had been discovered: perhaps a hundred plants - for me the highlight of the year! Several quadrats were recorded and further measurements made during a second visit in August. The opportunity was also taken to monitor the populations of *Gentianella uliginosa* (Laugharne and Tywyn), *Coeloglossum* (Laugharne) and *Carex punctata* (Tywyn).

Re-recording of a *Platanthera chlorantha* site (an S.S.S.I.) north of Nantgeredig in SN42 for the Monitoring Scheme was done in early July (RDP). 47 plants in flower were seen as well as an abundance of *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* but the site was suffering from the effects of too light a grazing regime which has allowed severe encroachment of bracken, bramble and willow scrub. However, a single plant of *Carum verticillatum* was also seen together with one *Dactylorhiza incarnata* but it is likely that all the choicer species will be smothered out unless more effective management is achieved.

My first visit to SN75 was made on 3rd July with Arthur Chater (AOC), Adrian Fowles and Dave Boyce. The approach was made from Llanddewi Brefi with AOC recording the Cards species but we only crossed the boundary into Carms, after several miles of trekking in torrential, uncompromising rain. It was well worth the discomfort, a very rich upland mire at the head of the Pysgotwyr yielded *Carex curta*, *C.rostrata*, *C.paniculata*, *Potentilla palustris*, *Pinguicula vulgaris* and *Menyanthes* but most notably *Utricularia minor*, the 3rd post 1970 vcr. A northfacing slope of Esgair Gaeo had a few plants of *Viola lutea*, both yellow and purple flowered forms - the first occasion that I personally had seen the species in vc44. The view was one of complete, undisturbed isolation until we found pegs marking out a very large area of proposed forestry planting. *Agrostis vinealis* continues to turn up in suitable "dry" upland habitat, eg near the *Viola lutea* mentioned above and near Rhandirmwyn (SN74) (Robin Walls (RW)).

James and Mary Iliff's contribution to the Monitoring Scheme, principally from SN72, was considerable and included two sites for *Eleocharis quinquefolia* (and others in SN73 & SN74) and many rich habitats supporting such species as *Genista anglica*, *Briza media*, *Carex hostiana* and *Serratula*. In addition to this an early season visit to the Merchon valley (SN74) on which they were accompanied by RDP was rewarded with the 3rd vcr of *Asplenium trichomanes* subsp. *trichomanes* from an old quarry in acid shales and flags.

A minor expedition to Carreg yr Ogof (SN72) by participants of the Carms. Flora Recording Weekend in August included RW, John Killick, Dave Winsall, GH and RDP. Most of the species previously known from this small area of limestone pavement were refound for the Monitoring Scheme including *Gallium boreale*, *Koeleria macrantha*, *Saxifraga hypnoides*, *Thalictrum minus* and *Asplenium viride* but *Carex montana*, *Gymnocarpium robertianum* and *Antennaria dioica* were not seen.

Sheila Gouch carried out a vegetation survey of the Brecon Beacons National Park and her discoveries included an extremely fine grassland site near Talsarn, Llanddeusant (SN72) which had *Trollius*, *Vicia orobus*, *Genista tinctoria*, *Gymnadenia conopsea*, *Cirsium dissectum*, *Platanthera chlorantha*, *Carex pallescens* and *xFestulolium lolifaceum*. She also recorded *Gaudinia fragilis* (2nd vcr and 1st since 1967) with *Carum*, *Cirsium dissectum* and *Sanguisorba officinalis* growing near Nant-gwineu, Garnant adjacent to a prospective opencast site (SN61). Kathy Groves, recording areas of restored opencast land, found *Matricaria recutita* to be fairly frequent, particularly in gateways, near Penygroes (SN51) and Llandybie (SN61) and a plant of *Carex otrubae* in a restored ditch (SN51).

Richard Jones' vegetation survey of National Trust land at Dynefwr Castle, Deer Park and Ox Bows (SN62) was very rewarding. Notable species included *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, *Campanula trachelium*, *Carex divulsa*, *C.acutiformis*, *C.vesicaria*, *Chrysosplenium alternifolium*, *Paris quadrifolia* and *Utricularia neglecta*.

Trevor Crosby (TSC) discovered what must be the furthest west extant Welsh site for *Chrysosplenium alternifolium* near Crwbin, in wetland on Old Red Sandstone (SN41). Also growing in the vicinity were *Helleborus viridis*, *Viola reichenbachiana*, *V.odorata*, *Artemisia abrotanum* (ncr, persisting in wall of derelict garden). TSC also recorded *Mimulus moschatus* from river shingle at Glanranell (SN63).

In addition to his *Taraxacum* records below, GH's 1988 ncrs included *Muscari armeniacum* (SN41, escape), *Rumex crispus* var. *uliginosus* (Carmarthen, SN41, det. J.R. Akeroyd), *Galeobdolon argentatum* (Carmarthen SN42, conf. A Rutherford) but he also discovered many rich and interesting sites widespread throughout the vc.

Hordeum jubatum was a ncr made by consultants engaged by the C.E.G.B. to carry out a vegetation survey of the Carmarthen Bay Power Station site at Burry Port (SN40) (Rupert Higgins & D. Lawrence). They also recorded *Isolepis cernua*, *I. setacea*, *Ranunculus baudotii* and *Linaria supina* (in a new site which was also recorded by Phillip Jones).

A ncr made by IKM in 1987 and later confirmed by GH(NMW) was of *Juncus ambiguus* from Commissioner's Marsh, Kidwelly (SN40). He also discovered *Asplenium billotii* growing at Ragwen Point, Pendine (SN20), the 2nd extant vcr which is presumed to be a rediscovery of Knight's 1907 record from "near Pendine". A spin-off from his current primary activity of invertebrate recording was IKM's reporting of several very fine "new" sites which included valley woodland near Glyn Abbey (SN40) with *Dryopteris aemula*; unimproved upland pastures at Cefn Blaenau (SN54) near the Cards. border with *Carum*, *Pinguicula vulgaris* and *Wahlenbergia*; an acid mire on the Millstone Grit at Castell y Rhyngyll (SN51) with *Platanthera bifolia*, *Rhynchospora alba*, *Eleocharis multicaulis* and *Cirsium dissectum*; unimproved pastures at Cefn Llech Clawdd (SN33) with *Carum*, *Briza media*, *Serratula* and *Platanthera bifolia* and Nantgeredig (SN51) with *Carum*, *Serratula*, *Carex pallescens*, *Vaccinium oxycoccos* and *Potentilla palustris* and a roadside verge north of Ammanford (SN61) having a major colony of *Equisetum hyemale*, the 3rd vcr. IKM also made a new 10km square record of *Kickxia elatine* in a disturbed pasture above Stradey Woods (SN40) which also later turned up in the same square: in the vc recorder's strawberry patch!

Annie Mary Pell (AMP), whilst concentrating on railway sites, this year made several records of *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* x *hispanica* (conf. NMW) including 1st and 2nd vcrs from her more usual burial-ground habitat in Capel Hendre (SN51)! She also had a ncr of *Sedum dasyphyllum* from the same site.

The first post 1970 record of *Malva neglecta* was made at Llansteffan (SN31) by Leonard Sealy-Lewis shortly before his so untimely death. The county has lost a man of considerable experience, not only in floral and faunal recording but also in all aspects of nature conservation. His absence will be sorely felt.

Three new probably native sites for *Polygonatum multiflorum* were communicated by Brian Reely in SN22 and SN23 and Dr. Elspeth Grey provided a comprehensive run-down of *Sibthorpia europaea* colonies in the Brechfa area (SN52 & SN53) including one new site.

Critical species were not neglected: Fifteen of the ncrs were *Taraxacum* microspecies collected by AMP, GH or RDF, namely *T. "anceps"*, *T. "British atactum"*, *T. berthae*, *T. boekmanii*, *T. bracteatum*, *T. cambricum*, *T. dahlistedtii*, *T. ekmani*, *T. insigne*, *T. laeticolor*, *T. lamprophyllum*, *T. lingulatum*, *T. lunare* (first Welsh record), *T. marklundii* and *T. pannulatum*. There were also 2nd vcrs of *T. bracteatum*, *T. dahlistedtii*, *T. ekmani*, *T. excellens*, *T. hamatiforme*, *T. lingulatum*, *T. oblongatum*, *T. pseudohamatum*, *T. quadrans*, and *T. sellandii*. My thanks to Chris Howarth for determining the specimens. Chris Frazer-Jenkins determined or confirmed *Dryopteris* material recently collected and held at NMW. Amongst the specimens was a ncr from near Llandyssul (SN44) of *D. x complexa* nothosubsp. *complexa* being the hybrid between *D. affinis* subsp. *affinis* and *D. filix-mas* (GH). Jim Bevan's annual Carmarthen *Hieracium* foray saw a whistle-stop tour of many of the

old limestone quarries between Mynydd-y-Garreg and Llandybie and up to the Black Mountain. Sites for *H.subamplifolium* were increased from one (recorded pre 1970) to nine which included three new 10km squares. He also visited Craig ddu, Myddfai and collected material for later confirmation.

My thanks to all recorders, referees and mentors and my gratitude for your patience: time doesn't seem to be on my side these days!

REFERENCES

- Ellis,R.G. (1983). *Flowering Plants of Wales*. Cardiff.
- Pryce,R.D. (1988a). Further Botanical Highlights. *Llanelli Nats. Newsl.* Summer 1988.
- (1988b). Pembrey Forest and Tywyn Burrows. *ibid.*
- (1988c). Bishop's Pond, Abergwilli, Carmarthen. *ibid.*

Richard Pryce

ANTENNARIA DIOICA - THE MOUNTAIN EVERLASTING IN MID WALES

A single plant consisting of 3 rosettes and with no evidence of flowering was found by the author and A.S. Ferguson on a low, damp shale outcrop, S. of Dygif in Nant Irfon NNR, Abergwesyn, Brecknock, SN 85 on the 31 August 1989. Associated species showed little evidence of base rich flushing, though a single plant of Serratula tinctoria and the moss Funaria obtusa suggested somewhat different, possible slightly flushed conditions to the prevailing acidic peaty gleys of the reserve. The plant occurred in a narrow crack in a low rock outcrop with no nearby competitors, well within reach of grazing stock. There are no other records of this plant in the Elenith mountains in recent years, though a manuscript Flora of Radnor of A.E. Wade and J.A. Webb of c.1954 (National Museum of Wales, Botany Department Library) records the plant from near Rhayader, Claerwen and in other N. Radnor Hills - possibly from pre 1938 records, whilst the Rev. A. Wentworth Powell in W.J. and J.O. Bufton's Illustrated Guide to Llandrindod Wells of 1906 says "the hillsides in places are white with the wild everlasting". The cause of this apparent decline is not known. Climatic change seems unlikely since it survives well on base rich soils associated with Old Red Sandstone and Carboniferous limestone in Brecknock. Acid precipitation might be suspected as a cause, since it appears to have declined from the naturally more acidic parts of its range.

R.G. Woods

CORRIGENDUM

Newton, A. & Conolly, A. (1989). Rubus in West Lleyrn, 1988. BSBI Welsh Bulletin No. 47, p. 6-13.

p.12 Square brackets were inadvertently omitted by the "link-man" at NMW. Apologies to the authors.

Table of *Rubus* species collected and determined by Alan Newton Aug. 7-10, 1988. Record of 10km sq. grids (all SH = 23/).

1) Species not previously recorded this century from West Lleyrn
* new to Caerns., v.c. 49 [] pre 1900.

<i>Rubus ordovicum</i>	SH 12,13,22,23,24,32,33.
<i>R. polyanthemus</i>	SH 12,13,23,24,33
<i>R. dumnoniensis</i>	SH 23,33, & [32] updated from Griffith (1895).
<i>R. riparius</i>	SH 13,23,32,33.
<i>R. infestus</i>	SH 23.
* <i>R. raduloides</i>	SH 12,13,23,24,32,33.
<i>R. vigorosus</i>	SH 13,23,24.
<i>R. dasyphyllus</i>	SH 22,23, & [33] updated from Griffith (1895).
<i>R. pyramidalis</i>	SH 13,23.
<i>R. lindleianus</i>	SH 23.
<i>R. nemoralis</i>	SH 13,23,33.
* <i>R. conjungens</i>	SH 12,13,23.
* <i>R. leyanus</i>	SH 23,33.
<i>R. lanaticaulis</i>	SH 22,23.
* <i>R. amplificatus</i>	SH 22.
<i>R. wirralensis</i>	SH 12.
<i>R. monensis</i>	SH 23.
* <i>R. dentatifolius</i>	SH 23,24.

and the hybrids:- *R. caesius* x *R. ulmifolius* SH 12
R. ordovicum x *R. ulmifolius* SH 32

2) Additional 10km sq. grid records for taxa previously recorded from West Lleyrn. (Update from 1976 signified by (); earlier by []).

<i>R. tuberculatus</i>	SH 12,22,23,24,32 & (33).
<i>R. bartonii</i>	SH 12,13,23 & (33).
<i>R. incurvatus</i>	SH 12,13, [23], 24 & (33).
<i>R. cardiophyllus</i>	SH 12,13,22,23,24, & [32], (33).
<i>R. caesius</i>	SH 13, 24 & [32].
<i>R. ulmifolius</i>	had already been recorded from all seven

10km sq. areas (by various recorders), but is now confirmed (AN) for 1988 for all.

BSBI WALES FIELD MEETINGS 1990

SUNDAY 3rd JUNE
CORS ERDDREINIOG, ANGLESEY (v.c. 52)
Leader : Mr L. Colley

A meeting to search for Marsh-orchids including the Narrow-leaved Marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza traunsteineri*) and a variety of sedges on one of the richest fens in western Britain. The leader is the warden of this NNR and numbers are limited to 20.

Meet at 11am in the car park of the California Inn, Brynteg, 23/496.826, 2km west of Benllech. Bring packed lunch, waterproof footwear advised.

Please send bookings to Mr R.G. Ellis, Dept. Botany, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP, and not to the leader.

SUNDAY 24th JUNE
CWM LLINAU, POWYS (v.c. 47)
Leader : Mrs M. Wainwright

A recording meeting for the Montgomeryshire Flora Project, to record upland moor and bog, or riverside and old railway in the Dovey Valley.

Meet at Cwm Llinau on the A470 north of Cemmaes at 10.30am, grid ref. 23/846.077. Bring packed lunch, stout footwear advised. Please send bookings to Mr R.G. Ellis, Dept. Botany, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP, and not to the leader.

FRIDAY 29th JUNE to MONDAY 2nd JULY
CARMARTHENSHIRE RECORDING WEEKEND
FERRYSIDE, DYFED (v.c. 44)
Leader : Mr R.D. Pryce

A Flora of Carmarthenshire Recording Weekend to assist in tetrad recording for the county flora. Single room accommodation (c. £15 per day) will be available at the Ferryside Education Centre, grid ref. 22/369.106, but non-residents are equally welcome. Please apply for details and booking forms to Mr R.G. Ellis, Dept. Botany, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP, and not to the leader. It is essential to book before June 1st.

SATURDAY 7th JULY
OGOF FFYNNON DDU NNR, BRECONSHIRE (v.c. 42)
Leader : Mr R.G. Woods

Created to conserve caves, the surface vegetation of this NNR is also of considerable interest. Good limestone grassland and pavement and extensive gritstone scree, cliff and pavement. Stout footwear essential.

Meet at 11am at 22/856.155 off the A4067, near the caving and mountain rescue post at Penyllt, east of Craig y nos Country Park, Pen y Cae.

Please send bookings to Mr R.G. Ellis, Dept. Botany, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP, and not to the leader.

SUNDAY 8th JULY
KENFIG BURROWS, GLAMORGAN (v.c. 41)
Leader : Mr S. Moon

A visit to this classic sand-dune nature reserve, to see many of its specialities including Fen Orchid and various marsh-orchids.

Meet at 11am at the car park of Kenfig Nature Reserve Centre at 21/802.811. Bring packed lunch, stout waterproof footwear advised.

Please send bookings to Mr R.G. Ellis, Dept. Botany, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP, and not to the leader.

SATURDAY 14th JULY
YNYSLAS, CARDIGANSHIRE (v.c. 46)
Leader : Mr A.O. Chater

To visit various dune grassland and wetland sites around Ynyslas.

Meet at 11am in the car park on the beach west of the T junction at Ynyslas, 22/605.925. Take the B4353 west from the A487 at Tre'r-ddol (from the north) or Bow Street (from the south). Bring packed lunch, stout waterproof footwear advised.

Please send bookings to Mr R.G. Ellis, Dept. Botany, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP, and not to the leader.

FRIDAY 20th to MONDAY 23rd JULY
BANGOR, CAERNARFONSHIRE (v.c. 49)
(in conjunction with the Welsh A.G.M. and Exhibition Meeting)
Leader : Mr N. Brown

This meeting will be based at Normal College (George Campus), Bangor. Nigel Brown will give a talk at the College after dinner on the Friday evening. Saturday morning and early afternoon will be devoted to recording lowland sites for the Flora of Caernarfonshire project. Meet at 10.30am at the College campus at 23/564.718. At 3.15pm, the meeting will reconvene at the university Botanic Gardens (23/551.711) for tea, followed by the Welsh Quadrennial and Annual General Meetings, a short talk on the Flora of Caernarfonshire Recording Project, and a tour of the Botanic Gardens. The Exhibition Meeting and slide show will take place back at the College campus at 7.30pm, after dinner.

Sunday's field meeting will be to record the upland flora of the Betws-y-Coed area. Meet at 10.00am at the College campus (23/564.718) or at 11.00am at the Swallow Falls Hotel car park (23/766.577) on the A5 west of Betws-y-Coed.

Single room accommodation will be available at Normal College (George Campus), Bangor, at approx £20 per day, but the meeting is also open to non-residents.

Please apply for accommodation booking forms and maps of meeting places, or send bookings for the field meetings to Mr R.G. Ellis, Dept. Botany, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP, and not to the leader, before June 1st.

SUNDAY 19th AUGUST
NORTH EAST ANGLESEY (v.c. 52)
Leader : Mr N. Brown

To visit several sites including wet heathland for Marsh Gentian, lakeside for pillwort, dunes for hybrid horsetails and limestone woodland for ferns, including southern polypody.

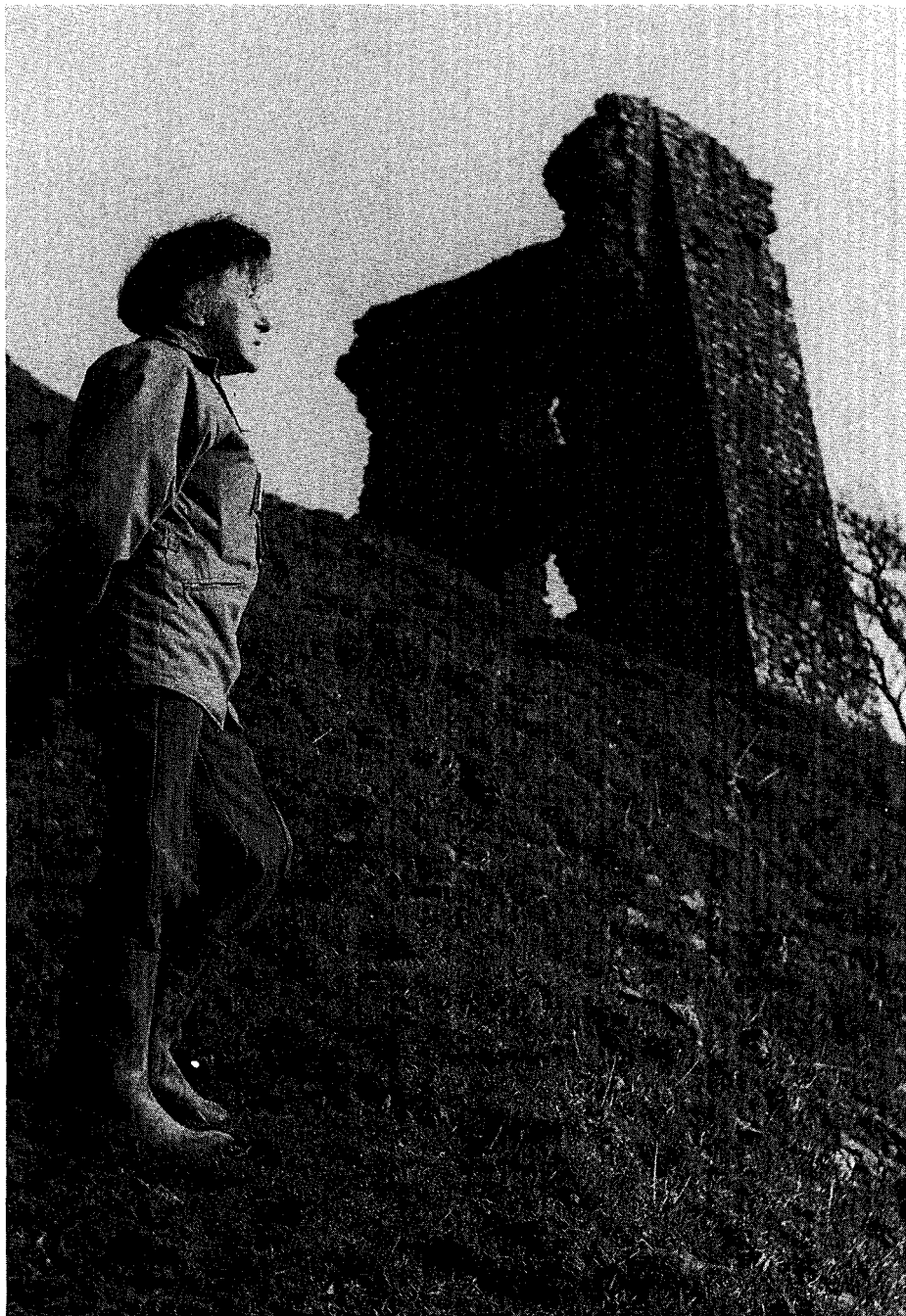
Meet at 11.00am at Traeth Lligwy (23/496.872). Take the minor road northwest from Moelfre roundabout and drive 2km to public car park by the beach at the southern end of Lligwy Bay. Numbers limited to 20. Bring packed lunch, stout waterproof footwear advised.

Please send bookings to Mr R.G. Ellis, Dept. Botany, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP, and not to the leader.



Irene Vaughan and Lactuca virosa
Shingle St, Suffolk, July 1986

Photo W.M. Condry



Irene Vaughan at Dryslwyn Castle
Carmarthenshire, April 7th 1978

Photo W.M. Condry