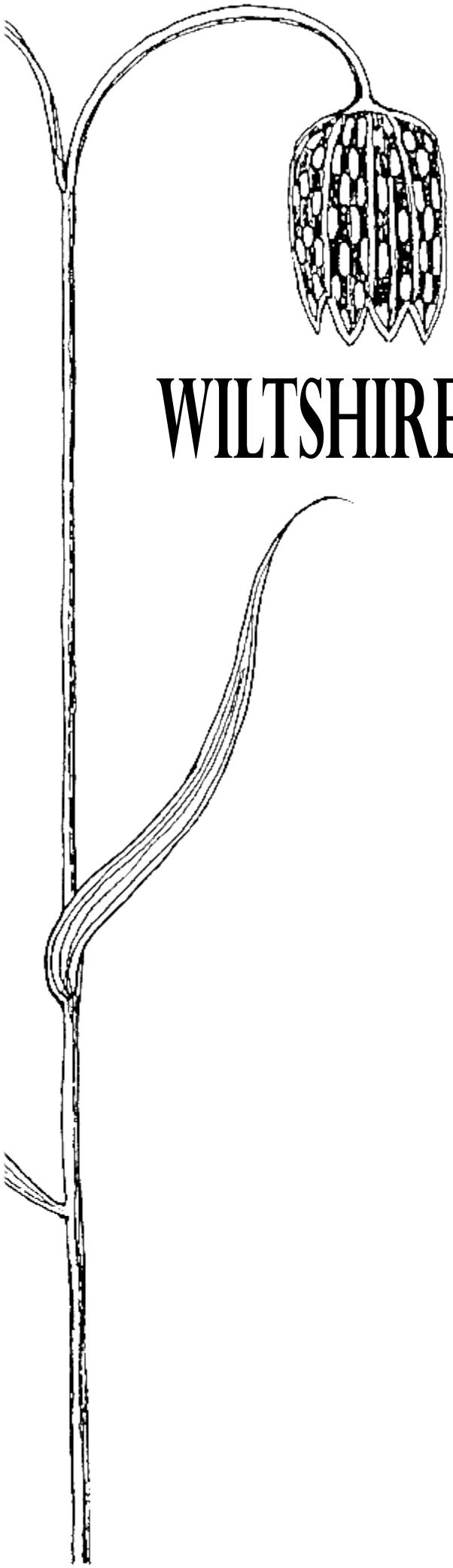

NEWSLETTER

Issue 33 Winter 2008/2009

WILTSHIRE BOTANICAL SOCIETY

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Website: http://www.wiltsbotsoc.co.uk

Saturday 25 October 2008

Botanising on Italian Volcanoes

John Presland

This, our first winter meeting, was held in a new venue, Melksham Church Hall. We certainly needed Christopher Perraton's precise directions to find it but, once there, parking was easy and the hall was warm and provided all that we needed.

As always, John Presland provided a stimulating talk which he illustrated with his excellent pictures. He told us how the fertility of the soil encouraged large populations to live under Mount Vesuvius - despite the fact that another eruption is long overdue - and that it would take four days to evacuate the three million inhabitants of modern Pompeii. The fertile soils allow over 1000 species of plants to grow in the area and the ancient ruins, now somewhat neglected, provide ideal habitat for many of them including Spanish Broom, Gladiolus, Sweet Alison, Asphodel and Tassel Hyacinth.

Moving on to Stromboli, John explained how the island is the upper part of a great active volcanic structure with 1,500m below the sea and 924m above. The volcano has been highly active as recently as 2003 when rock and larva falling in to the sea produced a tidal wave which rocked ships 100 miles away. It also created a 20-foot tsunami that wrecked homes and caused the population to be evacuated. On a much smaller scale, explosions can be seen from the sea at night, rather like fireworks, and are thought to occur 3 to 7 times an hour. The volcanic rock, formed by the sudden release of steam and gas as it solidifies, is light and porous and is known as pumice. A community of shrubs growing on dry arid soils has developed close to the coast and includes plants such as Tree Spurge, Shrubby Wormwood, *Genista* species, *Cistus incanus*, Hoary Stock and Mallow-leaved Convolvulus. By no means unusually, John found that the specific names that he was given for some plants are not used in our Mediterranean Floras and so precise identification can be very difficult.

Despite erupting every few years, Mount Etna has visitor centres, cable car and botanical garden and the mountain is protected as the Parco dell'Etna. It is possible to trace succession from bare volcanic rock through to dense forest although much of this had been cleared for agriculture before 1987 when the park was formed. In some of the more developed habitats John found the Black Widow Iris, *Romulea bulbocodium*, *Ranunculus millefoliatus*, *Campanula dichotoma*, and several *Verbascum*. Higher up the mountain are chestnut woods and, although most of the current trees are planted, the species was one of the original forest trees of the area. We saw a picture of a very large example, thought to be 1000 or more years old and one of the biggest and oldest trees in Europe. The wood shelters herbaceous plants such as Red Helleborine but is frequently interrupted by larval flows and, depending on age, they can be well vegetated with Etna Dock and Etna Broom in particular. Issues of identification again became apparent when John investigated the plant which we in Britain regard as *Senecio squalidus*. It came from seed sources collected on Mount Etna and was grown in the Oxford Botanic Garden from where it escaped and spread along the railway system. It seems likely that this plant is a hybrid between *S. aethnensis* and *S. chrysanthemifolius* both of which occur naturally in Sicily and do not spread if introduced into Britain. Thus it would seem that hybridisation has conferred an ability to colonise a new environment very different from that in which the parent plants grow on Mount Etna. Evolution in action.

The number of endemics which occur is impressive but perhaps not surprising given the selection pressure which exists under these conditions. Examples include Sicilian Toadflax, Etna Birch, Etna Milk-vetch, Etna Chamomile, Etna Rennet and Etna Violet. Several other subspecies and varieties are also candidates for endemic status.

As we have come to expect, we were treated to an afternoon of interesting plants and new facts to assimilate – all presented in a lively and stimulating fashion. Thank you John.

Pat Woodruffe

Surveying for Natural England

Once again we are looking for key plants for Natural England on Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves. This year's sites are all chalk grassland again; they are Chickengrove Bottom, a WWT site of which Barbara Last is warden, Yarnbury Castle - a hill fort next to Parsonage Down, Calstone Down and the neighbouring Cherhill Down.

We will be looking for indicator species for high quality chalk grassland, for instance Burnt Orchid, Field Fleawort, Round-headed Rampion, Bastard Toadflax and Dwarf Sedge. We aim to make a detailed survey of the numbers and spread of the plants to form a baseline which Natural England can use to judge the health of these SSSIs.

Visits to the sites do not form part of our organised programme, but are arranged by the teams which have taken on each site. If this sounds interesting and you would like to take part, Pat Woodruffe (contact details on page 23) could put you in touch with the team you would like to join. It would give you a chance to have a good look at some special sites, some of which are normally private.

More people will mean better coverage. The surveys will almost certainly spill over into 2010.

Richard Aisbitt

Bentley Wood Fungus Foray

Sunday 2 November 2008

Leader: Ted Gange

A dull day with recent terrible weather perhaps accounted for the small turn-out of only seven members, but we enjoyed the autumn colours with members of the Salisbury Natural History Group and Friends of Bentley Wood. Ted Gange as usual played down his very evident expertise, and after warnings about safety emphasised that our afternoon's collecting was a special dispensation.

Over the course of an hour or so we collected an impressive display for the identification table, but not as spectacular a volume as previous years, with many of the larger fungi already over, and fallen leaves hindering spotting; a protracted cold spell did not help either.

Most of us found examples of the larger funnel-caps; *Clitocybe infundibuliformis* (Common Funnel-cap), *C. nebularis* (Clouded Funnel-cap), and *C. geotropa*. Various small puffballs and earth stars were seen, and an unexpanded and smell-less stinkhorn. Bracket fungi included *Trametes gibbosa* and *Piptoporus betulinus* (the Razor-strop Fungus) on birch; the small bracket with the shaded underside, *Bjerkandera adusta* was also found.

The False Chanterelle (*Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca*) we found was used to explain how its orange gills distinguished it from the purer egg-yolk colour of the real one. Other colourful fungi included the Wood Blewit (*Lepista nuda*), the Verdigris Fungus (*Stropharia aeruginosa*), Honey Fungus (*Armillaria mellea*), the much-liked pink *Mycena pura*, the Buttercup Fungus (*Collybia butyracea*) with buttery-feel to cap surface, and one called The Deceiver (*Laccaria laccata*), very common, but very variable, hence its common name (not the same as the Amethyst Deceiver).

A host of small delicate fungi included *Baeospora myosura* living only on fallen pine cones, Glistening Ink-cap (*Coprinus micaceus*), soon self-digesting, with shining specks like mica, the tiny *Marasmiellus* and the ghostly-white *Delicatula*.

We saw white upright tiny stags' horns called Candle Snuff Fungus (*Xylaria hypoxylon*) and the similar *Clavulina cristata*, also a yellow version of the latter, *Calocera viscosa* growing in clusters.

The yellow theme continued with the common Sulphur-tuft Fungus (*Hypholoma fasciculare*) and the much rarer brick-red version (*H. sublateritium*).

The delicate *Mycena* genus was much in evidence, including *M. ascendens*, *M. galopus* and *M. inclinata* with dark stems. One of the oddest little fungi was *Crepidotus variabilis*, like a little-fingernail sized field mushroom, but which twists as it grows and can end up sideways or upside-down on dead twigs.

The star of the show was not really a fungus at all, but the fructification of a slime mould (*Myxomycetes*). These produce spores which form *Amoeba*-like things, which can move in water films, engulphing food particles. They eventually congregate in extensive slimy masses which slowly move around until finally becoming stationary and forming the original fruiting bodies.

A delicious and much appreciated tea in the barn and Ted's highly informative identification session ended a very pleasant afternoon.

David Pickering

Glistening Ink-cap (Coprinus micaceus)

Important Plant Areas in the UK

Beth Newman

On 28th November 2008, a group of WBS members met in Urchfont Village Hall to find out about Important Plant Areas (IPAs). Beth Newman from Plantlife International had come to enlighten us. She is the Information Management Officer for the charity, and is responsible for mapping the project.

In April 2002 a Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) was drawn up, with five targets to prevent loss of plant diversity. Target 5 for the GSPC is to protect 50% of plant areas.

And so the Plant Diversity Challenge began in 2004 ... a partnership between various bodies.

Consistent strict criteria are used to identify and protect the IPAs, which are considered important in terms of preventing loss of UK native species, including 1,700 lichens and 1,500 vascular plants. Fungi are not yet included - a method is being sought for feeding this information into the process.

In 2007 a list of 150 IPAs was published, ranging from one field to 80,000 hectares. The west coast of Scotland is one IPA. The data has come from seventeen partners, including Non-Governmental Organisations and governmental bodies. Pat asked what involvement

Rough Poppy - Porton
Beth Newman

Lesser Butterfly Orchid, Salisbury Plain
Beth Newman

there was from the Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI), and Beth told us the society had identified sites important for individual species, as well as being key to the mapping process.

So, what are the criteria?

A species under global or local threat:
75 species qualified, sourced partly from Red Lists (world, European, GB)

B richness of site

C habitat type:
SAC (Special Areas of Conservation) list was used for UK, those areas designated as important for plants.

Plantlife has co-ordinated the process.

Mapping is being done by species, assemblage of species and habitat. Boundaries are created round each area, these having some flexibility, and are called Areas of Opportunity, where habitat could be restored to extend the area.

<u>IPAs in Wiltshire</u>

We were surprised to hear that there are only six IPAs in Wiltshire, and only one (Savernake) in vc7. Savernake meets criterion B. for having a large number of lichens (International Responsibility Species).

In the south of the county the following qualify:

- Longleat
- Cranborne Chase and Woods (Criterion B - lichens)
- Whiteparish (small but internationally important for arable vascular species, and has the only Wiltshire Small-flowered Buttercup Ranunculus parviflorus)
- Porton Down
- Salisbury Plain (Sharon has given lots of data for this area - it meets Criterion B for lichens, and C for the type of grassland habitat)

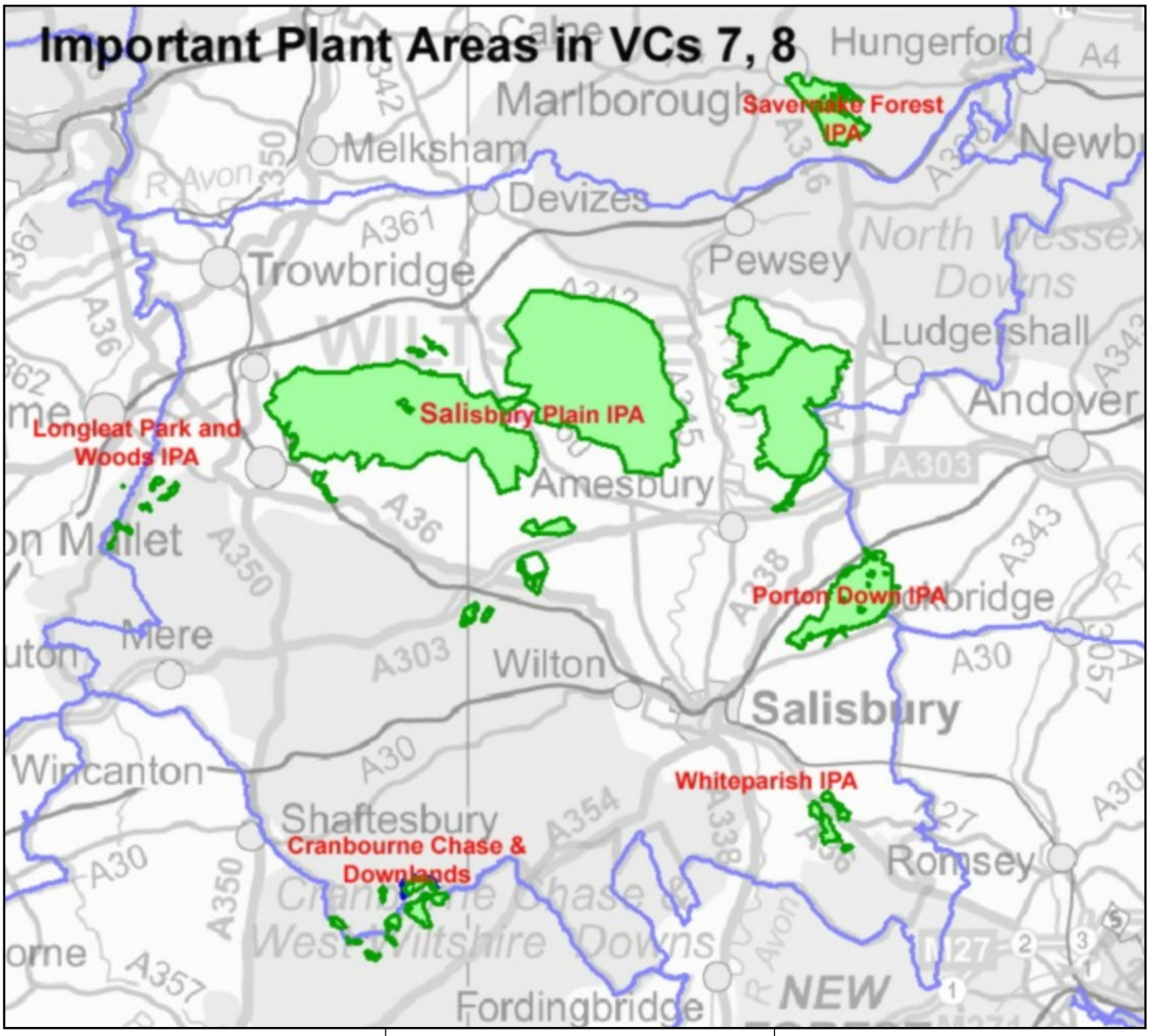
Beth had been asked to tell us about the Torbay Limestones IPA where some of us are heading in June. This is the most southerly block of limestone vegetation in UK, and has

Primrose, Cranborne Down
Joe Sutton

nine threatened species and seven nearly threatened. Those shown on the screen included *Trinia glauca* (Honewort), *Aster linosyris* (Goldilocks Aster) and *Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum* (more easily called Purple Gromwell!)

<u>What next for IPAs?</u>

The plan is to put into place steps to ensure protection, and many fall within SSSI (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) boundaries already. Beth told us the benefits include raising the importance of plant conservation globally, and the

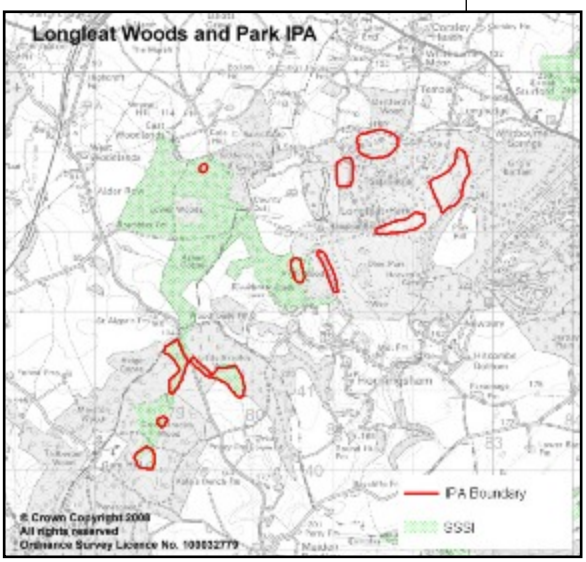


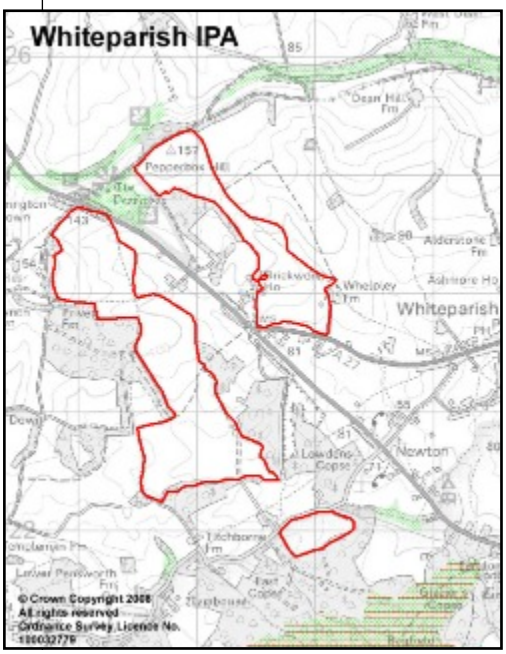
information is available to inform legislation.

Interestingly, France, Germany, Spain and Greece are not yet involved with the project, though there are many IPAs in central and eastern Europe.

For more information, contact Beth Newman (Information Management Officer) or Liz Radford (Global Programme Manager) at Plantlife International in Salisbury, or look at their web site.

Jane Brown





Recherche Fjord - Barbara Last

Saturday 6 December 2008

The Flora of Spitzbergen

Barbara Last

We have all met impediments to satisfactory botanising – intrusive cows, horrible weather, a favourite site poisoned or eaten away or ploughed up, fellow car travellers refusing to stop. Barbara's difficulties in Spitzbergen took the biscuit; too many polar bears. From the cruise ship passengers took little boats to go ashore but were not allowed to land if polar bears were about. They usually were. The other passengers were not bothered as they had come to see polar bears and birds, but it made a botanist's life frustrating. In the face of these and other difficulties Barbara's finds and photographs were a triumph.

Salix herbacea - Barbara Last

Luckily she had been to Greenland in the past so was familiar with some of the plants, and the range was small at such a very high latitude, 80 degrees North.

All plants were tiny. Nearly all were hairy. Saxifrages predominated led by *S. cespitosa*, Tufted Saxifrage which was abundant. Barbara found, identified and photographed [beautifully] six more Saxifrages, including Purple Saxifrage *S. oppositifolia*. A favourite plant was Least Willow, *Salix herbacea,* a weeny little thing of just 2 or 3 leaves and a catkin, the catkin proportionally huge. Both the yellow Svarlbard Poppy *Papaver dahlianum* and Tundra Chickweed

Saxifraga cespitosa - Barbara Last

picking so much as a blade of grass so the identification of the various grasses and sedges was impossible apart from Alpine Meadow-grass *Poa arctica*

We did see pictures of polar bears, walruses, reindeer and birds but even better were the lovely photographs of ice, icy scenery and strange formations of rocks and pebbles.

Rosemary Duckett

Stellaria crassipes looked too delicate for such harsh conditions but the Polar Scurvy-grass *Cochlearia groenlandica* was fleshy, and may have benefited the miners and whale hunters who, in past times, had spent the summers in insubstantial little huts.

Barbara had 18 species on her plant list, very good in the trying conditions, and with the total flora being modest. She was utterly forbidden from

Cochlearia groenlandica - Barbara Last

Recherche Fjord with polar bear guard Barbara Last

Saturday 10 January 2009

The Flora of Essex and Research on Black Poplars in North Wiltshire

Ken Adams

Ken gave a small gathering of a dozen members in Melksham a highly informative and fascinating insight into an eclectic mix of species. Initially, he focussed on the Black Poplar *Populus nigra*, its relatives and hybrids, and then on the flora of Essex. We learnt that *P. nigra* is most easily distinguished from other poplars and hybrids by the presence of spiral galls on the leaf stalks, caused by an aphid with an absolutely specific taste. Hybrids, with no such galls, usually have glands at the leaf base. The plight of pure *P. nigra* is severe – seeds are viable only for three days, and seedlings must stay wet from June to September on sand, not mud. As hybrid seeds are not so pernickety, they spread, whereas human propagation is largely responsible for pure Black Poplars producing clones distinguishable by haplotype and DNA microsatellites. Research so far suggests origins from two separate ice-age refugia, in the Balkans and Spain.

While Essex is currently larger than Wiltshire, rising sea levels are diminishing the difference. Sea defences provide new habitats for some coastal plants such as Perennial Glasswort *Sarcocornia perennis* rooted into the pitch used to bind sea wall blocks and *Rosa rugosa* on expensively-deposited sand barriers best surveyed by satellite photos! However, some saltmarsh species have not fared so well – Ken told us about the goosefoot *Chenopodium chenopodioides* eaten by wild geese immediately it emerges, and the damage to one of only two sites of the Red Data Book plant Least Lettuce *Lactuca saligna*, caused by DEFRA's (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) coastal ditch management.


Sarcocornia perennis

Inland, the varied geology of Essex gives rise to characteristic distributions of plants. Ken's outline included quirky details, such as the Crested Cow-wheat *Melampyrum cristatum*, which is distributed along the top of the south-facing dip slope on the edge of the chalky boulder clay. It has large seeds, the shape of ant cocoons, which are collected by ants (with a bit of bribery in the form of sugar-rich elaiosomes on the seeds) and deposited safely in the ants' nests. Ken described dozens of other special Essex plants, including the French Bartsia *Odontites jaubertianus* whose English distribution is centred on three World War II airfields used for sorties landing on French grass airstrips.

In all, we were treated to a cornucopia of intriguing information on plants generally less familiar to us. Ken has offered to lead a residential field trip to Essex to show us more – and I think we should jump at the marvellous opportunity!

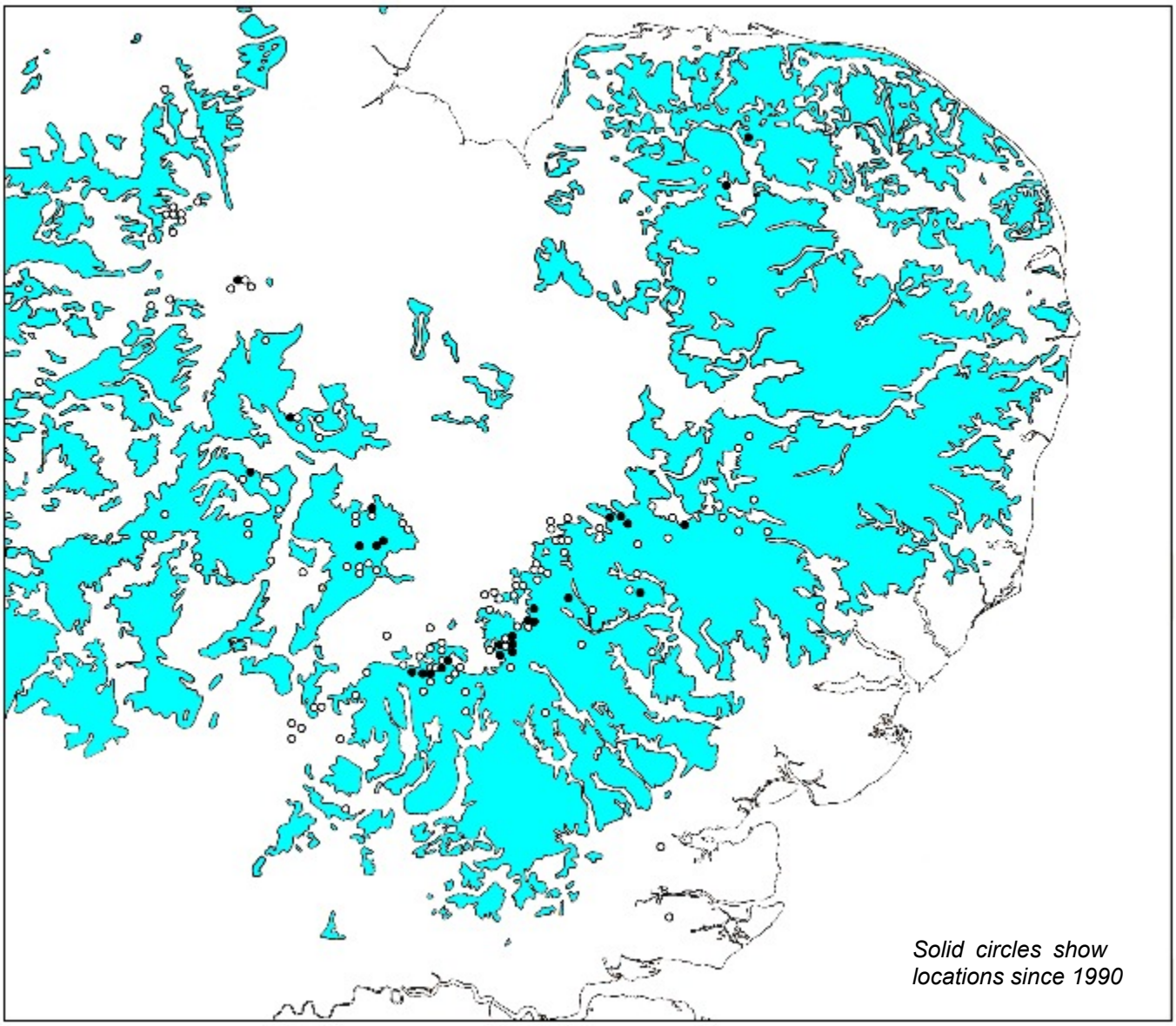
Sue Fitzpatrick

Melampyrum seeds

You can see Ken's full paper on *Melampyrum* by Googling "Essex Botany and Mycology Groups". Use buttons to navigate to "3rd Flora of Essex", "Flowering Plants" and "M" for *Melampyrum*. You will also see a button to "Ken's Keys" along the way. Well worth a look.

Photos and map from Ken

Melampyrum cristatum and the Chalky Boulder Clay



Saturday 28 February 2009

Marlborough College

Sawfly identification and habitats

Speaker: John Grearson

For most of us, our only known encounters with sawflies are their larvae stripping our Solomon's-seal or Gooseberry bushes, so we were surprised and somewhat daunted to learn from John that 537 species have been recorded in Britain. He has been the Wiltshire County Recorder for sawflies since the late 1990's. Before he took on the role, there were only about 200 records for the county, mostly made by Sir Christopher Andrewes in the post-war period. Thanks to John, there are now some 3500 – 4000 records for 293 species.

Sawflies are Hymenoptera and closely related to bees, wasps and ants, but differ in the wide join between the abdomen and the thorax and in the presence in most species of two knobs, known as cenchri, on the thorax near the base of the lower wings. These features were beautifully illustrated for us on slides. We were also shown pictures of the 'saws' from which the insects are named, actually the means by which female sawflies make holes in plants in order to lay their eggs. If you see a dog rose with the leaves stripped bare at the growing tips, the culprits may be the larvae of the sawfly *Arge pagana*, a species common in Wiltshire. A close look should reveal prominent scars on the stem where the eggs were laid.

The female wood wasp or horntail has a fearsome looking ovipositor capable of boring holes in tree trunks or logs, where their larvae will feed for up to three years. They are harmless to people and most sawfly species are strictly vegetarian, with one, doubtfully native, exception that is parasitic on beetle larvae. Adults feed mainly on pollen. Sawfly larvae are either external feeders on plant leaves or feed inside plant leaves, galls or stems. There is potential for us to find one of the latter, *Blasticotoma filiceti* and John would very much like us to look out for signs of it on the stems of lady fern *(Athyrium filix-femina*), where it produces conspicuous 20-30mm balls of foam in July/August, usually near the base of the plant. There is a brief article about this species in the Winter 2008 Newsletter. There are to date only five sites known in Britain, so any new records would be exciting! (Send a photograph in the first instance). Some species previously thought to be rare prove to be less so once people start looking. Henry Edmunds found one such, *Cimbex connatus*, when fishing on the Nadder about 12 years ago. This was the first record for many years, but the species has since surfaced on Italian alders in landscaping schemes next to supermarkets etc. In Wiltshire, most of the records have been associated with *Alnus glutinosa*.

Profenusa pygmaea

The larvae of external feeders can look very much like moth or butterfly caterpillars, but they have at least six pairs of abdominal prolegs, whereas Lepidoptera have only five at the most, often fewer. Most sawfly species are fussy eaters and will feed only on one plant or group of plants. Nevertheless a wide variety of plants are used as larval hosts, including most trees, deciduous and coniferous. *Alnus*, *Betula* and *Salix* are the trees hosting the most species. Many herbs, grasses, sedges, rushes and ferns also host one or more species. Information on the host plant is essential when identifying sawfly larvae.

Two species we might look out for on *Succisa pratensis* (Devil's-bit Scabious) are *Abia sericea*, common on Wiltshire downland and the rarer *A. candens*, also recorded in the county. In gardens, the conspicuous larva of the Berberis sawfly, which is white with yellow and black spots, might be found. This first appeared in Britain in 2000. John showed us excellent slides of a wide range of species feeding on the edges of leaves or, like the slimy, large-headed 'slugworms' grazing a single layer of cells on leaf surfaces. In some cases, larvae have to be collected and reared to adults to be sure of identifications. Others are very distinctive with branched hairs or bristles. One, *Eriocampa ovata,* on alder, covers itself with a chalky white substance so it looks like a bird dropping.

Quite a few species are leaf miners and can be seen feeding inside leaves. Again, we were shown very high quality pictures to illustrate a range of species. Other larvae cause galls, such as the red galls of two *Pontania* species on *Salix.* Records of these galls would be very welcome. Specimens can be sent to John for identification, if possible stating the *Salix* sp.

John stressed that there are too few recorders to be certain of the status of many species of sawfly, but that we could contribute by sending him records of Gooseberry and Solomon's-seal Sawflies. He has no idea how common these are, because he seldom gets records! We could also send him specimens of other larvae we come across (in small containers, with the food plant and sent first class post). We will have to wait another two years or so for the book he is producing with two European colleagues. They have photographs of the larvae of some 400 species so far.

After the talk, we had the opportunity to look at specimens of adult sawflies. Thanks very much to John for sharing his enthusiasm with us and for showing us that sawflies are much more than just pests of garden plants!

John's contact details for records are: John Grearson, 10 Eastfield, Ashton Keynes, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN6 6PR

Tel: 01285 862159

Email: grearsonkj@waitrose.com

Anne Appleyard

John has added this request:

Additional species of sawflies to look out for: - (Photos provided).

- *Rhadinoceraea micans* on *Iris pseudacorus*.
- *Endophytus anemones* – Mines in leaves of *Anemone nemorosa*.
- *Abia sericea* on *Succisa pratensis*.
- *Fenella nigrita* – Mines in leaves of *Potentilla reptans*.
- *Pontania proxima* – Galls on leaves of *Salix fragilis*.
- *Ametastegia carpini*. Larvae on the underside of perennial Geraniums, (cultivated and wild). Look under leaves with small holes in them.
- *Arge berberidis* on *Berberis* sp.
- *Caliroa cerasi*. The larvae known as slugworms are found on a variety of Rosaceae.


Fenella nigrita


Rhadinoceraea micans


Endophytus anemones


Pontania proxima galls upper leaf


Arge berberidis


Abia sericea


Ametastegia carpini


Caliroa cerasi

Cladonia sp. - John Presland

Saturday 21 March 2009

Lichens at Broad Chalke Churchyard

Leader: Tim Wilkins

Five WBS members and five Plantlife members gathered at the churchyard in Broad Chalke, a village southwestish of Salisbury, to study lichens under the guidance of Tim Wilkins of Plantlife. Most were growing on the church wall or on gravestones, though we also saw two on the bark of a tree.

Tim explained that lichens were organisms each comprised of an alga and a fungus, the fungus feeding on foodstuffs produced by the alga during photosynthesis and the alga perhaps deriving some protection from being inside the fungus. Different lichens have different algae and different fungi. The algae are free-living, whereas their fungi are not known outside lichens. Tim was able to show us an example of this relationship, because the orange alga *Trentepohlia* was growing free on a wall near to the orange to red lichen *Belonia nidarosiensis* of which it forms a part.

Physcia adscendens - John Presland

We were shown the different forms which lichens assumed. Firstly, there are the crustose lichens which grow flat on a surface and usually cannot be separated from it, illustrated by *Solenopsora candicans* and *Tephromela atra* in the photographs. Some of these have a powdery texture (not a good subject for photography), while the two illustrated have a more continuous structure. The colour and the presence or absence of marginal lobes are helpful for distinguishing different species. The fruit bodies are more obvious in the two shown, consisting of distinct discs called apothecia. Others have different kinds of fruit bodies loosely arranged on the surface or sunk in pits.

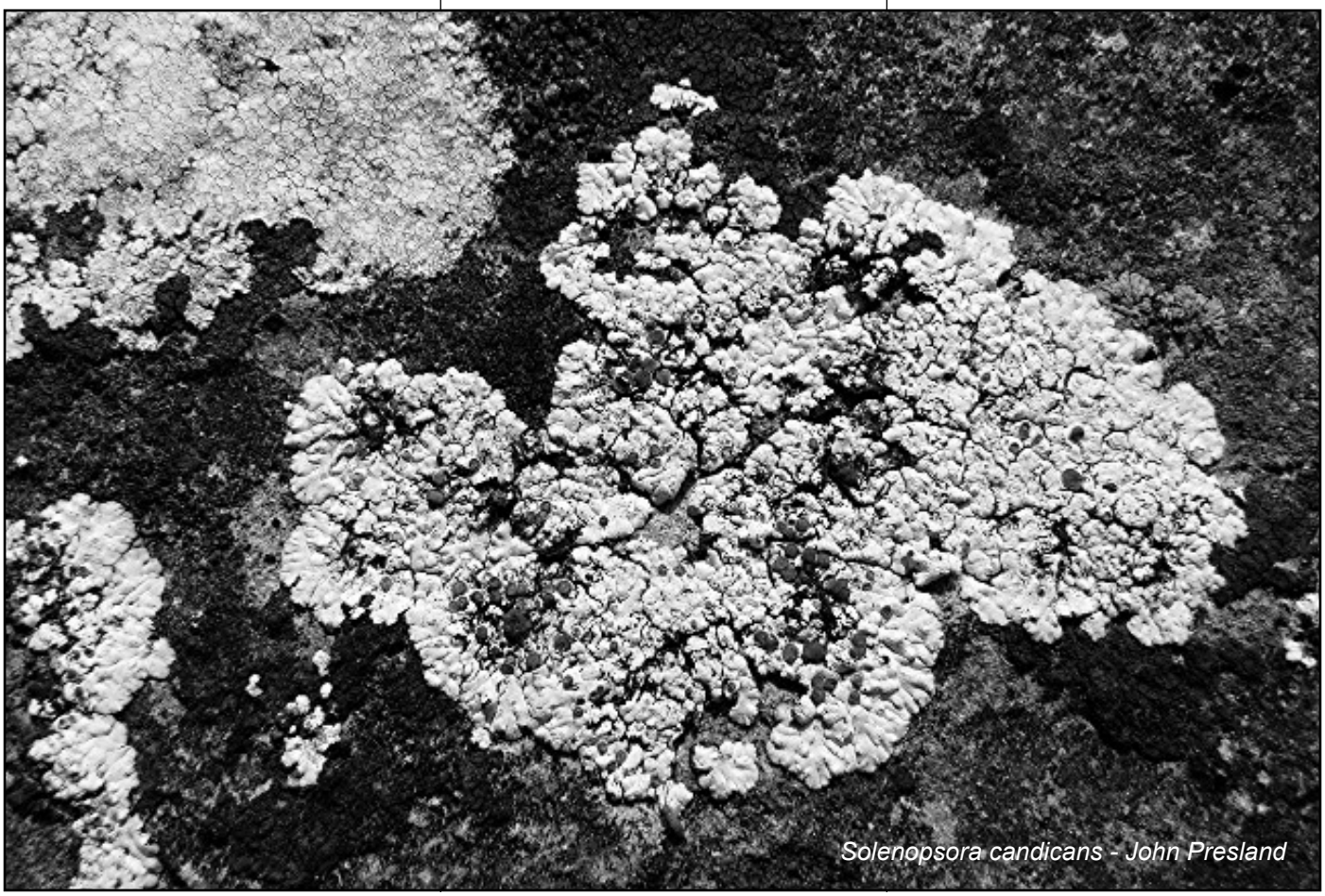
Secondly, there are foliose lichens, which have a more leafy structure, with lobes raised above the surface - as illustrated by *Physcia adscendens* and a species of *Cladonia*. The latter also has hollow stalks with the fruit bodies at the ends, a structure known as a podecium.

Tephromela atra - John Presland

Tim concluded by showing us a variety of chemicals which help identify species through the colour changes they induce, and a variety of devices for viewing lichens in close-up to reveal diagnostic features not evident to the naked eye.

Many thanks to Tim for a fascinating morning, from which we must all have come away enriched.

John Presland



Solenopsora candicans - John Presland

Baby Juniper

Protected Road Verges in Wiltshire

Roadside verges strewn with wild flowers, on chalk downland and limestone grassland, are one of the distinctive aspects of the Wiltshire countryside.

Typical species-rich communities found on the chalk and limestone verges support pyramidal and bee orchids, field scabious, rockrose & fairy flax. These verges also support rich invertebrate communities including glow-worms and many species of butterflies.

Verges on clay soils support a varied neutral meadow flora including species such as adder's tongue fern, nettled-leaved bellflower and Bath asparagus. Ancient woodland verges in the Cotswolds in particular support a spectacular ground flora in the spring including species such as Solomon's seal & fly orchid. A verge near Chittoe supports the only tower mustard in the county, continually recorded there since 1670.

Adder's-tongue Fern

Unfortunately sandwiched between modern agricultural practices and heavy traffic, road verges are under threat of damage caused by such things as vehicles parking on verges, pollution from vehicle emissions and salt spray, inappropriate planting, fly tipping and herbicide drift from adjacent farmland.

Wiltshire County Council, their contractor Mouchel Parkman and the Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre work in partnership to protect and care for Protected Road Verges.

Verges given protected status are carefully selected and have to meet rigorous criteria. They are marked with posts at either end. Each verge has an individual Management Plan

designed to protect and enhance its flora and fauna.

Each verge has a volunteer who checks on the condition of the verge and is responsible for monitoring the botanical/biological interest. Reports from all the monitors are collated annually and used as a basis for ongoing management of the verge.

At present several of our verges are lacking a monitor due to volunteers leaving the area or retiring and we are therefore looking for people willing to take on a verge and visit it at least once a year to check on its condition and report back to the scheme.

We have vacancies at:

- North Wilts – Giddeahall and Littleton Drew.
- West Wiltshire - Winsley
- Kennet – Lockeridge
- Salisbury district – Fovant, Dinton, Redlynch, Winterslow, Little Langford and Whiteparish Common.

If you would like to become a verge monitor please contact the Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre at brc@wiltshirewildlife.org or call on 01380 725670


Knapweed Broomrape


Meadow Cranesbill

Hilary Davies, Data Services Officer, Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC)

Photos: © WSBRC


Fly Orchid - Morgan's Hill


White Campion

Running and Botany

Wild Flower survey on Winsley Hill – June 10th 2008

I'm a regular runner up, down and around the Avon Valley and always feel so very privileged to live in such a beautiful area. I have a number of runs of varying lengths and terrain; fields, water meadows, canal towpath and some of the lanes. One of my longer runs never gets any easier – on my return home, the route takes me up Winsley hill. During the spring and summer months I have a ploy to divert my attention from the long incline – I count the different wild flowers.

Through the weeks the flowers change of course – the bluebells fade and forget-me-nots disappear but some flowers stay longer and others appear. On my runs along the hill last spring, the highest number was 27. A few I couldn't put names to. So when I mentioned this to fellow Wiltshire Wildlife Trust member and wild flower enthusiast, Chris Steel, she offered to join me in a survey.

Little did we know what we had in store – we spent three hours walking from top to bottom (a bit different from my ten minute run up) checking and confirming, consulting Chris's books – and our astonishing total on one fine day in June was 62 different flowers. (We didn't dare attempt to start on the many different grasses and I have to mention we only worked on one side of the road – the path side)

For those interested I have listed our finds below.

1. Cleavers (Sticky Willy)
2. Bramble
3. Jack By The Hedge
4. Thistle
5. Plantain (Ribwort)
6. Long-Headed Poppy
7. Hoary Plantain
8. Dandelion
9. Rough Hawksbeard
10. Shining Cranesbill
11. White Clover
12. Smooth Hawksbeard
13. Hedgerow Cranesbill
14. Yarrow
15. Nipplewort
16. Meadow Vetchling
17. Birdsfoot Trefoil
18. Black Medick
19. Salad Burnet
20. Dog Rose
21. Travellers' Joy (Old Man's Beard)
22. Sanicle
23. Lady's Bedstraw
24. Field Bindweed
25. Stinging Nettle
26. Knapweed
27. Broad Leaved Dock
28. Red Clover
29. Hedge Bedstraw

30. Deadly Nightshade
31. Elder
32. Herb Robert
33. Smooth Sow-Thistle
34. Shrubby Cinque-Foil
35. Ox-Eye Daisy
36. Stonecrop (Biting)
37. Privet (Wild)
38. Common Vetch
39. Plantain
40. Buttercup
41. Lesser Hawkbit
42. Small Scabious
43. Wayfaring Tree
44. Charlock
45. Wood Spurge
46. Agrimony
47. Bladder Campion
48. Wood Avens
49. Leafy Hawkweed
50. Hogweed
51. Cow Parsley
52. Common Milkwort
53. Hedge Mustard
54. Broad Leaved Willowherb
55. Self Heal
56. Dead Nettle
57. Spiked Star Of Bethlehem
58. Ground Ivy
59. Common Sorrel
60. Common Gromwell
61. Common Spotted Orchid
62. Pyramidal Orchid

My 'rules' when running were – plants had to be in flower and the start was where the path turns up from the canal towpath by the bridge and the end was at the green electrics box at the top (and in reverse for the survey).

A return visit on 21st July in the company of John Presland

I wanted to share our findings with local botanist, John Presland. John keeps an eye on the bank along the hill for the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, which has had it designated as a protected verge. He kindly agreed to walk the hill again with me. Obviously some of the plants were no longer in flower, some were hanging on and new ones had come into flower – the variety is, to me, quite amazing. I was pleased to revisit and have verified our previous findings – and to consolidate some of my new-found knowledge.

The new findings of this walk were as follows:

1. Ragwort
2. Wild Parsnip
3. Square Stemmed Willowherb
4. Meadow Pea
5. (Autumn) Hawkbit
6. Lesser Bindweed
7. Burnet Saxifrage
8. Greater Knapweed
9. Field (Or Meadow) Sow-thistle
10. Wild Basil
11. Mugwort
12. Common St John's Wort
13. Wild Marjoram
14. Woolly Thistle
15. Ploughman's Spikenard
16. Hawkweed Ox-Tongue
17. Rest Harrow
18. Prickly Lettuce
19. Dwarf Thistle
20. Creeping Cinquefoil
21. Field Scabious
22. Lesser Knapweed
23. Hairy St John's Wort
24. White Pyramid Orchid
25. Hemp Agrimony
26. White Mustard
27. Giant Horsetail
28. Great Hairy Willowherb
29. Creeping Thistle
30. Jack Go to Bed at Noon (Goat's-beard)

I have not repeated the plants found previously. We also found a robin's pin cushion growing on a dog-rose.

What a wealth of wild life we have on our doorstep!

Kate Nicholls (with thanks to John Presland, Chris Steel, and encouragement from Mary Ashton and Godfrey Marks)
(katenicholls@talktalk.net)

Photos: Kate Nicholls

ABNORMALITIES IN PLANTS

By John Presland, Jack Oliver and Martin Barber

WILTSHIRE BOTANICAL SOCIETY

2009

A new publication from Wiltshire Botanical Society

This 92-page book gives an account of the range of abnormalities in plants, whether in the wild or in cultivation. Though originally planned as an issue of *Wiltshire Botany* and illustrated almost entirely by examples from Wiltshire, it is a general exploration of this field of enquiry - the abnormalities described could have occurred almost anywhere.

The introduction describes how the notion of abnormality arose, and discusses why we are interested in abnormalities, how we decide whether a particular plant is abnormal or not, and what are the purposes of recording and analysing information about them. The introduction is followed by a description of the structure of a typical flowering plant, how plant characteristics are inherited, how plants develop, and how abnormalities can arise.

Subsequent chapters describe and discuss a range of abnormalities - double flowers, fasciation, proliferation, peloria, separation and division of parts, abnormalities of number, abnormalities of size, abnormalities of shape, colour anomalies, chimeras and variegation, aureate forms, and miscellaneous anomalies. There are also two chapters on abnormalities in particular plants - foxgloves and plantains. To conclude is a chapter on vigour, survival and reproductive success in plants with selected abnormalities.

The account is illustrated by numerous examples from the periodical *That Plant's Odd* edited by Martin Barber, Wiltshire Botanical Society records, Wiltshire fungus databases, items from the BSBI Newsletter and individual contributions by the authors and others. Many drawings and photographs are included. There is a list of references and a glossary of selected technical terms.

Plantains (left to right: maritima, lanceolata and major) showing abnormal flower spikes. Reproduced from an account published in 1817

To buy this book

The book is on sale at Summerfield Books (Tel 017684 84909) at a price of around £7 plus postage, and members wanting to order online or by telephone or requiring a professionally wrapped copy should apply there.

However, there is a special offer for members of Wiltshire Botanical Society who are happy either to purchase it at society meetings at £4 or to follow the procedure below:

Send to John Presland, 175c Ashley lane, Winsley, Bradford-on- Avon, Wilts BA15 2HR:

- A self-addressed envelope for A4 papers stamped at the rate for large letters weighing 251-500 gm (£1.04 at April 2009)
- A cheque for £4 made out to Wiltshire Botanical Society.

John Presland, April 2009


Normal Cowslip


Fasciated Cowslip

Botanical Records 2007

Explanatory notes

- The following is a selection from WBS records received in 2007. For new pre-2006 and a few early 2008 records, the year is inserted in brackets before the recorder. Dates and recorders are not entered for every individual record. The same one can be assumed until a new one appears.
- Because of the enormous number of records received, only 1st 10km square records are included. Where a 1st 10km square record is identified, this is relative to the period since the flora mapping in the 1980s and 1990s for the 1993 Wiltshire Flora and recorded there
- Where a record is also a 1st county or vice-county record, an unqualified statement means that it is the first record ever, as far as is known. Where the word "recent" is inserted, it means that it is the first since the flora mapping began, but had been recorded before this period.
- Where a recording square is only partly in Wiltshire, any comment on record status applies only to the part within Wiltshire.

Recorders are identified by initials as follows.

ABr - Andrew Branson
AM - Ailsa McKee
BGo - B Goater
BL - Barbara Last
CC - C Carvell
CCh - Clive Chatters
CK - Clare Kitchen
CMh - C McHardy
DAs - D Ash
DBr - D Broughton
DNe - David Nesbitt
DOG - Daphne Graiff
ER - Eileen Rollo
FR - Francis Rose
HC - H Crouch
IGr - I Green
JAm - Jenny Amor
JBr - Jane Brown
JEO - Jack Oliver
JFo - Jenny Ford
JGo - J Goater
JMa - John Martin
JN - Joy Newton
JNo - John Notman
JP - John Presland
JRM - John Moon
JW - Jean Wall
KJW - Kevin Walker
KN - Kay Nicol
LM - Liz McDonnell
MHe - Margaret Hedges
MHo - M Hodgkiss
MK - Mark Kitchen
MMi - M Millett
MNb - Marion Nesbitt
MWR - Martin Rand
NC - Nigel Cope
NS - N Stewart
PBi - Peter Billinghurst
PBu - Philip Budd
PD - Paul Darby
PDS - Paul Stanley
PMW - Pat Woodruffe
PQ - Phil Quinn
PSk - Paul Skelton
PW - Phil Wilson
RAi - Richard Aisbitt
RDu - Rosemary Duckett
RE - Richard Elkins
RFPy - R F Pywell
RL - Rob Large
RR - Rob Randall
RV - Roger Veall
SG - Sarah Grinstead
SL - Simon Leach
SPi - Sharon Pilkington
WBS - Wiltshire Botanical Society (excursion)

NNR stands for National Nature Reserve
CWP stands for Cotswold water Park

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Aesculus carnea; (2006); JEO; Oaksey; Lower Moor Farm.

Alchemilla filicaulis subsp. **vestita;** JN; Membury Fort; boundary ditch.

Amaranthus retroflexus; JN; Tidworth; Bourne Bottom, garden.

Anchusa officinalis; JP; Winsley; quite a few by roadside.

Berberis vulgaris; JEO; Clatford.

Blechnum spicant; PD; Minety; Stonehill Wood; ditchside.

Bolboschoenus maritimus; (2006); WBS; Ashton Keynes; CWP; scattered and local in Phragmites.

Borago officinalis; (2006); JEO; Marlborough; road-wall angles.

Campanula poscharskyana; JP; Winsley; 2 places on walls.

Carex pseudocyperus; (2006); WBS; Ashton Keynes; CWP Lake, abundant with Phragmites.

Cephalaria gigantea; JEO; Clatford; 3 clumps; (2006); Highworth; roadside ditches, well naturalised.

Ceratophyllum demersum; (2006); JEO/SPi; E of Marlborough; Savernake Forest, Bitham Pond.

Cyclamen hederifolium; HC/RR; Limpley Stoke; Dundas Aqueduct, canal towpath.

Cyclamen hederifolium; JN; Mildenhall; naturalised at edge of wood; Aldbourne; naturalised on track.

Cynoglossum officinale; JN; Preston; Membury Fort; bank.

Danthonia decumbens; (2006); WBS; Calne; Walkers Hill.

Diplotaxis tenuifolia; JN; Ogbourne St George; one on edge of old railway path.

Dracunculus vulgaris; JEO; Clatford; 1 patch; 1st recent county record.

Epipactis helleborine; JN; Wanborough; road verge under beech.

Eranthis hyemalis; JEO; Sandy Lane; Whetham Woods; dense carpeting 1/8 acre.

Euonymus japonicus; JEO; Marlborough; on stonework; 1st county record.

Foeniculum vulgare; JEO; Marlborough; on stonework.

Fritillaria meleagris; JN; Oare; private arboretum.

Galinsoga parviflora; JN; Membury; cracks in paved track; Burbage; Tottenham House; old yard; Atworth; The Botanic Nursery, scattered weed.

Galium palustre subsp. palustre; JEO; E of Marlborough; Savernake Forest, near Crockmere and Leigh Hill Ponds, also the Column.

Geranium endressii; JEO; Lockeridge; grassy banks.

Helleborus foetidus; Mar; JEO; Clatford; dumped soil; Burbage; Tottenham Park; woodland path.

Hyacinthoides hispanica; JEO; Clatford; 50+ pink-flowered, 20+ blue-flowered; Sandy Lane; Whetham Woods; pink, blue and white-flowered.

Hypericum humifusum; ER; Oare Estate; lawn weed.

Lathyrus aphaca; JN; Chiseldon; disused railway track.

Lathyrus sylvestris; JN; Ogbourne St George; railway track.

Lepidium draba; PD; Dauntsey; old vegetated spoil heap, concentrated over 2sq.m; Lyneham Banks; by road, covering 1sq.m.

Leycesteria formosa; JP; Winsley; several in road wall angle, colonizing from garden.

Mahonia x decumbens (M. aquifolium x M. repens); (2006); JEO; Little Bedwyn; Cobham Frith; field border, continuous linear spread under fence, and to grassy banks; 1st county record.

Medicago arabica; SPi; Bradford on Avon; abundant on road verge.

Mentha spicata; JEO; Marlborough; car park stonework.

Mentha x verticillata (M. arvensis x M. aquatica); (2004); NS/MMi et al; Ashton Keynes; CWP; lake.

Myriophyllum verticillatum; (2004); NS; Ashton Keynes; CWP; lake 1st recent county record, 1st vc record.

Narcissus pseudonarcissus subsp. pseudonarcissus; (2006); JEO; Lockeridge; West Woods; Forma pseudonarcissus, 100s in beechwood.

Nigella damascena; (2008); JEO; Great Bedwyn; naturally seeded.

Oenanthe fistulosa; JNo; Ramsbury; water meadow; JN; Minety; Distillery Meadows, near stream and Emmett Hill Meadow, near pond; Chilton Foliat; boggy area and water meadow.

Ophrys apifera; RAi; Swindon, rough grass.

Phalaris arundinacea var. picta; (2006); JN; E of Marlborough; Savernake Forest, Bitham Pond; 1st county record.

Phyteuma orbiculare; (2005); RAi; Avebury; ramparts, occasional.

Pilosella aurantiaca; (2006); JN; Aldbourne; grassy bank by road.

Plantago coronopus; JN; Chittoe; Spye Park; sandy patch.

Poa angustifolia; (2006); SPi; Chippenham; Station car park, a few clumps on top of limestone wall.

Populus x jackii (P. deltoides x P. balsamifera); (2006); JEO/JN; Waterhay area, Brook Farm; 1-2 acres of root suckers over 2 fields.

Pseudosasa japonica; JP; Minety; Red Lodge Plantation, one patch among trees; 1st vc record.

Pseudotsuga menziesii; (2006); JEO; E of Marlborough; Savernake Forest, Crockmere area; scattered seedlings to saplings.

Pteris cretica; PD; Malmesbury; several plants growing in well in pub courtyard; 1st county record.

Puccinellia distans; SPi; Wootton Bassett; M4, plentiful in central reservation for many km to west; SPi; Stanton St Quintin; M4 Junction 17, abundant to frequent for long stretches along the central reservation; (2006); SPi; Beanacre; A350 traffic island.

Quercus rubra; JEO; Oare Estate; naturally seeded.

Ranunculus penicillatus subsp. pseudofluitans; (2006); DBr; Cricklade; Ampney Brook.

Rosa multiflora; (2006); JEO; Lockeridge; woodland, extensive canopy spread, above Geans - over 20m high plants.

Rubus tricolor; JEO; Marlborough; College; 1st vc record.

Rumex x pratensis (R. crispus x R. obtusifolius); (2006); JMa; Leigh; Glebe Farm, few in field among both parents.

Salix alba var. vitellina; JEO; Oare; pond, verticals from old fallen tree(s) rooting from horizontal trunk(s).

Salix x reichardtii (S. caprea x S. cinerea); JEO; Minety; Trees at Clatford.

Scirpus sylvaticus; JW; Malmesbury; river bank.

Scirpus sylvaticus; WBS; Castle Combe; Brook Water meadows; stream.

Symphytum orientale; (2008); BL; Ogbourne St Andrew.

Tilia cordata; (2006); RAi; Wroughton; Quidhampton Wood; pathside, main trunk about 3m in circumference.

Tilia platyphyllos; (2006); JEO; Marlborough; seedlings developing to saplings, riverside.

Tristagma uniflorum; JEO; Wroughton; weed in gardens, 300+ plants; 1st county record.

Valerianella dentata; JW; Hullavington; field, occasional.

Vulpia bromoides; (2006); SPi; Chippenham; Cattlemarket; building site.

Vc 8

Amaranthus retroflexus; JRM; Tidworth; Bulford Ranges.

Amsinckia micrantha; (2006); JMa; Newton Tony; Manor Farm; 12 plants in cultivated margin.

Anthemis cotula; KJW; Tilshead; Copehill Down.

Bassia scoparia; (2006); all A303 verges; SL; Thruxton and west; Amesbury area; Winterbourne Stoke; SL/LM; Wylye.

Berberis vulgaris; (2006); RL; Farley; Nightwood Copse, 2 bushes on edge of ride.

Bidens cernua; JRM; Great Bedwyn; Fosbury Hill; beside pond.

Blackstonia perfoliata; JAm; (2006); Tidworth.

Carex humilis; CMh; Porton Down; wall of old sheep pen; (2005); NC; Great Cheverell; Cheverell Hill East.

Carex pulicaris; JN; Wilton; Wilton Brail, wet area near old pools.

Centaurea cyanus; JBr; Pewsey; 3 plants in flower at edge of wheat field by track; (2006); SPi; Urchfont; Redhorn Hill, plentiful in weedy headland strip, obviously sown.

Centaurium pulchellum;; SPi; Haxton, population of about 20 multi-stemmed plants in a very small area in disturbed ground; (2006); ER; Tidworth.

Cephalanthera damasonium; SPi; Everleigh, 50+ plants in flower in mature beech plantation.

Cerastium arvense; SPi/SG; Orcheston; Slay Down, ant-hill. SPi; Haxton, frequent at track edges; JRM; Figheldean; (2006); SPi; Imber; near-bare chalk at edge of track.

Ceratochloa carinata; JRM; Newton Tony; grassy track.

Chara vulgaris var. longibracteata; SPi; Warminster; South Down Barn.

Cirsium tuberosum; (2001); KJW/RFPy/CC; Westbury; single plant on level downland.

Cirsium x medium (C. tuberosum x C. acaule); LSm; Martin Down; one.

Cruciata laevipes; (2000); BGo/JGo; Martin Down, 2 locations.

Cynoglossum officinale; JP; Wingfield; Stowford Farm,1 in farmyard.

Datura stramonium; (2006); RE; Lover, near Redlynch; garden.

Diplotaxis muralis; (2006); SPi; Trowbridge; station,1 plant in wall-pavement angle.

Echinochloa crus-galli; (2006); SPi; Trowbridge; one plant in garden.

Epipactis helleborine; JRM; Tidworth; many thousands in small copses and also thinly spread throughout intervening rough grassland.

Erophila verna; SPi; Tilshead; Copehill Down, scattered on base ground.

Euphorbia amygdaloides subsp. robbiae; (2008); JEO; Devizes; vertical wall; 1st vc record.

Euphorbia lathyris; (2004); MWR; Whitsbury; Well Bottom.

Fumaria densiflora; SPi; Imber; ranges, one plant in disturbed ground nr track; (2006); Pewsey, Pewsey Hill Farm, a few; JMa; Newton Tony; Manor Farm, cultivated field margin.

Galeopsis angustifolia; CK/MK; Westbury; active quarry, plentiful on chalk scree; (2006); PSk; Tilshead; nr Chapperton Down, 1 plant on track.

Galinsoga quadriradiata; SPi; Trowbridge; park, several in municipal flower bed; (2002); MHe; West Wellow; plenty in large vegetable patch.

Galium palustre subsp. elongatum; (2005); PBi; Tidworth; Bulford Ranges, deep, dried up pond.

Gentianella anglica; WBS; Warminster; Scratchbury Hill; 5 plants on bank adjoining SSSI; (2002); BGo/JGo; Martin Down, Bokerley Ditch, One patch in short calcareous turf.

Gentianella germanica; PDS; Martin Down; 2 seen; (2006); MNb/DNe; Martin Down; 11 plants, on edge of a chalky track, close to many G. amarella.

Gentianella x pamplinii (G. germanica x G. amarella); PDS; Martin Down; 1 plant, with two plants of Gentianella germanica.

Geum x intermedium (G. rivale x G. urbanum); (2006); SPi; Ludgershall; Collingbourne Wood, track, both parents nearby.

Glyceria declinata; SPi; Warminster; South Down Barn; SPi/JFo; Milston; R.Avon, small patch on bank.

Hypericum elodes; (2006); X; Lopshill Common; small pool in pony paddock.

Hypericum humifusum; PMW; S of Winterbournes; Bentley wood, recently felled area.

Hypericum maculatum; (2005); PBi; Linkenholt; Rockmoor Down.

Isolepis setacea; SPi; Horningsham; Aucombe Marsh; track; (2002); PBu; Sandleheath; Lower Breach Copse.

Kickxia elatine; JN; Wilton; Roman road bordering crop fields; JRM; Cholderton; field.

Lathyrus nissolia; SPi; West Lavington; Salisbury Plain, frequent; Tidworth; Goat Wood, grassland by track.

Legousia hybrida; WBS; Warminster; Scratchbury Hill, margin of oilseed rape field.

Lepidium campestre; SPi; Figheldean; Wexland Hanging, disturbed trackside ground, frequent.

Lepidium heterophyllum; RDu; Westbury; verge, many plants over 20m length; SPi; Upton Scudamore; Salisbury Plain west, several plants by track; Imber Ranges; small number.

Leucojum vernum; BL; Lower Woodford; big patch in wet meadow.

Melilotus albus; (2006); BL; Steeple Langford; Berwick Hill Farm.

Minuartia hybrida; SPi; Westbury; Thirteen Hundred Down, hundreds of plants on small area of hard standing; (2006); SPi et al; Tidworth; Sidbury Hill.

Montia fontana; SPi; Shipton Bellinger; Nine Mile River, ant-hills.

Myosotis sylvatica; JEO; Devizes; roadsides; Devizes; grassland, streamsides.

Myrrhis odorata; JBr; Knowle, Pewsey; 6+ plants in flower; 1st recent county record, 1st vc8 record.

Narcissus pseudonarcissus; (2006); AM; Semley; Oysters Coppice.

Oenothera glazioviana; WBS; Whiteparish; Dean Hill Park, tracks.

Papaver dubium subsp. lecoqii; (2006); RDu; Westbury; weed in several gardens.

Petroselinum segetum; (2006); JMa; Tidworth; Maddington Farm, edge of set-aside and arable.

Platanthera bifolia; (2006); SPi/JFo; Heytesbury; in very species (and orchid) rich grassland.

Platanthera chlorantha; (2006); KN; Everleigh.

Polypodium interjectum; ABr; Bradford-on-Avon; Great Bradley Wood.

Polypogon fugax; (2006); SPi; Trowbridge; small colony in wall-pavement angles; 1st county record.

Populus x Canadensis (P. nigra x P. deltoides); (2000); RV; Tidworth; Toyd Down, Rockbourne Down.

Pseudotsuga menziesii; (2001); PW; S of Winterbournes; Bentley wood, 2 locations.

Pteris multifida; (2006); IGr; Stourhead; entrance to covered drain; 1st county record.

Pyrola minor; (2006); MWR; Plaitford; old sand-pit, up to 250 shoots in five patches.

Quercus ilex; (2008); BL; Tidworth; 2 locations.

Ranunculus trichophyllus; SPi; Tidworth; Goat Wood, large flooded pit, 2 locations.

Rorippa sylvestris; (2006); PQ; Limpley Stoke.

Rosa tomentosa; SPi; Great Cheverell Hill; old hedgerow by track.

Rubus bloxamii; (1988); RR; Midford; roadside.

Rubus purbeckensis; (2002); BGo/JGo; Martin Down; beside track alongside wood; 1st county record.

Rubus tricolor; (2006); JEO; Devizes; 2 car parks; 1st and second county records.

Sagina nodosa; PSk; Westbury; a few plants on track; SPi; Enford; Salisbury Plain Demolition Area, short, species-rich vegetation by stone track, hundreds; (2006); ER; Tidworth; Tidworth; Sidbury Hill, 6, with others scattered nearby; JAm; Tidworth; PSk; Imber; one on track.

Salvia pratensis; (2006); PW; Porton Ranges; track, about 2km from known native site; 2nd recent vc8 record.

Saxifraga tridactylites; PSk; Bratton; Salisbury Plain, a few in a chalk pit; (2006); JPi; Erlestoke; Stoke Hill Down, old tanks and ant-hills; Imber Firs; large bomb crater.

Scirpus sylvaticus; (2006); SPi/PMW; Stourton; Convent Bottom area, under Alders at edge of pond.

Spergularia marina; (2005); SL; Winterbourne Stoke; A303 road verges.

Stachys annua; (2006); DAs; Larkhill; 1st county record.

Symphytum orientale; BL; Netherhampton; verge.

Tephroseris integrifolia subsp. integrifolia; (2005); DOG; Newton Tony; (2000); FR; Martin Down.

Thymus pulegioides; SPi; Enford; Salisbury Plain Demolition Area; especially ant-hills; Larkhill; Salisbury Plain Demolition Area; especially ant-hills.

Tolypella glomerata; SPi; Tidworth; Goat Wood, small colony on side of winterbourne pond; 1st county record.

Verbascum blattaria; WBS; Whiteparish; Dean Hill Park, tracks.

Verbascum virgatum; MHo; Tidworth; Sidbury Hill, about 15 plants beside steep well-used track.

Vicia sylvatica; (2006); RAi; Ludgershall; Collingbourne Wood, a number beside track.

Vulpia bromoides; (2006); SPi; Trowbridge.

John Presland

Wiltshire Botanical Society Committee

Richard Aisbitt	Chairman, newsletter, records	01793 694680	richard@theaisbitts.co.uk
Anne Appleyard	Annual Field Trip	01980 610 385	anneappleyard@tiscali.co.uk
Jane Brown		01672 569241	janeluke@elephant87.freeserve.co.uk
Paul Darby	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	01380 725670	pdarby@wiltshirewildlife.org
Rosemary Duckett	Secretary	01373 858296	rosemary.duckett@virgin.net
Sonia Heywood	Web site	01380 830478	sonia.heywood@tiscali.co.uk
Jack Oliver		01672 861251	
Sharon Pilkington	BSBI Recorder for Wiltshire	01225 775945	sharon.pilkington1@btinternet.com
John Presland	Editor: Wiltshire Botany	01225 865125	johnpresland2@tiscali.co.uk
Tim Kaye	Treasurer	07980 863 577	timdankaye@hotmail.com
Pat Woodruffe	Meetings Secretary	01794 884436	pmw.bentley@waitrose.com

Summer Meetings

Tuesday 23 June 2009	Home Farm, Cholderton - Arable
Sunday 12 July 2009	Pike Corner - Sedges
Tuesday 21 July 2009	Oliver's Castle, Roundway, Beacon Hill - Chalk Downs
Saturday 8 August 2009	Ratz Bottom, Longstock - Arable
Sunday 9 August 2009	Bromham Market Gardens
Sunday 23 August 2009	Salisbury - street botany
Sunday 27 September 2009	Lower Moor Farm - Charopytes and others
Sunday 11 October 2009	Bentley Wood - Fungi

For details, see our meetings leaflet or the Wiltshire Botanical Society web site at http://www.wiltsbotsoc.co.uk

Future meetings

Please suggest ideas for meetings or talks. Contact me by writing to:

Anchorsholme, Hop Gardens
Whiteparish, Nr. Salisbury
Wilts SP5 2ST

or by phone or e-mail (01794 884436, pmw.bentley@waitrose.com)

Pat Woodruffe

From the Editor

Next winter's indoor meetings will mostly be in Devizes. This is because members at our Annual General Meeting made it clear that they would like them to be at a central location rather than spreading them round the county. We will either use the Crown Centre or St Andrews Church Hall. Both of these are very close together.

As usual, we have reports of our meetings in this newsletter, but we also welcome articles on Wiltshire road verges and on the joys of botanical running. Also, John Presland has included his notable records from 2007. This year, "Abnormal Plants" has replaced our journal "Wiltshire Botany", which where these records would normally appear.

The next newsletter should be sent out in October 2009, so **all copy to me by the end of September 2009 please.**

Please send material by post to:

84 Goddard Avenue
Swindon
Wilts SN1 4HT

or even better, by email: richard@theaisbitts.co.uk

Richard Aisbitt

Membership

We welcome new members, beginners and experts alike. If you are interested, please feel free to come to a meeting or two before you commit yourself. Subscriptions and contact details go to:

Tim Kaye
35 Marshall Street, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 0ED
Telephone: 07980 863 577
Email: timdankaye@hotmail.com

Subscriptions:

Ordinary Member	£10.00 per year
Joint Membership	£15.00 per year
Life Membership	£100 (Family £150)