

Obituaries

DAVID McCLINTOCK
(1913–2001)

David McClintock, who was without doubt one of the most distinguished and productive amateur botanists of his generation, died suddenly at his home, Bracken Hill, on Friday 23 November 2001, aged 88. He described himself as a writer, naturalist and plantsman and was all these to a generous degree. More unusually he bridged the gap between botanists and gardeners, working to bring the two together to learn from each other's experiences. He achieved a notable success in this respect in the 1971 Joint Conference between the Royal Horticultural Society and the B.S.B.I., which he had instigated. This occurred during his Presidency of the B.S.B.I. (1971–1973) and it was typical of David that in all the Societies he belonged to he made a significant contribution, not only as an active member, but often also in some office-bearing role.

To many B.S.B.I. members David was known first through the *Pocket Guide to Wild Flowers* (1956), which he wrote with Richard Fitter. In many ways this was David's most influential publication and many British botanists today made their first plant studies in field identification with this book in their hands. The 'Pocket Guide' sold over 250,000 copies and enthused a whole generation of botanists and flower lovers. It is full of original observations and field identification characters. Every plant was assigned an English name and, rather daringly, the plates were arranged by colour (a great boon to the tyro), whilst the star rating system for rarity added much to the thrill of a good find. Astonishingly the whole project had been completed in two years.

David Charles McClintock was born on 4 July 1913 at Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne, the first child and the only son in a family that subsequently included five daughters. His father was a parson and the family moved regularly from parish to parish over a wide area of England. His mother was a Buxton and her large family home at Easneye at Ware in Hertfordshire was the venue for many early family gatherings and David always remembered the house with great affection. His father's family, as the spelling of his surname indicates, were of Northern Irish origin and David was to have a strong link to Ireland and Irish plants all his life.

His formal education began at West Downs prep school in Winchester from where he progressed to Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge. He read French, German and history, graduating in 1934. A facility and an interest in languages served him well, enabling him ready access to much continental literature and increasing the opportunity to converse and forge friendships with enthusiasts abroad. As a young man he was a keen social sportsman and not above combining such activities with botany. In his unique compendium on British plants and botanists published as *Companion to Flowers* (1966) he recalls as an undergraduate finding pasque flowers (*Pulsatilla vulgaris*) whilst playing a round of golf on the course beside the Devil's Dyke at Newmarket. In the preface to this work he admits that it was written largely on his daily commuting journey to and from London and it was entirely typical of David that no time was ever wasted! In the same preface he confesses to being unable to write 'articles, let alone books, to a plan; they just grow' and this too was typical of the man, all the time his active mind would see so many avenues of interest to be followed up.

After graduation he chose to train as an accountant, qualifying in 1938, the same year he became a Territorial Army officer in the Hertfordshire Yeomanry (a choice reflecting his close association with his mother's old home). During the war years he was for an extended period an intelligence officer and trainer at the Intelligence Training Centre at Matlock in Derbyshire. He had joined the B.S.B.I. in 1935 and, as records in the Society's publications show, also used his time effectively in Derbyshire to hunt for plants (e.g. *Valerianella carinata*, Millers Dale, 1942). Following a period at the Civil Affairs Training Centre in London, he exercised his considerable administrative and logistic skills in organising parts of occupied Germany, where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

In 1940 he had married (Elizabeth) Anne Dawson, who shared his interest in plants and indeed had joined the Wild Flower Society before him. His field notebooks recall their joint wartime visit with Canon Raven to see grass-poly (*Lythrum hyssopifolia*) in arable fields near Newmarket. This

locality became 'lost' to local botanists until 2001 when it was refound quite by chance, thousands of plants still growing happily in winter wet hollows. He was much amused by its 'reappearance' and it says much for his records that he could lay hands on his account without hesitation.

After a few years at Withyham, near Tunbridge Wells, the McClintocks settled in the village of Platt, near Sevenoaks, where David's father had the living and two of his children were subsequently baptised there by their grandfather. The three acre garden at Bracken Hill developed to reflect his multifarious botanical and horticultural interests and he was never happier than when conducting visitors around his plants, sharing bits and talking of their provenance. The beds were full of self-sown seedlings of great British rarities (*Filago gallica*, *Briza minor*, *Tuberaria guttata*) but there were important collections of two groups about which David became an internationally known expert: bamboos and heathers. He held the National Collection of the bamboo genus *Sasa* and contributed accounts of bamboos to several standard texts (most notably the *European Garden Flora*, a publication he had some part in initiating). Heathers though were an abiding enthusiasm and for many years David was the leading figure in the Heather Society, finally acting as its President from 1990–2000. He engineered strong links with professional and amateur growers, regularly broadcasting on the value of heathers as garden plants. He initiated and maintained the International Register of heather cultivars, finding many novelties himself. One of these, a pretty pinky mauve-tipped, white-flowered form of Dorset Heath was named in his honour: *Erica ciliaris* 'David McClintock'. It is a charmer and a fitting tribute.

David travelled widely throughout Europe to see heathers in the wild and reckoned to have seen all but one of the northern hemisphere taxa: the only exception being the Libyan endemic *Erica sicula* subsp. *cyrenaica*. Even for him this was a trip too difficult to arrange! It was on an expedition in 1999 to see another form of this species in Mount Cofano in Sicily that he fell down a scree slope, necessitating an air lift to hospital and 40 stitches in a head wound. He appeared to make a remarkable recovery and made little of the whole affair.

His professional career centred on the Coal Utilization Council from 1951–1973, where he became chief accountant and administrative officer. The job required travel all over the country and once again B.S.B.I. publications and countless records and acknowledgements in county floras bear witness to how he was able to use these trips to good effect. Family holidays were also similarly well arranged. He succeeded in recording over 3000 species in the British Isles and must have been to virtually every corner of the realm and seen every rarity. Aliens were always a particular interest and I remember a day over 30 years ago when my mother and I saw a tall, slim, erect, white-haired figure approaching us across Guildford tip. He had come on the off-chance of seeing *Silphium perfoliatum* which we had recorded as established there for several years and saw it he did!

All his finds were faithfully recorded in his Wild Flower Society Diary. David had joined the W.F.S. in 1934 and throughout his life devoted much thought, time and energy to its affairs, acting as its Chairman from 1981–1993 and treasurer from 1978–1982. For decades he contributed numerous pithy reviews of publications to its quarterly magazine and for many years produced a digest of alien plant records in his 'Exotics' report: a mine of information for alien plant enthusiasts at a time when little else was being published.

The offices of the C.U.C. were a few hundred yards from the R.H.S. exhibition halls and Lindley Library in London and David regularly attended the Shows, exhibiting in the heather competitions and serving on the Society's Scientific Committee from 1978–1994, latterly as vice-chairman and on its Publications Committee from 1982–1987. He was influential in setting up the R.H.S. journal *The Plantsman*, and was a regular contributor to its pages. He took a particular interest in the Society's National Heather Collection at Wisley. For his tremendous contribution to horticulture the Society awarded him its Gold Veitch Memorial Medal in 1981 and then in 1995 its highest accolade, the Victoria Medal of Honour.

His contribution and service to the B.S.B.I., of which he was made an honorary member in 1994, is evident from the list of publications below. He was a regular exhibitor at the Annual Exhibition meeting and acted as a referee for *Erica* from 1983–2001, to which he added *Calluna* and *Daboecia* in 1995. For 19 years (1976–1995) he was also referee for garden plants and bamboos and must have helped hundreds of people as a result. Of particular significance was his role as Recorder for the Channel Islands (excluding Jersey) a position he held from 1961–1996. Apparently his interest in the area stemmed from an involvement in the late 1940s with an early air service to Guernsey (using an aircraft locally called "The Pig") and a fascination with what he found on the old airstrip at L'Érée.



David McClintock drawn by Raymond Piper, 1978. Reproduced by kind permission of Andrew McClintock.

His infectious enthusiasm and organising ability were never put to better effect than in the preparation of his *Wild Flowers of Guernsey* (1970) which was a highly individual presentation of the island's flora. Several B.S.B.I./W.F.S. meetings were organised to help in the recording and David was assiduous in getting every relevant expert to comment on their group of plants. For 50 years he visited the Islands at least once every year and on 26 September 1996 the Société Guernesiaise, of which he was also an honorary member, held a special gathering to celebrate his first visit 50 years before to the day.

David was quietly but intensely proud of his association with the recording of the native, naturalised and cultivated plants in the garden at Buckingham Palace and the impetus he gave to others to study all aspects of its natural history. He visited the garden probably once a month for several decades and his first botanical survey was published in 1964. In 1999 the London Natural History Society (of which he was President at the time of his death) published his second botanical survey as part of a wide-ranging account of the garden's plants and animals. He was on the point of writing up a giant hogweed from the grounds as new to science and it was a particular disappointment to him that a fuller account of the history of the garden and its cultivated plants, on which he had been working, was not published as planned in 2001, having been delayed by Palace officials.

His record of service and contribution to a wide range of other Societies was equally impressive and it is impossible to do full justice to them all in this account. He was a Council member, vice-president and one-time editor for the International Dendrology Society, joining many of their tours (sometimes as leader) and responsible for long accounts of these in their Year Books. He served in similar capacities for the Linnean Society and frequently attended their meetings, receiving their H. H. Bloomer award for his contribution to natural history in 1993. He was a founder member of the Garden History Society, the Kent Field Club, the Kent Trust for Nature Conservation and the Kent Ornithological Field Club. He had at one time been a Council member and President of the Ray Society. Most of us would have felt satisfied with half these achievements!

In all it has been reported that David contributed to or wrote some 25 books, published literally hundreds of notes and papers and well in excess of 2500 book reviews. He was an equally assiduous and prodigious correspondent, his huge daily post bag always receiving prompt attention. The problem would come for the recipients of his communications, which were either written in turquoise ink in an almost indecipherable hand or bashed out on an old typewriter using a telegraphic style that needed careful study to understand (I'm sure David reckoned it all cut down the time to finish the job!) He was well aware of this fault and in *Companion to Flowers* highlights an anecdote about A. H. Wolley-Dod who clearly had a similar problem.

This is not to say that David was in any way slapdash in his approach. He was blessed with an amazingly retentive memory and worked meticulously on any script, checking every detail. He was, however, never best pleased at the results of anyone else's editing! Perhaps inevitably in an individual of decided views about how things should or needed to be done, he occasionally came up against those who disagreed and sometimes seemed genuinely puzzled as to why others did not take the course he thought most appropriate.

In the field David was an energetic worker and an acute observer of plants. He delighted in recording variants of native plants, often devoting time to seeking out the relevant epithet or coining one himself. From his earliest plant records it is clear that he took an interest in both alien and native plants and that his interest did not stop at the garden gate is manifest. He was a rare individual in so enthusiastically embracing plants wild and cultivated so effectively. A large part of his time was devoted to communicating about plants through his writing, talks, broadcasts and field meetings. He leaves us with an astonishing legacy.

In what little time remained from plants David enjoyed listening to classic music and at one time was a keen tennis player and skier. He always said that his request to anyone travelling abroad to bring back sugar wrappers was for a daughter who collected them but it was clear he took as much pleasure in the collection as she did!

David made meticulous arrangements for the disposal of his books and herbarium specimens. All his heather books and specimens have gone to the R.H.S. at Wisley; he claimed to have virtually every edition of every heather book published. The British Museum, Kew and the Linnean have been given first choice on the remainder of several thousand volumes and the rest will be sold. His bamboo herbarium specimens are to be presented to Kew and the remainder to

the British Museum. His National Collection of *Sasa* plants is to be saved and moved to another site. The house and garden are to be sold and the family hope this will be to an enthusiastic gardener.

Anne McClintock died in 1993, but he is survived by two sons, two daughters, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Many will mourn the passing of a fine, gifted, generous and kindly man who so richly deserved the award of the M.B.E. 'for services to botany' of which he was informed shortly before he died.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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SELECTED LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

The following is a highly selective list of David McClintock's publications. It aims to include everything he published in the various journals of the B.S.B.I. together with all his books and other floristic lists. A full account of all his publications would be two or three times longer than this as David published regularly and extensively in journals of the Heather Society and the Wild Flower Society as well as intermittently in, amongst others, *The Plantsman/New Plantsman*, *The Garden, Report and Transactions of the Société Guernesaise*, *Bulletin of the Kent Field Club*, *Irish Naturalists' Journal*, *Country Life*, *The Countryman*, *Year Book of the International Dendrology Society*, *Deutsche Baumschule*, *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*, *Glasra*, *Kew Bulletin*, *Bamboo Society Newsletter*, *Gardeners' Chronicle*, *Taxon*, *Karaca Arboretum Magazine*, *Die Heidegarten*, *Glasgow Naturalist*, *Moorea*, *Daffodil and Tulip Year Book*, *Plant Life*, *Cornish Gardener*, *Hortus*, *Zahradnictvie*, *The Living Countryside* and *De Levende Natuur*. In all David reckoned to have contributed to over 90 periodicals. A listing of all his heather publications is to appear in the *Yearbook of the Heather Society for 2002*, pp. 8–14 (March 2002).

1952

Plant note – *Urtica urens*. *Watsonia* **2**: 287.

1953

(With J. E. Lousley) Field meeting report – April 6th, 1952 Ashford (Kent). *BSBI Year Book* 1953: 33–34.

(With E. F. Warburg) Plant note – *Cistus incanus* L. *Watsonia* **2**: 412.

1955

Plant note – *Matthiola sinuata* (L.) R. Br. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **1**: 320.

Plant note – *Anthyllis vulneraria* L. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **1**: 320.

1956

(With R. S. R. Fitter) – *Collins pocket guide to wild flowers, including trees, shrubs, ferns, grasses and sedges*. Collins, London.

1957

Obituary – Hilda Sophia Annesley Dent (1903–56). *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **2**: 325.

Exhibition meeting report – *Aremonia* still in Britain. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **2**: 301.

Exhibition meeting report – *Lagarosiphon major*. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **2**: 301.

Exhibition meeting report – An American species possibly native in Europe. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **2**: 301–302.

Supplement to the pocket guide to wild flowers. Privately published, Platt.

1958

Short note – *Hypericum canadense* L. in western Ireland. *Watsonia* **4**:145.

Exhibition meeting report – A narrow-leaved form of *Epilobium pedunculare*. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **3**: 95.

Exhibition meeting report – *Saxifraga hartii*. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **3**: 95–96.

1960

Exhibition meeting report – Alien lawn weeds. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **4**: 82.

1961

(With F. Le Sueur) – A check list of the flowering plants and ferns wild on Herm and its off-islets. *Report and Transactions of the Société Guernesaise* **17**: 36–48.

1962

The ferns of the Channel Islands. *British Fern Gazette* **9**: 34–37.

Additions to the flora of Jura. *Transactions and Proceedings of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh* **39**: 343–344.

1963

Exhibition meeting report – The *Oxytropis* in Kintyre. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **5**: 170.

Old records. In *Local Floras*. B.S.B.I. Conference Report no. 7: 59–68.

(With F. Le Sueur) – A checklist of flowering plants and ferns wild on Sark and its off-islets. *Report and Transactions of the Société Guernesaise* **17**: 303–318.

1964

Plant note – *Pteris vittata* L. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **5**: 337–338.

Plant note – *Vinca major* subsp. *hirsuta* (Boiss.) Stearn. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **5**: 341–342.

Exhibition meeting report – *Trichomanes* in wells. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **5**: 170–171.

Wild and naturalised vascular plants. In: Natural history of the garden of Buckingham Palace (with O. W. Richards and M. Knight). *Proceedings of the South London Entomological & Natural History Society* 1963: 14–25.

Cultivated plants. In: Natural history of the garden of Buckingham Palace (with O. W. Richards and M. Knight). *Proceedings of the South London Entomological & Natural History Society* 1963: 26–35.

Bryophytes and fungi. In: Natural history of the garden of Buckingham Palace (with O. W. Richards and M. Knight). *Proceedings of the South London Entomological & Natural History Society* 1963: 36–38.

1965

Exhibition meeting report – *Ambrosia psilostachya* established in Scotland. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **6**: 172.

Plant note – *Solanum dulcamara* L. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **6**: 50–51. Reporting on a stem 21 feet 8 inches long.

(With F. Le Sueur) – A check list of the flowering plants and ferns wild on Alderney and its off-islets. *Report and Transactions of the Société Guernesaise* **17**: 565–582.

1966

Exhibition meeting report – *Erica tetralix*, *E. × praegeri* and *E. mackaiana*. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **6**: 276.

Exhibition meeting report – Bamboos in flower. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **6**: 277–278.

Companion to flowers. G. Bell & Sons, London

1967

Plant note – *Melica uniflora* forma *albida* P. Junge. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **6**: 391.

Exhibition meeting report – *Erica ciliaris* in Ireland. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **7**: 79.

Exhibition meeting report – The Irish heather. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **7**: 79–80.

1968

Plant note – *Vinca major* subsp. *hirsuta* (Boiss.) Stearn. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **7**: 26.

Further notes on *Erica ciliaris* in Ireland. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **7**: 177–178.

Exhibition meeting report – *Eriocaulon aquaticum* (*E. septangulare*) in Ardnamurchan. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **7**: 509.

Plant note – *Vinca major* L. – production of fruit. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **7**: 191–192.

Exhibition meeting report – Bamboo seed. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* **7**: 510.

Exhibition meeting report – *Aster macrophyllus* L. and *A. schreberi* Nees. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* 7: 510.

Exhibition meeting report – *Pilosella flagellaris* (Willdenow) Sell & C. West subsp. *bicapitata* Sell & C. West. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* 7: 509–510.

Exhibition meeting report – *Symphytum leonhardtianum* Pugsley and *S. tuberosum* L. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* 7: 509.

Plant note – *Asplenium billotii* × *Phyllitis scolopendrium* = × *Asplenophyllitis microdon* (T. Moore) Alston. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* 7: 387–389.

Plant note – *Epilobium hirsutum* L. – Pink flowered forms. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* 7: 390.

(With P. F. Yeo) Plant note – *Geranium ibericum* Cav., *G. platypetalum* Fisch. & Mey. and *G. × magnificentum* Hyl. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* 7: 389.

1969

Field meeting report – Mayo and Galway. 14th–20th April. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* 7: 634.

A guide to the naming of plants: with special reference to heathers. The Heather Society. Second edition 1980.

1970

Short note – *Geranium submolle* Steud. (or *G. core-core* Steud.) – In the Channel Isles. *Watsonia* 8: 47.

Exhibition meeting report – The flora of Guernsey. *Watsonia* 8: 89–90.

Field meeting report – Guernsey. 11th–20th April. *Watsonia* 8: 183–184.

1971

Book review – Nightshades. The paradoxical plants (C. B. Heiser, Jr.). *Watsonia* 8: 320–321.

Exhibition meeting report – The Guernsey flora in 1969. *Watsonia* 8: 335.

Exhibition meeting report – *Chenopodium pumilio* – a Kentish obituary? *Watsonia* 8: 335–336.

Field meeting report – Guernsey. 29th May–7th June. *Watsonia* 8: 428–429.

1972

Exhibition meeting report – New Zealand *Epilobium* species in the British Isles. *Watsonia* 9: 60.

Exhibition meeting report – How many seeds? *Watsonia* 9: 60.

Exhibition meeting report – *Gaudinia fragilis*. *Watsonia* 9: 60.

Exhibition meeting report – The Guernsey flora 1970. *Watsonia* 9: 60–61.

Presidential address – The common ground of wild and cultivated plants. *Watsonia* 9: 73–79.

Exhibition meeting report – The naming of narcissi. *Watsonia* 9: 201.

Exhibition meeting report – Double-flowered *Calluna*. *Watsonia* 9: 201.

Exhibition meeting report – Guernsey 1971. *Watsonia* 9: 201.

(With J. B. Marshall) Exhibition meeting report – *Coryza* in Britain. *Watsonia* 9: 201–202.

(With J. L. Mason) Exhibition meeting report – Bird-seed aliens. *Watsonia* 9: 202.

Exhibition meeting report – New Zealand epilobiums in Britain. *Watsonia* 9: 140–142.

Obituary – William Jocelyn Lewis Palmer (1894–1971). *Watsonia* 9: 178–179.

Field meeting report – Guernsey. 9th–18th July. *Watsonia* 9: 184–186.

President's introduction. *BSBI News* 1(1): 2–3.

President's introduction. *BSBI News* 1(2): 22–23.

President's introduction. *BSBI News* 1(3): 46–47.

1973

Exhibition meeting report – *Heracleum sphondylium* × *H. mantegazzianum*. *Watsonia* 9: 429–430.

Book review – August Garcke. *Illustrierte Flora – Deutschland und angrenzende Gebiete – Gefasskryptogamen und Blütenpflanzen* (ed. K. von Weihe). *Watsonia* 9: 402–403.

Book review – Wildlife conservation in woodlands (R. C. Steele). *Watsonia* 9: 289.

(With M. J. P. Scannell) Exhibition meeting report – Double-flowered forms of *Erica mackaiana*. *Watsonia* 9: 432.

President's introduction. *BSBI News* 2(1): 2.

President's introduction. *BSBI News* 2(2): 23–24.

Mnemonics for plants. *BSBI News* 2(2): 34.

1975

Short note – A note on *Fascicularia*, *Ochagavia* and *Rhodostachys*. *Watsonia* 10: 289–290.

Book review – Culinary herbs (M. Page & W. T. Stearn). *Watsonia* 10: 312–313.

Book review – Wild flowers of British Columbia (L. J. Clark). *Watsonia* 10: 313.

Exhibition meeting report – The Guernsey flora in 1974. *Watsonia* 10: 468.

Exhibition meeting report – *Gunnera* in the British Isles. *Watsonia* **10**: 467–468.
 Exhibition meeting report – Heathers in Madeira and the Azores. *Watsonia* **10**: 467.
 Exhibition meeting report – Hairy-stemmed polygonums. *Watsonia* **10**: 467.
 (With J. D. Richard) – *Wild flowers of the Channel Islands*. Chatto & Windus, London.
The wild flowers of Guernsey. Collins, London.
Early records of Guernsey plants. Channel Islands Anthology no. 3. Toucan Press, Guernsey.

1976

Book review – The rural tradition (W. J. Keith). *Watsonia* **11**: 86.
 (With K. Hollick) Exhibition meeting report – *Echinops* in Britain. *Watsonia* **11**: 179.
 Exhibition meeting report – The Guernsey flora in 1975. *Watsonia* **11**: 179.
 Exhibition meeting report – Some aberrant heathers. *Watsonia* **11**: 180.
 Exhibition meeting report – A new *Oenothera*. *Watsonia* **11**: 180.
The life of Joshua Gosselin of Guernsey, 1739–1813. Toucan Press, Guernsey.

1977

J. E. Lousley and plants alien in the British Isles. *Watsonia* **11**: 287–290.
 Exhibition meeting report – The Guernsey flora in 1976. *Watsonia* **11**: 429.
 (With F. H. Perring & R. E. Randall) Picking wild flowers: a fully illustrated description of those it is safe to collect. Jarrold, Norwich.

1978

Field meeting report – Guernsey. May 27th–June 2nd. *Watsonia* **12**: 65.
 Book review – Tree rings and climate (H. C. Fritts). *Watsonia* **12**: 58.
 Book review – Wild flowers of Britain (R. Phillips). *Watsonia* **12**: 183.
 Exhibition meeting report – A new form of broom. *Watsonia* **12**: 195.
 Exhibition meeting report – *Oenotheras* in Britain. *Watsonia* **12**: 195.
 Exhibition meeting report – *Digitalis* × *purpurascens* Roth. *Watsonia* **12**: 195.
 Exhibition meeting report – Three variegated plants. *Watsonia* **12**: 195.
 Exhibition meeting report – *Erica tetralix* L. var. *quinaria* Guffroy. *Watsonia* **12**: 192.
 (With P. R. Brough) – Heathers with parts in fives and sixes. *Watsonia* **12**: 156–157.
 Exhibition meeting report – *Veronica crista-galli* Stev. in the British Isles. *Watsonia* **12**: 196.

1979

The status of, and correct name for, *Erica* ‘Stuartii’. *Watsonia* **12**: 249–252.
 Exhibition meeting report – *Daboecia cantabrica* (Huds.) C. Koch with a split corolla. *Watsonia* **12**: 396.
 Book review – Flora of the Isle of Wight (J. Bevis, R. Kettel & B. Shepard). *Watsonia* **12**: 372–373.
 (With M. Marsden) – A revised check list of flowering plants and ferns wild on Sark and its off-islets. *La Société Guernesiaise*, St Peter Port.

1980

Bamboos. Report on talk at B.S.B.I. conference, Manchester. *Watsonia* **13**: 74.
 Short note – Descriptive key to bamboos naturalized in the British Isles. *Watsonia* **13**: 59–61.
 Short note – *Erica* × *stuartii* E. F. Linton – a correction. *Watsonia* **13**: 59.
 Exhibition meeting report – A small form of *Poa annua* L. *Watsonia* **13**: 167.
 Exhibition meeting report – *Crassula decumbens* Thunb. and *C. macrantha* Diels & Pritzel. *Watsonia* **13**: 167–168.
 Exhibition meeting report – Schizopetalous *Erica cinerea* L. *Watsonia* **13**: 168.
 (With J. do Amaral Franco) – Accounts of *Sasa* and *Arundinaria* in *Flora Europaea* **5**: 124–125.

1981

Book review – A Guinness book of wild flowers (M. Briggs). *Watsonia* **13**: 235.
 Book review – Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 3 (A. J. Healy & E. Edgar). *Watsonia* **13**: 351–352.
 Book review – Discovering botany (P. F. Hunt). *Watsonia* **13**: 236.
 (With W. T. Stearn) Exhibition meeting report – A new hybrid *Symphytum*. *Watsonia* **13**: 367.
 Help with the alien flora *BSBI News* **27**: 14. (This Flora never appeared but Eric Clement now has the plates that were drawn, is augmenting their number and hopes to get them published.)
 Long bramble. *BSBI News* **27**: 31.
 English names of wild flowers. *BSBI News* **28**: 23.

1982

Short note – *Sambucus racemosa* L. sensu lato. *Watsonia* **14**: 74–76.
 Short note – The story of *Cymbalaria toutonii* A. Chev. *Watsonia* **14**: 182–183.

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ALAN LESLIE

LILY BREDA BURT

1918–2001

With regret we report the death of Breda Burt on 11 November 2001. Breda, as she was known, was a B.S.B.I. member since 1963 and v.c. Recorder for East Sussex, v.c. 14 from 1984–1993. For most of her life Breda lived in the two adjacent small parishes of Iden and Playden near Rye in East Sussex and she had a very comprehensive knowledge of the flora of that area. Breda qualified with LRAM and taught music for a short time, then, after marrying Ernie Burt, she moved across the parish boundary to Boonsfield Farm in Playden. Here many botanists visited and were ensured of a warm welcome, hospitality and help with plant queries and localities.

Through the Sussex Flora Society Breda was a major contributor to *Sussex Plant Atlas* (P. C. Hall 1980), gaining a wider knowledge of local Sussex plants. From 1984, as B.S.B.I. v.c. Recorder, Breda became East Sussex Recorder for the renamed Sussex Botanical Recording Society (SBRS), through which she contributed many records towards the Sussex plant database, monitored rare plants in East Sussex and contributed records to B.S.B.I. projects e.g. the B.S.B.I. Monitoring Scheme 1987–1988 published by J.N.C.C. as *A sample survey of the flora of Britain and Ireland* 1995 and the B.S.B.I. Scarce Plants Survey published by J.N.C.C. as *Scarce Plants in Britain* 1994. Breda was an industrious but modest Recorder, diffident about her knowledge (more so than she had need to be) but always willing to check and look for or help others to find required records. Breda was always cheerful and a good companion.

With her husband, Breda was involved in the early planning and running of the Rye Harbour National Nature Reserve, recording and monitoring the botanical treasures there; they led numerous field meetings there and to other parts of eastern East Sussex and lectured widely in Sussex on local plants. They also travelled around Britain with other B.S.B.I. members to see species from further afield. Later, I had the pleasure of taking them on many botanical holidays abroad; they were splendid travelling companions, interested in everything, but Breda particularly

in the plants and Ernie in the farming and farm machinery. At home, surrounded by botanical books, Breda kept some of these on a trolley, with her card index, current specimens and her assorted notes, on wheels to be trundled from room to room for easy access and continuous use! But I remember that one of her great pleasures in life was walking daily the fields of their farm where she had lived for so many years. Botanising went alongside the sheep farming and Breda was acquainted with every plant in every hedgerow: vascular plants, ferns, bryophytes, lichens and fungi and she made a special study of the hedgerow *Rosa* species and hybrids, of which the identifications were confirmed for her by the Referees.

Soon after Ernie's death, Breda's health also failed, with Alzheimer's disease taking its toll. She will be sadly missed and we send sympathy to their son Michael and his family, the grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

MARY BRIGGS

ANDREW JOHN CADOUX MALLOCH
1945–2001

Andrew Malloch, a member of the Society for nearly 40 years, died last year at the early age of 56. His boyhood was spent in Somerset and Surrey, where he attended Tiffins School, Kingston-upon-Thames. He soon acquired a deep interest in many aspects of natural history, including bryophytes. He read Natural Sciences at Cambridge, graduating in Botany. It was there that he came under the stimulating influence of David Coombe and the then recently retired Alex 'Sandy' Watt. Not surprisingly he chose an ecology research project with a Lizard and Land's End emphasis: analysing cliff-top vegetation in south-west England. Cliff-top vegetation in general was a subject which was to interest him for the rest of his life. It was while at Cambridge that he met Rachel, a Botany undergraduate, who he subsequently married.

In 1972 Andrew took up his first, and only post as lecturer in the Biology Department at Lancaster University, then headed by Donald Pigott. With the introduction of a degree in Ecology Andrew became its first director, serving for many years. He took a keen interest in the developing Flora of Cumbria project and in 1981 he started producing the software programs enabling us to develop and manipulate the tetrad data base and produce distribution maps. These programs were progressively refined and no one looking at the final Flora can doubt the value of his input. With the start of the National Vegetation Classification, based at Lancaster, Andrew was one of the team working under the Director, John Rodwell, and he played a vital role in the development of techniques for vegetation analysis. At the same time he refined the Cumbria programs and made them more generally applicable, combining them with the vegetation analysis and classification programs in the popular Vespan package. He continued working on this, producing the third, 'Windows', version in 1999.

Andrew was a prominent member of the British Ecological Society and served for eight years as its general secretary. With Jonathan Mitchley he co-authored the *Sea cliff management handbook* (1991) and co-edited with me *Wildflowers: their habitats in Britain and northern Europe* (1981).

He was a staunch member of the Lancaster Quaker Meeting and a supporter of the local Haffner Orchestra. A dedicated teacher and adviser, Andrew was always ready to put aside his work and listen to students' problems. One couldn't have asked for a more helpful or considerate colleague.

Andrew suffered from a congenital heart defect which necessitated major surgery in 1977. Although benefitting from this he was to suffer recurring bouts of infection. With increasing weakness he took early retirement in 1998, though continuing to supervise students and to improve Vespan. He bore his ill health bravely, actively participating on student excursions and the annual field course to Loch Lomond.

Fittingly, the final N.V.C. volume of *British Plant Communities*, published in his last year, included his major contribution on sea-cliff vegetation. This kind, unassuming man will long be remembered not only by his family but by all who had the privilege to know and work with him.

GEOFFREY HALLIDAY

ANDREW A. DUDMAN
(1930–2001)

Andrew Dudman was a schoolteacher who embraced field botany relatively late in life. However, he dedicated several of his later years to *Taraxacum*, and was a co-author of the B.S.B.I. Handbook on Dandelions. He was also an important contributor to A Flora of Cumbria.

Andrew was raised in the London area, attending Highgate School before going to Oxford to read English. Although artistic by nature, with a passionate interest in philosophy and the theatre, Andrew was also keenly interested in a wide range of scientific and mathematical subjects, perhaps stimulated by his physicist father. In fact, following his retirement, Andrew gained a science degree from the Open University.

After graduation he spent a year in the States on a scholarship before taking up a post in the Civil Service, but he soon abandoned administration for a career in teaching. He moved to Manchester, where he met his wife Elaine, and taught at the William Hulme School for Boys.

In 1968 Andrew and Elaine moved to west Cumberland for Andrew to take up the post of head of the sixth form at Whitehaven Grammar School. At Whitehaven, Andrew became very friendly with the head of Biology, the late Chris Haworth, both being passionately concerned with conservation issues. As a member of 'Friends of the Earth' Andrew became deeply involved in the Sellafield 'Thorp' Public Inquiry. In time Andrew also caught Chris's infectious enthusiasm for field botany, joining the B.S.B.I. in 1980 and being a regular participant at Flora of Cumbria field meetings from 1982. Both Andrew and Chris played an indispensable role in collecting data for the Flora, particularly in west Cumbria. After Chris's untimely death in 1990, at the age of 50, Andrew was left, our only active botanist in the west, valiantly soldiering on.

During the 1980's, Chris devoted much of his spare time to an intensive study of *Taraxacum*. Together with AJR, considerable advances were made in the understanding of this complex genus in the British Isles, and plans were laid to write a definitive account of British and Irish dandelions as a B.S.B.I. Handbook. When Chris died, Andrew made a huge personal commitment to shoulder the burden that Chris had embraced, and particularly to mediate the publication of the Handbook. This caused Andrew to acquire considerable IT skills, and to accomplish massive tasks of heroic scale, such as the computerisation of some 30,000 records, drawing up full descriptions of 230 species, and the development of multi-access keys. He also housed, and in part revised and curated, the 'national' *Taraxacum* collection (now at the University of Newcastle). The publication of the Handbook in 1997 represented a personal triumph for Andrew and gave him great satisfaction, for without his major input it is unlikely that it would have been completed.

Fate was to deal Andrew a similar blow to that of his mentor, Chris. Shortly after the Handbook was published, he was found to be suffering from cancer. He and Elaine moved back to Stockport in 1999, but not before he had spent a considerable amount of time assisting with the collection of Cumbrian records for the new Atlas. Against expectations his health deteriorated rapidly and he died two years later.

Andrew was an extremely modest, unassuming person of great charm and wisdom and much loved by all his fellow Flora of Cumbria recorders and *Taraxacum* enthusiasts. With his death we have all lost a valued and ever-helpful friend, and our sympathies go to Elaine and his two children.

G. HALLIDAY and A. J. RICHARDS

HUMPHRY JOHN MOULE BOWEN
(1929–2001)

Humphry Bowen, distinguished chemist and naturalist, died unexpectedly in his beloved Dorset, aged 72, on the 9 August 2001. He was a true polymath, a dynamic person, exuding enthusiasm, who was able to organise his time and, thus, deliver the goods. His *Flora of Berkshire* (1968) was produced with exceptional speed. While working at The University of Reading, he often spent his lunch hours in the herbarium, identifying specimens, laying collections away and extracting records for Berkshire and Dorset. It was all done at the double: he was like a whirlwind. After

retiring to Dorset, he collected thousands of local plant records and produced *The Flora of Dorset* (2000).

Humphry John Moule Bowen was born in Oxford on 22 June 1929, the son of a celebrated physical chemist, E. J. Bowen. He was educated at The Dragon School, Oxford, and then Rugby where David E. Allen first met up with him. David writes: "There cannot be many schoolboys who have attained the God-like rank of a sixth former only three months after their sixteenth birthday. But to that Humphry's brilliance at Chemistry had taken him by the time I arrived at Rugby School as a lowly newcomer. It must have been the following summer that I began to become vaguely aware that this awesome figure had some knowledge of field botany. However, a further 'season' had to elapse before that shared interest brought us cautiously together. A difference in age of nearly four years decreed that officially we kept our distance, but the Natural History Society (of which he had become secretary) acted as neutral territory on which that chasm could in some small degree be bridged. By that time, I was well into compiling a Flora of the surrounding district and lists of plants in a familiar hand would turn up discreetly on my study chair almost every week, the fruit of excursions by bicycle to areas that tended to be beyond my physical capacity to reach. A further advantage he enjoyed was access during the school holidays to the Druce Herbarium in Oxford, where John Chapple was more than happy to provide a name for any plant with which he was unfamiliar.

Our paths crossed afresh shortly after university when, not unexpectedly, in 1951 I found myself welcoming him as a fellow B.S.B.I. member. By then, brilliant as ever, he had completed the research for his doctorate with a full year to spare – and, with marriage impending, had put that to good use buying furniture at auctions. At that period, his chief aim as a field botanist was to see as many of Britain's rarities as possible. I recall his gleefully relating how he had entertained J. E. Lousley at his home and extracted the whereabouts of numerous much-wanted species by plying him liberally with sherry. Affable and energetic, he was soon marked out as a natural choice as the Society's Meetings Secretary when John Dony stepped up to become the General Secretary, and for eight years he was to bring to that office a characteristic brisk efficiency and stimulating *brio*.

It was still the same Humphry, miraculously unchanged after all of 50 years, whom I eventually caught up with again after his retirement to the next-door county, Dorset – and foreordained, embarking on an updated account of its flora. This time it was his turn to be the compiler and mine the periodic contributor of records. That we had ended up as we had begun was a special pleasure for us both."

Sir John Cockroft appointed him to his first job at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment (A.E.R.E.) in Harwell in 1953, to work in the Department of Physical Chemistry. However, he was transferred to Harwell's Medical Research Council Unit as his research on neutron activation analysis using the British Experimental Pile Operation reactor enabled tiny biological samples to be analysed. Thus, it was no longer necessary to kill organisms to carry out analyses. He looked at mutations caused by irradiating Chrysanthemums (producing eight colour variations of a pink cultivar), Roses and Carnations, but found no support for the Russian claims of increasing yields in grain crops following such treatment. He did show that growing plants in irradiated soil did give increased growth through sterilisation removing the competition from microorganisms. He went to the atomic bomb trials at Maralinga, Australia, to monitor the after-effects of an atomic explosion by analysis of plant and animal material. It is reported that he was unimpressed with the organisation there and appalled when others botched the analysis of his very limited data. He regarded his work there as wasted, though his four months studying the flora certainly was not.

He said he was often criticised for the propagation of his work on radioactive techniques around the world in case this led to hostile atomic activities. He felt very strongly that all his researches were for the peaceful use of atomic energy and for the economic benefit of the countries he was serving. His visits abroad brought him many overseas PhD students, who in turn brought him great recognition academically and personal delight.

In 1964, he was appointed Lecturer in Chemistry at The University of Reading, being promoted to Reader in 1974. He became Vice-county recorder for Berkshire in 1965 until 1988 and for Dorset (where he had regularly retreated at weekends to a cottage at Ringstead Bay) from 1961 until his death. He worked furiously on his *Flora of Berkshire*, published in 1968 in what must be a world record for the fastest production of a county Flora! He received a small legacy from an aunt and used this to publish it. He claimed afterwards to have calculated that he had received the

same amount of money after the last copy had been sold, as he would have done if he had invested it in a building society account. (Other Flora writers take note!)

During this time he started visiting and using the University of Reading herbarium and began depositing his voucher specimens there (earlier ones are in Oxford). Many of these were of his alien finds and supplemented those already in the herbarium from J. E. Lousley and E. C. Wallace. He was known to be especially happy botanising on a good rubbish tip. He would spend his lunch hours, not only working on his own collections, but also helping identify foreign collections and even laying specimens away, including a great many lichens. Identifications were done at some speed and are not always reliable, but they were as accurate as possible with the limitations of the specimens and literature available to him. He proved to be a great help in getting backlogs cleared. He also provided welcome large numbers of herbarium specimens from his own foreign trips, especially from the botanical holiday tours he led around Portugal, Greece and Turkey.

Throughout everything his unending enthusiasm came over and rubbed off on his students, colleagues and friends. He gave his Department of Chemistry the Bowen Cup to be presented annually to the best student performance in the second year course in analytical chemistry, returning each year to present it. He was also an important player in Reading Naturalists, helping to lead field meetings, collect records (not just of plants), write articles for *The Reading Naturalist*, etc. He supported the local county naturalists' trusts, especially B.B.O.N.T., now B.B.O.W.T. (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust) by serving on their committees and by helping to raise money for them. He took students out on memorable field trips around Berkshire. On one he exclaimed: "Just look at that enormous bracket fungus", as he drove off the road and up a large bank. Fortunately, no damage was done and it was something that all were able to have a good laugh at. On another occasion, he became very concerned as an Indian student photographed the spectacular yellow Berkshire rape fields with A.E.R.E., Harwell, in the background.

Although, to a botanist he gave the impression that natural history was his main job, he was a very active research worker, developing analysis techniques and the removal of heavy metals (gold, uranium, iridium and rhodium) from solutions. The pollution from the *Torrey Canyon* tanker disaster horrified him and he used his Dunlop consultancy to develop foam 'booms' to contain oil spillages, too late to help save the wildlife of the Isles of Scilly, but still in use today. He published nine books, including: *Trace elements in biochemistry* (1966), *Chemical applications of radioisotopes* (1969), *Environmental chemistry of the elements* (1979), and even *Introduction to botany* (1965) with a Spanish translation (*Introducción a la botánica*) in 1979. He published a series of papers on pollution and its effect on plants, pushing him to examine lichens as pollution monitors. He served on the Council of The British Lichen Society (1972–1973) and on its Conservation Committee. His chief lichen publications were lichen floras of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Dorset in the *Lichenologist*.

After his retirement in 1988, he went to live in Winterborne Kingston in his beloved Dorset, where he concentrated on the collection of records for a new county flora, published in 2000 shortly before his death. He was probably one of only four people to have produced more than one county flora. This was his *magnum opus*, a work of scholarship and quite unlike his earlier *Flora of Berkshire*, complete with colour plates and more detailed distribution maps, based on tetrads. It is especially comprehensive and will set a very high standard for subsequent county floras.

He married Ursula Williams, a biologist in 1952 and is survived by their three sons. After the marriage ended in divorce in 1983, he married Muriel Wilson, who also survives him.

S. L. JURY