

# B.S.B.I. NEWS

Edited by KENNETH A. BECKETT

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**ADVANCE NOTICE**  
**RECORDERS' MEETING**

The fifth in this series of meetings for recorders, local flora writers, and any members with interests in the field of recording, will be held on

**Thursday, September 18th to Sunday, September 21st, 1975**

*at*

**Attingham Park, near Shrewsbury, Shropshire.**

Accommodation, which will be limited to 50, will be available from Thursday evening. The main programme for the Saturday and Sunday will include both practical papers and discussion on the collection of records, the lay-out, procedures and financial problems of the publication of local floras, and some papers on critical species. For those who can join there will be an extra day of field work and papers on difficult species on Friday, September 19th.

All county recorders will receive a programme of this meeting in March or April 1975. Other members who would like details and a programme, please send name and address to:---

Dr F. H. Perring,  
Biological Records Centre,  
Monks Wood,  
Abbot's Ripton,  
Huntingdon, PE17 2LS.

MARY BRIGGS, Hon. Gen. Sec.

## PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

I find it difficult to believe that my two years' stint as President is nearing its end. The time has really gone very quickly indeed—a feeling I have which is surely a tribute to the many devoted officers and helpers of the Society who make its organisation run so smoothly. Not least among the lasting achievements of my predecessor, David McClintock, was the establishment and nurture of this newsletter, which combines a social and an educational function so excellently. Long may it continue.

There are two particular topics I would like to mention, one looking back and the other forward. First, the Cambridge Conference. I was really very pleased with the success of this, and in particular by the evident mutual benefit and encouragement derived by our own members and by our foreign guest speakers. In total we had more than twenty visitors from Continental Europe, several of whom came simply as members of the Society to enjoy the Conference, and I can testify from the warmth of the letters I have received how much the opportunity of meeting the B.S.B.I. on its home ground was appreciated. But also I found especially encouraging the wide range of age, experience and specialist interest represented within our own internal membership at the Conference, which shows yet again that the Society is in a very healthy state. I should like this opportunity to put on record my very grateful thanks to Mrs. Crompton, who acted as Local Organiser, and to the many helpers, members of the B.S.B.I. or of the local Institutions and Organisations, whose cheerful hard work really made the Conference such a success. The proceedings are being prepared for publication as the fifteenth of the Society's Conference Reports, and should appear in 1975.

The other topic can really only be given as preliminary information. The Society has accepted sponsorship of an ambitious new project to prepare, over the next 10 or 12 years, a new detailed Flora of the British Isles, which will cover infra-specific variation in all British plants as fully as possible. The idea originated with Professor Valentine, and has grown and taken shape in discussions over the past year conducted by an *ad hoc* group of botanists, all members of the Society. Many questions remain—not least how such work can be financed!—but I am confident that, with the interest shown, we shall be able to achieve a really worth-while scheme, quite comparable in prestige to the Society's Distribution Maps Scheme, launched 20 years ago. It is heartening to serve as President to such an enthusiastic Society, and I am very content to hand over, when appropriate, such a happily 'going concern'!

S. M. WALTERS  
October 30th 1974

## EDITOR'S NOTES

A frequent lament of honorary editors who try to produce the journals or bulletins of any society is the difficulty in obtaining suitable articles. One can cajole or exhort members in an endeavour to extract suitable prose and finally in desperation write half of it oneself rather than admit defeat. I speak with some experience in such matters. Imagine my surprise and pleasure then on taking over *News* to find a regular supply of items steadily coming in without any sort of prompting. Long may it continue.

Many members of the Society, and not least its officers, look upon *News* as an ephemeral publication destined to be discarded on reading. True, a fair percentage of the items therein are essentially topical and newsy and have no lasting value. Other items, though necessarily brief are more meaty and have reference value. With members' cooperation it is hoped that there will be more such contributions in the future and that *News* will join its more illustrious companions *Watsonia* and *Proceedings* on the book shelves or in the box files.

A fine example of the sort of item it would be nice to have more of in *News* is the account of *Sorbus torminalis* by Mr. P. Roper.

Some ideas for other interesting items might well become recurring features were embodied in a letter to the editor by a well-known Society member. He says "I would like more chit-chat of what members are doing and finding, e.g. accounts of botanical holidays in G.B. and abroad; troubles with naming plants, particularly criticisms of key characters and errors in floras. For example, no one will ever find *Lepidium ruderales* when using *Flora Europaea*." He further adds that members wants—information, advice or books—could be a useful service carried out through the medium of *News*. What are members views I wonder. Further ideas and suggestions are welcome.

It had been confidently hoped to continue the "Profile" series in this issue, but owing to the illness of the contributor during the period including the deadline for copy to the printers, once again this feature is missing. Hopefully it will appear in Vol. 3 No. 4 next year.

KENNETH A. BECKETT

### SECRETARY'S NOTES

After ten years as Hon. Membership Secretary, Chris Dony has resigned from this exacting post. Her outstandingly efficient service included finally the transference of our routine membership and subscription services to the Society of General Microbiology at Reading, and we are all indebted to Chris for the many hours of work put in for the Society through the years. Now John and Chris Dony tell us that they are this winter working on the compilation of the Atlas of the Flora of Bedfordshire having already worked the tetrads in their customary thorough manner, and we wish them every success with this project, while sending Chris our grateful thanks and regrets on losing her as an officer. The Society now is most fortunate in the appointment of Rachel Hamilton as her successor. Rachel has already acquired a good understanding of the procedures involved as she and Chris have been working together during the past few months, and we are pleased to welcome Rachel as Hon. Membership Secretary. As before, all routine membership enquiries, subscriptions, payment and/or queries regarding receipt of journals should be sent to B.S.B.I. Administrative Office, Harvest House, 62 London Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5AS; but now any membership matters needing special attention should be sent to Mrs R. Hamilton, Shambles, Whitwell, Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

We have been concerned recently with the continuity of the Society's archives. For many years these were meticulously kept in order by Ted Bangerter (among his

many other duties for the Society), and David Allen was archivist for a time. But since 'Bang' went to Australia and David moved from London we have not had an official archivist, it is therefore with pleasure that we welcome the appointment of Ted Wallace to this post. Ted has already sorted through much of the material stored for the Society at the Dept. of Botany at the British Museum (Natural History) and he will make sure that these papers are maintained and future publications included. At the same time it is felt that a chronicle of the past history of the Society would be most useful and we are delighted that Ted Lousley has agreed to be the Society's historian. He has already published a number of papers on past B.S.B.I. activities, but he will now undertake a complete history of the Society which it is hoped may be first published in parts of *Watsonia*, but finally as a complete volume. If any member has papers from the past relating to the Society, Mr Wallace and Mr Lousley would be pleased to hear from them.

While writing this, Frank Perring is away on a twelve week tour of Australia and New Zealand, and his glowing reports of the southern flora are interspersed with laryngeal problems due to his heavy lecture programme. We hear that he is travelling the continent in his bush hat, having lost his voice and found a deeper one, with which we hope that he will recount to us his adventures on his return.

In May this year, the B.S.B.I., exhibited for the first time at the R.H.S. Chelsea Flower Show. We displayed our conservation posters together with enlarged black and white photographs of most of the plants on the rare plant poster. Many of these were supplied by Michael Proctor (at very short notice) and their excellence was much admired during the Show. Our thanks to him, and also to Tim Sands, of the Council for Nature, who mounted the photographs for us together with the text and a colour motif of the plant taken from the poster. Several members helped to man the stands for the five days during which we sold nearly one thousand posters. We particularly impressed by the goodwill expressed towards plant conservation, which was almost unanimous from the thousands of visitors to the stand. We were also surprised by the number of overseas visitors who reported that some form of legislation for plants protection existed already in their countries, giving the impression that Britain has lagged behind with this, but it is to be hoped that by the time this *News* reaches you the Wild Plants Protection Bill will be making progress through Parliament.

We shall also be exhibiting at the Camping and Outdoor Life Exhibition at Empire Hall, Olympia from January 1st to 12th, 1975, when we will join with other conservation organisations to present a wild life exhibit with a woodland scene, and we plan to base our part of the display on cowslips incorporating our cowslip poster. There will be an information and sales kiosk run jointly by the wild life organisers and we hope that some B.S.B.I. members will again help with this.

MARY BRIGGS

### NOTES FROM THE MEETINGS SECRETARY

At the time of writing this, the 1974 Field Meeting season is over, and by the time it arrives through your letter box, you will be thinking of the 1975 meetings. These have of course already been planned and the programme has been put together as far as possible with the needs of members in mind, with the emphasis upon the aim of the meeting more than the venue. There are to be the usual

specialist meetings, concentrating on species of one family or genus, recording meetings, aimed at helping those engaged on local floras and one identification meeting, a new venture this, at which it is hoped that some members will get to grips with those wretched yellow composites.

Since the separate Junior Meetings ceased to be held there has perhaps not been enough emphasis upon meetings at which members could brush up or learn about the less easy groups, and it is hoped that this extra expertise can be put to use at recording sessions another year. Again the Meetings Committee would welcome ideas for other groups to be covered. With the rapidly increasing costs of car transport in mind, as many of the 1975 meetings as possible are beginning near a railway station, fortunately at weekends station car parks are generally fairly empty and make for good meeting places.

As most members should now realise, the A.G.M. is held in alternate years in or close to London while for the years in between different parts of the country are visited, and by plotting the last few meeting places on a map it can be seen that coverage has been pretty good, but it is a number of years since Scotland was visited, so for this year's A.G.M. we travel north of the border to Dumfries where the C.S.S.F. are organising the meeting and a field trip for the following day.

The dates are somewhat later than usual so that we shall no longer find ourselves in competition with Kew Open Day, the Linnean Society reception and last, but not least as far as travel in the London area is concerned, the Cup Final. The later date should also make for a more interesting field meeting than can be managed in early May. Please make a note of the dates—May 31st and June 1st in your diary and help to make a bumper attendance. Another date to note is in September when the Recorders' Meeting is to be held at Attingham Park, near Shrewsbury where many members have already stayed when attending Frank Perring's field meetings, a notice about this is in the programme and *everyone* who records plants—and that should be every member of the Society—is welcome.

GILLIAN BECKETT

### **NOTES FROM THE C.S.S.F. Inverness-shire, 1974**

It was expected that 1974 would be the most productive summer since the Survey began in 1970, and so it has proved. 35 recorders were in the field, and 129 quadrants were visited, 57 for the first time, over 9,400 records were made.

The time to sum up the results of the survey is not yet, but now that the recording phase is over it is appropriate to say something to all of you who took cards into the field and scored them. What ever compliments the end-product of the Survey may earn, the credit belongs neither to the C.S.S.F. nor to the organisers, but to yourselves. Your portion has been, if not the blood and tears, at least the toil and sweat inseparable from such an activity, conducted as it was over a wild and rough landscape and often in weather to match. There were occasions (Glen Affric, 1974, is but one of several) on which field botanising resembled more a commando exercise than, as formerly, a recommended pastime for young ladies of refinement. In offering the preliminary thanks of the Committee for your labours, I know very well that when the results of five years of effort finally see the light, no words will evoke the degree of satisfaction you will feel when you reflect "I was there!"

R. MACKECHNIE

## NOTES FROM THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

During the past year the Conservation Committee has been responsible for the production of two plant protection posters. These have been circulated to members, and have also been distributed widely to a large number of local authorities, conservation and field study groups and other interested institutions. The entire stock of 16,000 of each poster is now exhausted, and reprints are in the course of arrangement. These will help to reinforce the B.S.B.I.'s campaign to protect all rare and threatened species which will culminate in the *Wild Plants Protection Bill*, to be introduced shortly in the House of Lords.

One of the most important activities in which we have been engaged is to make official representations to local authorities etc. on behalf of our members when we are informed about "development" threats to rare species or valuable habitats. In this work we rely entirely on the local knowledge of B.S.B.I. members. It is every member's individual responsibility to pass on any such information that they may have because if we are not informed about a threat we cannot act. Please let us know and we will do our best to help.

Relevant information normally should be sent to County Recorders or County Trusts, but where speedy action is essential members in the Welsh, Scottish and Irish regions should contact their regional Committee secretary directly, and those in England can send their information direct to the Conservation Committee Secretary.

Liaison between the Conservation Committee and the Regional Committees is currently very close, in particular the Welsh Region, so items reported to them can very quickly be dealt with nationally if necessary.

P. E. BRANDHAM  
*Secretary, Conservation Committee*

## NOTES FROM THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

A number of publications are currently under the Committee's eye. The report of our Conference held at the University of Sussex in September 1973 has been available since October under the title *The British Oak*. The report of the 1974 Conference held in Cambridge this last summer is now in preparation and should be published in 1975. The report of our earlier very popular Conference held jointly with the R.H.S. in 1972, published on *Plant Wild and Cultivated* in 1973 makes good reading and is available at a very modest price.

A second Handbook, covering willows and poplars in the style of our very successful *British Sedges*, is at an advanced stage of preparation by Mr R. D. Meikle, with illustrations by Miss Victoria Gordon, and should also be available in 1975. Two further handbooks have also been launched recently and we hope to see a flow of these covering difficult groups in the next few years.

Our publications are available from E. W. Classey Limited, Park Road, Faringdon, Berkshire, SN7 7DR, to whom all orders should be addressed.

R. K. BRUMMITT

## THREATENED PLANTS COMMITTEE

The Survival Service Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources recently approved the formation of a committee under the chairmanship of Professor J. Heslop Harrison, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, on Threatened Plants, to deal with the growing threats to plant communities and species. Tasks of the committee will include the identification and definition of threats to the survival of individual species, of special groups, and of whole floras throughout the world. They will also prepare documentation on such threats with proposals for conservation action. The committee will also advise on the plant volume of the *Red Data Book*.

Reprinted from *Habitat*, Vol. 10, No. 7 (July 1974)

## WILD SERVICE TREE

Many members will by now be familiar with the Wild Service-tree Survey that this society is conducting. While the main objective of the survey is to help identify areas of primary lowland woodland there is much else, principally about the tree itself, that is possibly awaiting discovery.

In earlier centuries *Sorbus torminalis* was undoubtedly a great deal commoner than it is today, and would often have been found competing with the oaks for space in our indigenous woodlands.

Generally speaking the species favours two dissimilar kinds of soil, mountain limestone and clay and, so far as I know, an explanation has not yet been established for this: isolated populations and single trees do occur on other kinds of soils and when they do usually seem to grow well. This preference for the two dissimilar soils has led to trees being found in two rather different kinds of habitat. The limestone trees are often found in steep, rocky woods or growing from cliff crevices. They occur in the area around Bristol, along the Wye Valley, in South and East Wales and Anglesey. Long ago the tree was known from Liverpool (does it possibly still persist there as it does in London?) and it reappears on the carboniferous limestone near the Westmorland coast. These Westmorland trees have been regarded by some as introductions and details of any surviving in the area are therefore of particular interest.

The clay soil trees have their strongholds in southern and eastern England. They are widespread and sometimes not uncommon in the Weald of Kent, Sussex and Surrey, showing a preference for the Weald and Wadhurst Clays. They also follow the London Clay from the Suffolk and Kent coasts through Essex, London and Berkshire to reappear with it in southern Hampshire, although they seem to be less common on this formation than in the Weald. Liassic clays such as those around the Lincolnshire/Rutland border are also favoured by the species, but records from Boulder Clay or the Oxford Clay are rare.

Another discernible pattern of distribution is the apparent propensity of the species to follow the valleys of certain rivers. By this I mean that it is, or has been, found throughout a particular drainage area rather than close to the river itself. A marked example is along the Tamar Valley in Devon and Cornwall where the tree has been reported from various points along the entire length of the valley.



The Wye, the Severn and the Bristol Avon are similarly favoured and there is an indication that the trees might once have followed the river Trent. If this is the case old reports of the species in the Trent Valley area of southern Derbyshire may not be so far-fetched.

In former centuries, when the tree was much commoner than it is now, the edible fruits were well known and widely used. They were sold in markets in Kent, London, the Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire and probably other places, and while some may have been eaten raw it seems more probable that their prime use was for making jams, marmalades and jellies, for conversion into some kind of cider-like drink or for steeping in brandy, or other distillates to make a fruit liqueur analogous to cherry brandy or sloe gin. Old country recipes may still survive and any information about them would be very useful. The same goes for the wood. The wild service will grow to well over 80 ft. tall and trunks of over 9 ft. in girth have been recorded. The wood is very hard and close grained, useful for carving, turning and in the making of furniture and woodware articles such as bowls and spoons. Our ancestors undoubtedly made use of this wood, but I have been totally unable to discover any artifact in any museum or collection in which it has definitely been employed. I find it difficult to believe that no such artifacts exist and I have a strong suspicion that if one were to take a wild service wood bowl to an expert he would either not know what it was or identify it as some other kind of wood.

Apart from the practical uses of the fruit and wood there was a certain amount of folklore associated with the tree and information about much of this has probably been lost forever. Why, for example, were the fruits carried at the head of village festival processions in Northamptonshire? It seems that the tree shared something of the reputation of the rowan, *Sorbus aucuparia*, in its ability to scare witches away and prevent cattle from succumbing to the evil eye, but the details are now obscure.

For all these reasons enquiry about the tree among older people in the country districts may yield surprising results. Some may know of trees and be able to tell you where they grow—I have found several by this means; but remember either to use the local word for the species or arm yourself with a leaf or two for demonstration purposes.

In Kent and Sussex the species is usually known as the chequer tree (sometimes serve or shere) and people do not know the name wild service. In Gloucestershire and Worcestershire the tree is, or was, called the lizzory or lessory (an interesting word related to Old High German *eliza*, French *alise* and possibly the West Country name of french hales used for *Sorbus devoniensis*), Sarves is the Essex name for the fruit and in the Isle of Wight they were once known as sorbus-berries. On the Lincolnshire/Rutland border the trees are called surries. Other areas possibly have different and perhaps unrecorded dialect names, any of which may help to shed light on the status of the tree in earlier times.

Finding wild service trees can be difficult, even in areas where they are known to grow. One of the best indicators is the fallen leaves. These are very persistent and their characteristic shape, with a long leaf stalk makes them easy to pick out. In this way one can follow a trail back to a tree that may be several hundred yards away and specimens are almost as easy to find in winter as in summer. In April

and early May (later further north), there is a period of about two weeks when trees, particularly those growing in hedges, really stand out. The new leaves and young extending shoots that appear as the buds break have a distinctive silvery appearance caused by silky hairs that largely disappear later in the season. If you know of a tree locally, keep your eye on it in spring so that you know what to look out for elsewhere in the field.

In late May and early June the species bears its white, hawthorn-like flowers. These are distinctive enough but easily confused at a distance with hawthorn, elder or guelder rose unless the wild service is particularly large. Later in the year the brownish fruits are inconspicuous, but on many trees the leaves take on magnificent flame and gold autumn colours. It is this that gives the tree one of its greatest assets as an ornamental species.

When trees are found it is well worth taking a second look to see if the leaves, the fruit or anything else, are typical. What, for example, has happened to *var. perincisa* with its deeply cut leaves that once grew in Oxfordshire? Are there trees still growing in the Isle of Wight with more drooping branches than usual as reported by Elwes in "*Trees of Great Britain and Ireland*" in 1906?

The fruit are of particular interest. There is documentary evidence to show that *Sorbus torminalis* was once cultivated as an orchard tree, probably mainly in London and the South East. Recommendations that plants should be grafted onto stocks of their own species indicate that cultivars had been developed and descendants of these cultivars, (if not the actual cultivars themselves, since the trees live at least 300 years) are in all probability still to be found. In the wild, service berries are shaped like haws but are about twice as big. I have found fruit in Sussex shaped like small pears, so try and visit trees in October when the fruit is fully mature.

Looking for suckers and seedlings is not, perhaps, quite as easy as the survey cards suggest. While some trees do sucker fairly freely others layer themselves from lower branches which trail on the ground. As the main tree grows taller these layers detach themselves, but the plants they give rise to can remain smallish and look like suckers. It will be useful if members can note natural layering as well as suckering.

Seedlings are a mystery. The tree does not seem to reproduce itself very successfully and I find seedlings and young plants extremely scarce. Several people have told me, however, that they know locations where seedlings appear quite freely, and I have one report which says that young plants reach a foot or so in height before suddenly dying (why?). I have some young plants now growing from seed sown last autumn (seed did not, as some books state, take 18 months to germinate). All the plants that have appeared are healthy enough; but the interesting thing is that the true leaves that have so far developed are not of the typical *S. torminalis* shape, being without the distinctive pointed lobes. They are reminiscent of small *Sorbus intermedia* leaves and the seedlings could easily be mistaken for those of a *Crataegus* *ssp.* My seedlings are all derived from the fruit of one tree and are possibly atypical. I think this is unlikely, however, and any observations on the matter would be welcome.

P. ROPER

## WILD SERVICE TREE SURVEY

The response to this survey has been good, and we should like to thank those who have already sent in record cards. Some members who have records have not yet sent in their survey cards, and Dr Perring would be pleased to receive these as soon as possible as the information from the survey is already being processed by Pat Roper.

However additional information and cards filled in during the 1975 recording season will be welcome. In particular there is now evidence that where *Sorbus torminalis* occurs in a hedge, that hedge is likely to be an old one. This has been discussed at Monks Wood with Dr Max Hooper, the hedgerow expert and he has asked that where recorders find *S. torminalis* in a hedge it would be very helpful if they could make a count of the number of other woody species in a strip 15 yards on either side of the wild service-tree. This count could then be added on the notes space on the card.

Further supplies of cards are available from Biological Records Centre, Monks Wood, Abbots Ripton, Hunts. Please mark you request *Wild Service Tree Survey*.

## LEUCOJUM VERNUM

The spring snowflake is obtainable from several nurserymen in the country, though the original stocks invariably come from the Dutch bulb growers. In cultivation it tends to flower precociously, the buds appearing with the young leaves and frequently opening when only an inch or two high. This spring I was able to visit one of the two known sites in the West Country where this leucojum grows wild and was much impressed by its distinctive appearance as compared with garden material. Flowering did not commence until the leaves and scapes were about 6 in. tall or more, individual blossoms were a little smaller and leaves narrower. Clearly it was very easily differentiated from the garden grown form and would seem to merit some sort of varietal epithet. If any member of the Society has first hand knowledge of this species in Europe it would be nice to know if the precocious habit of flowering is usual there or if it behaves as described above. If British wild material can be shown to be truly distinct from its Continental brethren then this would be a further reason for considering it truly indigenous and not doubtfully native as stated in C. T. & W.

KENNETH A. BECKETT

## SEDUM SEXANGULARE

*Sedum sexangulare* is usually described in the *Floras* (e.g. Clapham, Tutin and Warburg, and Bentham and Hooker) as naturalized, or an escape, on old walls. J. W. White in *The Bristol Flora* located it "on two or three walls about Wyck". I saw it in White's locality, Wick Rocks, a few miles east of Bristol (I do not know why he spelt it "Wyck") in company with my old friend Noel Sandwith, late of Kew, in the summer of 1924. Last August, just 50 years later, I revisited the place, a miniature gorge running north and south in a belt of carboniferous limestone. Much of it, especially on the east side, has been destroyed by quarrying, and there are also large quarries, now disused, on the west side, but to the south of these there

is still an area above the gorge with outcrops of rock untouched by quarrying. I do not remember now exactly where we found the plant in 1924. This year I did not see any on walls, but it is completely naturalized, and growing in some quantity, among the limestone outcrops. How it got there is a mystery, for there are no houses or gardens near from which it might have escaped, and anyone who did not know that it is an alien would take it to be native there.

J. W. GOUGH

### A DAY AT SHINGLE STREET, SUFFOLK

The East Coast did not for once live up to its reputation for bracing sea breezes on Sunday, July 7th when a party of about 20 members drove out from Woodbridge through Hollesley to look at shingle and salt marsh plants on the Suffolk coast with Dr Roland Randall. Dr Randall has worked in Britain and overseas studying coastal vegetation and is at present engaged on work in the area visited. Inland it stayed rather grey and dull, but out east it was bright, still and—almost-hot.

We left our cars at the landward edge of the shingle, just by the northern end of Shingle Street itself which is a lonely single file of little painted wooden houses staring out into the North Sea. The made up road runs on through the shingle and disappears rather disconcertingly into the sea—a relic of the last war, Dr Randall told us, when shingle was transported along it to build an airport inland. We kept off the road and struck north, on foot, over carpets of flowers, Dr Randall urging us on so fast that we barely noticed the uncommon sea pea (*Lathyrus japonicus*) in bloom everywhere among the stones. At his behest we even broke that most elementary of all rules for field botany and left our lunches behind. It made for easy walking if uneasy minds. But Dr Randall knew his ground and his plan worked splendidly, instead of letting us dissipate our energies in immediate botanising, he marched us briskly to the northernmost spit of the shingle where we looked out eastwards over a narrow channel—the river Ore—to the southernmost end of Orford Ness, and gave us a brief but comprehensive introduction to this strange area of shifting stones.

Standing there in the middle of it, we could see and understand how the shingle banks on either side of the river were constantly being extended by the pull of the currents, forcing the Ore to run in a tight straight-jacket of stones, and how these vulnerably narrow banks could be washed away again almost overnight. We saw where a great stretch of Orford Ness had been blown bodily on to the shore during the last great storm in 1953, and we saw how the Ness itself and the shingle banks on the landward shore had grown and changed in shape ever since then. Dr Randall's reproductions of old maps and charts gave fascinating glimpses of how the large scale topography of the Shingle Street area had changed over the past three or four hundred years. On the smaller scale, we saw for ourselves the gradual changes of plant colonisation as we walked more slowly back along the spit.

Newly accumulated shingle was quite bare; and some parts exposed and left in artificial heaps by the mechanical diggers during the last war have remained bare for over 20 years. But where the shingle has built up gradually as part of a slower natural cycle, it may start to harbour plants after only months. At the water's edge

and where the stones lay thinly enough on the London Clay below, we saw a fringe of salt marsh plants like *Halimione portulacoides* and *Salicornia* growing in the clay. Where these were stifled by a greater depth of stones, plant life depended on the gradual accumulation of food—perhaps starting even from such unpromising beginnings as a tourist's discarded sandwich as Dr Randall pointed out cheerfully. Struggling to survive among the inhospitable stones there would at first be a few sparse and stringy pioneers, like *Atriplex hastata* and *Beta maritima*. Then the spreading roots of low growing perennials like *Lathyrus japonicus*. *Sedum acre* and *Silene maritima* would gradually stabilise the stones, and when they had been held at rest for a few years there might be enough nourishment to support a much more varied flora. So, starting in tiny sheltered bays or closed lagoons along the edges of the shingle and then spreading upwards we saw *Artemisia maritima*, *Atriplex littoralis*, *Plantago maritima*, *Tripleurospermum maritimum* and grasses such as *Agropyron pungens* and *Puccinellia maritima*. These in turn were spotted with little patches of inland species, *Arrhenatherum elatius*, *Cirsium* spp., *Geranium robertianum*, *Senecio viscosus*, *Sonchus* spp. and the choosier maritime ones such as *Glaucium flavum*, *Honkenya peploides* and even a few scattered *Crambe maritima*. Dr Randall explained that *Crambe* and *Glaucium* often occurred together, as in autumn detached fruiting branches of the sea kale would blow away along the shingle unless they were trapped by the horned pods of the poppy; but although there were plenty of poppies, there were sufficiently few sea kale for habitues to know some of the older ones at least as individual friends.

By this time it was nearly lunch time—and lo!—we were almost back at our parking place to pick up our picnics. (The more conscientious of us took pains afterwards to bury our banana skins among the barer stony patches to encourage future generations of pioneer *Atriplex*.)

After lunch we looked at the much denser and varied flora on really long established shingle just inland, shading gradually into salt marsh species wherever it was badly drained. Among festoons of festucas and the commoner grassland flowers we saw occasional much less common things such as *Carex extensa*, *Echium vulgare*, *Limonium vulgare*, *Reseda luteola*, *Spergularia media*, *Trifolium scabrum*, *Triglochin maritimum* and *Vicia lutea*.

And here my account must end as I had to leave early alas and so do not know what was found over the rest of the salt marsh before the end of the meeting.

R. M. HADDEN

### HAVE YOU EVER?

Have you ever hitched a lift in a taxi because your car wouldn't go?

Have you ever been lost from fellow members of your party when they were only twenty yards away?

Have you ever climbed to the top of a 187 m hill looking for plants only to add two species to your tetrad card?

Have you ever tried to make records from a tetrad using a 1920s Ordnance Survey map as your guide?

No?

Then you should have been with us at the Aylesbury field meeting in August. Keenness was obviously there, so as not to be late for the meeting. And if trees will

hide you from the correct pathway then it is not surprising that you deviate. The view from Quainton Hill is quite spectacular on a clear day, but if you are flora recording, then it is not very rewarding. Maps printed in the 1920s did not have the national grid printed on them so some records were not made in the tetrads originally thought, though they were still valuable. As indeed were all the others, making some 2,000 new records for the *Flora of Bucks*.

Have you ever wondered how you could usefully spend a weekend?

Yes!

Then may I suggest attending one of the organised field outings? You might find some unexpected rarity or you might just add to the knowledge of the distribution of a common plant. Both are valuable. *Alchemilla filicaulis* ssp. *vestita* is a rare plant in Buckinghamshire and it was found on the Chilterns this year where *A. xanthochlora* is the more common, (though this too is rare!). It is surprising too. how many of our tetrads still need *Bellis perennis* recording. So although our field meeting was in August 1974, there are still records of all sorts to be made . . . we would welcome you, and your records.

R. MAYCOCK

### THE ROSE MEETING

This field meeting, arranged in Sussex to identify roses from their hips, caught the imagination of the media as it was announced in four national newspapers and five local papers. We were accompanied by two reporters and a photographer and several illustrated reports appeared in Sussex papers. Finally our leader, Dr Ronald Melville was invited for an interview on the Radio 4 programme, *Living World* and members may have heard him speaking on his part in the production of vitamin C during the war, which led to his closer study of our wild roses. Ted Lousley thanked Dr Melville at the end of the meeting for the excellent day, at which as well as naming 17 *Rosa* species, varieties, forms and hybrids, we had also a great deal of instruction on the genetics of the *Rosa* species and the consequences for field identification.

M.B.

### OVERHEARD AT THE TARAXACUM MEETING

From east, north and south members converged upon Farndon, Nottinghamshire for the Dandelion Meeting, some coming from as far as Moray and Hampshire for the day, while good local support brought the total party up to almost 30, all of whom enjoyed the meeting with the excellent itinerary planned and guided by Leaver and Brenda Howitt, and the splendid taraxacum tuition by John Richards. A local member providing transport from the station was easily identified by her large *Taraxacum* buttonhole—later identified as *T. procerum*, a new record for Notts!

During the day snippets of conversation floated in the air.

“ . . . Oh, we’ve got that one in the garden, I just call it a dandelion.”

“ . . . This Australian hat business, bracts erect one side and curved down the other.”

“ . . . Perishing things, they shouldn’t be purplish but these are—slightly.”

- “... Valvate bracts all on the same level, cut across like a ruff.”  
 “... Do you like Nottinghamshire? It isn't as bad as I thought.”  
 “... These are the same size, the same shape and the same colour and they are doing the same thing.”  
 “... I'm not going to be humbugged by these ears and things.”  
 “... No that isn't spots, it's a disease.”  
 “... This is scruffy *cordatum*.” Serious voice from back, “Did he say *Taraxacum scrufficordatum*?”  
 “... I know it but I don't think I've got a name for it yet.”  
 “... Miaow.” (One member had brought a cat in a basket.)

M.B.

### IN SEARCH OF LINNAEA BOREALIS

Details of a successful 'expeditionary force' mounted by the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club to rediscover *Linnaea borealis* in the country are included in Volume 31 of the history of the Club. The party visited the locality where the plant was first discovered in the county 138 years before. The delicate pink twin-bell flowers had last been seen in a fir wood at the locality in 1916 and before that not since 1894. After some time searching, the party rediscovered the plant growing over an area of a few square yards in the shade of an old birch wood which had survived felling and replanting operations in recent years. Members of the society are intending to investigate three or four other known localities of this plant—a favourite of the great Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus.

Reprinted from *Habitat*, Vol. 10, No. 9 (September 1974)

### A PROPOSED FLORA OF CUMBRIA

Recording has commenced on a tetrad basis with the intention of producing a flora of vice-counties 69 (Westmorland), 69b (Furness) and 70 (Cumberland). There has never been a Flora of the whole of this area and Wilson's (1939) *Flora of Westmorland* is the only vice-comital Flora since Hodgson's (1898) *Flora of Cumberland*.

There are about 1700 tetrads and it is anticipated that the project will take between 10 and 15 years. With a project of this size and so few members of the Society resident in the area, it is essential that we should get as much outside help as possible. I should therefore be extremely grateful for offers of help, whether it be to record tetrads (specified or not), to contribute field notes and species lists, or information on herbarium and literature records.

G. HALLIDAY  
*Department of Biological Sciences,*  
*The University, Lancaster*

### POPULAR ARTICLES IN WATSONIA

From time to time voices are raised complaining of the scarcity in *Watsonia* of articles of a more popular nature. This is a matter which the editors regret just as much as the general reader. It certainly is not a question of editorial policy but it is due purely and simply to a lack of such papers. All contributions in this vein will be treated as sympathetically and seriously as the most erudite of thesis digests.

G. HALLIDAY

## FLAG NO MORE

However conservation-minded we may be in these days when botanists have long since discarded the vasculum there are times when we all need to collect plants or parts of plants for further study. Returning home we can find them withered with the need to restore them. There is a simple but not generally known means of doing this which was made known to me by A. J. Wilmott, for so long in charge of the British and European herbaria at the British Museum (Natural History) and for a number of years the leading personality in our society.

Wilmott was puzzled as to why the flowers of the flower-girls who occupied the steps of Eros Piccadilly were always so fresh and persuaded them to reveal the secret of their trade. The flagging bunches were put into a tin container with only a sprinkling of water and then covered in to make the container airtight. In a few hours the flowers were completely restored to their original freshness. Wilmott explained to me with reasons which I have long since forgotten why this must be so, the essentials being darkness, air-tight conditions and a minimum of water. Over many years with simple home-provided apparatus I have found this method of reviving plants never to fail.

J. G. DONY

## BOOK NOTES

The B.S.B.I. Oak Symposium, held in September, 1973, was so stimulating and full of interest (see **Watsonia**, 10: 206-7) that the published proceedings should attract a wide readership. The subjects discussed ranged beyond those of strict botanical concern, but each illuminated a different aspect of this tree that is such an important member of our flora. Those who attended the Symposium will not need any encouragement to obtain *The British Oak—Its History and Natural History*, and those who were not so fortunate will nevertheless find it an endless source of fascinating and often unexpected information. Members should note that the special price for them applies only until 30th June, 1975.

The following books will be reviewed in **Watsonia**, Vol. 10 (3):—

*Geobotanická mapa CSSR 1*, edited by R. Mikyska.

*Phytochemical Methods*, by J. B. Harborne.

*A Dictionary of Useful and Everyday Plants*, by F. N. Howes.

*World Pollen and Spore Flora*, 1-2 edited by S. Nilsson.

*Die Pflanzengesellschaften der Halophyten—und Subhalophytenvegetation der Tschechoslowakei*, by J. Vicherek.

*Guide des arbres et des arbustes d'Europe*, by A. Quartier and P. Bauer-Bovet.

*How Trees Grow*, by P. R. Morey.

*Culinary Herbs*, by M. Page and W. J. Stearn.

*Wild Flowers of British Columbia*, by L. J. Clark.

*The Pollination of Flowers*, by M. Proctor and P. Yeo.

*Science in Horticulture*, 1-3, edited by L. Broadbent.

*The Wild Flowers of Britain and Northern Europe*, by R. and A. Fitter and M. Blamey.

*Index Kewensis, Supplement XV (1966-1970)*.

*La synthèse écologique*, by P. Duvigneaud.

*The Major Groups of Palms and their Distribution*, by H. E. Moore, Jr.



In addition, the following books have been received. Those which will *not* be reviewed in **Watsonia** are marked with an asterisk:—

*Wild Flowers of the Canary Islands*, by D. and Z. Bramwell.

*The Boojum and its Home*, by R. R. Humphrey.

*Hegis' Illustrierte Flora von Mitteleuropa*, ed. 2, 3 (3), edited by K. H. Rechinger and J. Damboldt.

*The Kew Record of Botanical Literature*, 1971.

*An Alphabetical Table and Cultivation Guide to the Species of Iris*, by A. Marchant and B. Mathew.

*New Botanist*, Vol. 1 (1-2), a new quarterly botanical journal.

*How to Begin the Study of Flowering Plants*, by E. Davenport.

*Cytotaxonomical Atlas of the Slovenian Flora*, by A. and D. Löve.

\**Fauna and Flora of St. Andrews Bay*, edited by M. S. Laverack and M. Blackler. Pp. 310. Scottish Academic Press, Edinburgh and London, 1974. Price £5.00. A comprehensive account of the plants (algae, fungi, lichens) and animals that have been recorded in the sea and on the shore around St. Andrews.

\**Introduction to Biophysical Plant Physiology*, by P. S. Nobel. Pp. xii + 488, with numerous text-figures. W. H. Freeman & Co., San Francisco, 1974. Price £7.10. An expansion of the author's *Plant Cell Physiology* (Freeman, 1970), which will serve as a useful university textbook at advanced levels.

\**Plant Viruses*, ed. 5, by K. M. Smith. Pp. 211, with 18 plates and 3 text-figures. Chapman & Hall, London, 1974. Price £1.90 (paper). The latest edition of this well-known work includes a chapter on virus diseases of algae and fungi.

N. K. B. ROBSON

### DANDY'S WATSONIAN VICE-COUNTIES

A review was published in *Watsonia* 9: 49-50 (1972) of J. E. Dandy's *Watsonian Vice-Counties of Great Britain*, published by the Ray Society in 1969. The address then given and that given in the last issue of *News* to which orders should be sent is now no longer applicable. Copies may now be obtained from Johnson Reprint Co., 24-28 Oval Road, London NW1 7DX.

R. K. BRUMMITT

### NEWSLETTER

#### The Society for the Bibliography of Natural History

This Society will be holding a two-day meeting on the history and bibliography of the animal, plant and earth sciences at the Linnean Society, Burlington House on 3rd and 4th April 1975. There will be four sessions based on the following themes:

1. Manuscripts and Natural History
2. Natural History and Exploration
3. Descriptive Bibliography
4. New Trends in the History of Natural History.

Details of the Meeting may be obtained from Mrs J. A. Diment, Department of Palaeontology, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.

### ADVENTIVE NEWS No. 1

The number of B.S.B.I. members interested, at least latently in the adventive (alien) flora of Britain must be very large. In order to stimulate further interest I am proposing, starting with the next issue of *News*, to write up regularly any information that comes to my notice. Do let me know about your finds and determinations, or send me specimens if you are unsure of identification. (For newcomers to British botany I should warn that while the standard reference books give, for example, *Echinops sphaerocephalus* L. and *Phytolacca americana* L. as established in Britain, almost all the records should be referred to several other allied species.) Pressed voucher specimens would, indeed, add to the value and accuracy of any records. I will do my best to solve any problems that we meet. Do criticise as well, please—I may be missing the truth in some matters.

In future, the Plant Records item in *Watsonia* will not be including casuals (*B.S.B.I. News*, Vol. 3, No. 2, p. 6) However, such records are ideally suited to these columns and it is hoped that members will send in their finds. Do tell me what comes up in your garden after feeding the birds with "Swoop". And since adventive plants know no bounds, and as many members holiday abroad, I shall not be restricting my news to Britain alone. Some notes will I hope refer to plants growing in Europe or elsewhere.

In addition, I would like to hear of misleading errors in the literature or of garden plants grown under incorrect names.

The success of this venture depends upon you, so please send me your interesting news and observations regularly. I look forward to hearing from you.

Eric J. Clement, 13 Shelford, Burritt Road, Kingston, Surrey, KT1 3HR.

### BOTANICAL "PRINTERS' PIE"

In the proofs of a manuscript on grasses:—

'—also of value is *Dactylis glomerata* commonly known as Socksfoot—'.

Has anyone else any examples?

K.A.B.

### COLOUR SLIDES

Mrs Mary Newsam of 41 Newfield Crescent, Dore, Sheffield, S17 3DE wants to obtain slides of some rare, southern plants for lecture purposes. She has spare copies of slides of northern rarities and would be happy to swap with any southern member who may be interested. Please write direct to Mrs Newsam.

### PUBLICITY MANAGER

The Society is anxious to find a member who would volunteer as Honorary Publications Manager, to assist in the publicity and sales of the Society's publications. The person appointed would work closely with the Publications Committee, reporting to Council through that Committee, and would be responsible for advertising, review copies and general publicity for the Conference reports published by the B.S.B.I.

Any member with experience in this field who would be interested in helping the Society please contact the Hon. General Secretary at White Cottage, Slinfold, Horsham, Sussex, RH13 7RG.

### THANKLESS TASKS

Everyone in a society appreciates the number of odd jobs which come the way of officers and members of committees and this might be a good place to thank some of those concerned though sometimes there are too many helpers for names to be mentioned—and very frequently the same names too, but did you realise for example that every copy of the Wild Plant Posters was folded and the envelopes stuffed and stuck down by six members of the Society? (Imagine sticking down 2,200 envelopes). Then the leaflets for those who asked for information for the Oak Symposium, Elizabeth Rich addressed 250 envelopes for these. At meetings have you noticed the pourers out of coffee and washers up? Mention here should be made particularly of Nellie Gibby and Ailsa Lee who can always be relied upon, though many others also lend a hand. Manning the stall at the Chelsea Flower Show was another task. Perhaps it is invidious to mention names at all but to all those who perform these tasks so willingly go the thanks of every member of the B.S.B.I., and if anyone wants some occupation in their spare time, I am sure our Secretary can oblige.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Plant Protection Unnecessary

28 Onslow Gardens,  
Grange Park,  
London, N21 1DX  
20th September, 1974

Dear Sir,

P. J. M. Nethercott's strictures on the rare plant poster were interesting because the same point was made last year to the Secretary. I will go further and say that I deplore the Wild Plants Protection Bill as yet another attack on the freedom and independence of the individual. These 20 years since the war are littered with the activities of small, vociferous minorities who feel that they have almost divine right to guide, protect and control the luckless English.

It was pointed out to both the Secretary and President that some years ago it was made an offence to drop litter. It has now become almost a national pastime to deposit it in every corner of the Kingdom, stimulated in my view by this unenforceable law while we remain as a nation loth to become common informers.

To publish a list of protected plants is to invite their extinction, in the same way that saying no one will ever be able to run a four minute mile produced Bannister. The two activities could hardly be more different but they are motivated by the same urge. The language of one says 'It can't be done.'—'I'll do it.' The other says 'You must not do it.'—'Just you watch me.' Mr Nethercott urged the Conservation Committee to get rid of the posters. The Committee, responding to the same stimulus said they were going to get more. Need I say more?

There is little one can do to stop plant collectors collecting plants, unless this society is prepared to dig up all the rare plants and put them inside the high walls of Kew Gardens. Where our rare mountain plants are concerned, it is a perfectly valid point that what the forces of nature do not destroy overnight the large boots of a climber will the following morning. It is far more sensible to take the attitude that the wild plants must take their chance.

On a climbing holiday in the Gran Paradiso area this summer, my wife was

fortunate in finding *Bupleurum stellatum*. We were intrigued on our return to find that all our hare's ears are pretty rare and that one in particular, the sickle hare's ear, which is very similar to our alpine find, is to be found only on one grassy road side verge near Ongar, Essex, a matter of 15 miles or so away. Thus, the latter end of the summer we have tramped up and down every lane near Ongar, covering at least 50 miles or so. We haven't found it but the search has revealed so much that is pleasurable; the very essence of the hobby.

What does the Conservation Committee propose when we resume our quest next year? Are they going to follow us around the lanes, or lie in wait on cycles equipped with mobile radios? When we go climbing on Ben Nevis will I find Alf Slack at the top of Gardyloo Gully to inspect my rucksack because I spent too much time on a nearby rock face, where *Saxifraga rivularis* had been having a wet time of it too?

This is an amusing facet perhaps, but the reality will be different. For years we have wandered the hills, enjoying not only the thrill of finding unexpected plants, or the fascination of the sweep of an eagle, but too that strange and oddly endurable solitude of a high hill—the only loneliness in a sense which is acceptable, and which remains the most vivid experience of a climber. Does the Society propose that some of the members should now keep watch on those who walk the hills? Will we, one day, feel perhaps that someone has glasses trained on us? This would be an intrusion on our privacy that is indefensible in a free society, and we cannot support yet another unnecessary and restrictive law.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN PEACH  
EILEEN PEACH

### Slide Collections of Plants and Ferns

Royden Cottage,  
Cliftonville,  
Dorking,  
Surrey, RH4 2JF

26th September, 1974

Dear Mr. Beckett,

Mr. G. A. Matthews' Note in the Vol. 3, No. 2, edition of "B.S.B.I. News" prompts the thought that there are many—perhaps too many—collections of such material. To my knowledge, most National Botanic Gardens and Museums have their own, but none is even reasonably comprehensive. There seems to me to be a case for some central collection, copies of whose material could be held by the other organisations for local purposes; it is not for me to suggest where this central collection should be, but the Society's Council could profitably consider this point.

Two points will be little known. The first is that for a number of years the Nature Conservancy collected a National Collection of Nature Photographs—the criterion being photographic quality combined with record value; this collection is still in existence, though its administration was suspended as a result of the Conservancy's "Rothschild" reorganisations; I have been assured by Dr. D. Frazer of the N.C.C.'s H.Q. that the Collection, and its Advisory Committee will be re-activated in the not-too-distant future. When this takes place, the Collection will probably include colour material (which it has up till now excluded on the sole, but strong, ground of impermanence).

The second is that there is a move towards a National Archive of Colour Photographs, the master-mind here being the Rev. D. Wall, of the Royal Photographic Society; sophisticated preservation techniques are under consideration and, there is good reason for thinking that Nature photographs will be every bit as carefully considered for inclusion as pictorial photographs.

Two related things strike me. The first is the poor opinion, indeed obloquy, with which Nature photography is held by many botanists; some of this, perhaps, may be from preference for the old pattern of collecting physical specimens, but most springs from the abysmal techniques adopted by many of those who are experienced botanists but tyro photographers. Even the most distinguished, with a very few exceptions, could benefit from digesting fully the "Nature Photographers Code of Practice", referred to by Mrs. Briggs on P. 2 of the same "News" issue.

Secondly, the photographic results obtained even by ace botanists are often plain lousy—again with a few honourable exceptions. Members should, perhaps, sink their botanical pride and think about joining one the specialist Nature photographic societies that belong to the Association of Natural History Photographic Societies. I can put anyone interested in touch with an appropriate Society. There is no doubt that membership of one of these is the quickest and most effective way of improving one's photographic standards—and one will find that the maintenance of ethical standards is one of these bodies' foremost considerations.

Yours truly,

D. M. TURNER ETTLINGER, F.R.P.S.

Hon. Sec., Association of Natural History Photographic Societies.  
 Chairman, Associateship and Fellowship (Nature) Panel, Royal Photographic Society.  
 Chairman, Nature Photographers Portfolio.  
 Editor, "Natural History Photography" (Academic Press, 1974).  
 Former Member of the Nature Conservancy's Photographic Advisory Committee.

### **British Plants for Indian**

The Rapinat Herbarium,  
 St. Joseph's College,  
 Tiruchirapalli—620002,  
 India  
 17th July, 1974

During my two years' stay in the U.K. (1971-1973) I collected more than one half the number of species indicated in Dandy's *List* for our University Herbarium. The aim of this request is to find out if someone is prepared to make up the rest, in part or in full, so that we can have as complete a set of British plants as possible. The list of the needed species can be supplied on demand, and an exchange of south Indian specimens most gladly arranged.

There is a specific purpose in making this collection: almost all plants mentioned in textbooks of botany are from temperate countries which most tropical students have no means of even seeing! Ours being a postgraduate Department of Botany, this collection will be used well by generations of students.

One more request: we should very much like to buy a copy of Perring & Walters: *Atlas of the British Flora* (the *Critical Supplement* is already with us), the only volume needed to complete a comprehensive set of books on British Flora in our library.

Thanking you very much,

Yours sincerely,  
K. M. MATTHEW

### BOOKS WANTED AND FOR SALE

#### Wanted

Watsonia, Vol. 2, parts 5 and 6.  
Vol. 3, part 5.

These are needed by Colchester and Essex Museum, The Castle, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1TJ. Please write to the Keeper of Natural History. Although these are the only parts required, the Museum would be willing to purchase the two volumes complete if necessary to obtain the copies required.

#### For Sale

Complete runs:—

Watsonia, Vol. 4, part 6 (1961) to Vol. 9, part 4 (1973)  
Proceedings, Vol. 4, part 2 (1961) to Vol. 7, part 4 (1969)  
Abstracts, Nos. 1, 2 and 3.

Suitable for a new member. Any offers to the Editor.

### NATURE CONSERVANCY COUNCIL GRANTS

Section 3 of the Nature Conservancy Council Act, 1973, enables Council to give financial help to anyone carrying on, or proposing to carry on, any project which Council itself can undertake: i.e.

- (i) the establishment, maintenance and management of nature reserves in Great Britain;
- (ii) the provision of advice and dissemination of knowledge about nature conservation;
- (iii) the commissioning, support or carrying out of research.

Grants may be awarded to anyone; to individuals or to organisations, private or public.

Grants will normally be made as contributions towards costs rather than with the object of fully reimbursing expenditure. They may comprise once-for-all or recurrent payments which will normally be paid in arrears against receipts but in certain circumstances (e.g. contributions towards the wages of staff) may be paid in advance.

Application forms are obtainable from The Grants Officer, Nature Conservancy Council, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, Salop, SY4 4TW.

### NEW MEMBERS

(To August, 1974)

**E. J. Adnams**, 64 Evans Road, EYNSHAM, Oxon., OX8 1QS.  
**J. W. Alger**, 82 Fauchons Lane, Bearsted, MAIDSTONE, Kent.  
**Mrs. Heather Angel**, Sunset Cottage, Clovelly Road, HINDHEAD, Surrey.  
**D. P. Atkins**, 43 Wyvern Avenue, Long Eaton, Nr. NOTTINGHAM, NG10 1AF.

- M. D. Atkinson**, 86 Saltwell Road South, Low Fell, GATESHEAD 9, Tyne/Wear.  
**R. T. Ayres**, 42 Roxborough Park, HARROW, Middx., HA1 3AY.  
**E. W. Baker**, 10 Rose Grove, Roman Bank, SKEGNESS, Lincs., PE25 3BS  
**A. M. E. Bartlett**, 13 Carlton Road, OXFORD, OX2 7RZ.  
**R. B. C. Beeson**, 6 Coleherne Road, LONDON, SW10 9BP.  
**R. Bennett**, Brook House, Distington, WORKINGTON, Cumberland, CA14 5YA.  
**R. C. Bennett**, 46 Merlin Grove, Eden Park, BECKENHAM, Kent.  
**S. R. Bowden**, 53 Crouch Hall Lane, Redbourn, ST. ALBANS, Herts., AL3 7EU  
**Brentwood College of Education**, Rural Studies Dept. (T. Illsley), Sawyers Hall Lane, BRENTWOOD, Essex.  
**Mrs. D. E. Brewin**, 'Curts', 23 St. Catherines Road, HAYLING ISLAND, Hants., PO11 0HF.  
**K. Broome**, 70 Hales Lane, Smethwick, WARLEY, West Midlands.  
**Mr. E. Cattell**, 30 Johnston Walk, GUILDFORD, Surrey, GU2 6XP.  
**Mrs. L. C. Chick**, 42 Bridge Court, Lea Bridge Road, LEYTON, London, E10 7JS.  
**L. E. Chinnery**, The School of Biological and Environmental Studies, The New University of Ulster, COLERAINE, N. Ireland.  
**Miss D. G. Cocken**, St. Aids House, Hillfield Street, GATESHEAD, Co. Durham.  
**Mrs. D. I. Cockerill**, Horseshoe Cottage, TROTSHILL, Worcester.  
**G. D. Coley**, 32 Culver Road, NEWBURY, Berks.  
**Mrs. H. Cothill**, 10 Rooks Meadow, West Hagley, STOURBRIDGE, Worcs., DY9 0PT.  
**S. E. Crooks**, Durrows, Quarry Lane, Kelsall, TARPORLEY, Cheshire.  
**Dr. B. N. K. Davis**, Monks Wood Experimental Station, ABBOTS RIPTON, Huntingdon.  
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