

## Wiltshire Botanical Society

### Message from the chairman:-

The positive response received at the WFB meeting over the last two years has now been born out by sufficient people coming forward to create an ad hoc working party to help the embryonic WBS into existence.

The broad aim of the society is to form a group of like-minded people who can, by association, deepen their understanding of the flora of Wiltshire. We can be an educating society which helps its members towards a greater awareness and knowledge of our natural surroundings.

We hope to undertake summer and winter workshops and meetings, distribute newsletters and organise an AGM. In fact we hope to take the place of the W.F.M.P which, after the publication of the Flora next year, will cease to exist.

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### Newsletter No.1

April, 1992

Following the meeting at Lackham College of Agriculture on 14th March, 1992, two further meetings were held to inaugurate the society and form a provisional committee. Those present at the first meeting were Mrs Dorothy Cooper, Mr Dave Green, Mrs Rita Grose, Mr Malcolm Hardstaff, Miss Katie Hill, Mrs Joy Newton, Dr Jack Oliver, Mr John Presland, Mr John Rayner, Mrs Audrey Summers and Mr Philip Wilson.

The meeting was unanimous in agreeing that the name of the society be the Wiltshire Botanical Society.

### Constitution and Aims.

Our proposed constitution will allow for a wide range of botanical interests and activities. We hope it will become a forum for members to share and enjoy botanical pursuits, as well as encouraging and developing a knowledgeable approach.

### AGM.

The first AGM will probably be held in March or April, 1993, when we would hope to ratify the constitution.

If you have any suggestions you would like considered for inclusion in the constitution please contact a member of the ad hoc committee.

### Officers

It was agreed that the ad hoc committee would be temporary and the appointments would be submitted to the first AGM for approval. After that officers would normally serve for three years. The following have agreed to serve in a temporary capacity:-

Chairman: Dave Green  
General Secretary: Jack Oliver  
Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Katie Hill  
Meetings Secretary: Joy Newton  
Newsletter: Rita Grose

## **Finances.**

We estimated that in order to cover the cost of an annual program of several field meetings, some indoor meetings and a periodic newsletter, the society should as for an annual subscription of £5 per person minimum, and £ 7.50 per family minimum. you wish to donate a more generous subscription, please do! A form is included for your subscription. Please complete and send it to Katie Hill (address at the end of the newsletter). Cheques should be made payable to the "Wiltshire Botanical Society". An account has been opened at the Portman Building Society.

## **Activities.**

A program for the summer is included on a separate sheet. We are looking for indoor venues for winter meetings, particularly the AGM. If anyone has any suggestions or preferences please contact a member of the committee.

## **Projects proposed at the Lackham meeting.**

Most of our key botanists are involved with the production of the Flora and we can not undertake any major schemes at the moment. However it should be possible to follow up some of the projects.

**Road verges** - The response to monitor the verges was good both last year and this. At the moment the two lists of names are being amalgamated and any verges without wardens will be allocated to the nearest "offer". The system is to be divided between the WBS, the wilts. Trust and the W.C.C. Any problems should be reported to Audrey Summers (address at the end of the newsletter). Where management is concerned she will ask the WTNC conservation officer to visit the site if necessary. The trust will then contact the newly appointed officer of the W.C.C. who is responsible for road verge cutting. We hope that this arrangement will iron out some of the past problems.

**Set aside** Phil Wilson has a list of farmers interested in set aside monitoring. He will contact those people who signed for the project at Lackham. Will anyone else who is interested please contact Phil.

**Water courses** - would the eight people who signed for this project contact Jack Oliver who is in contact with ARK and Neville Mutter.

**Churchyards** - This project is being run under the auspices of the WTNC. Will those interested in this project please contact one of the wilts. Trust advisors listed below. The advisors are located in four different parts of the county and will be able to suggest churchyards that require surveying and will supply forms for the recording.

North	- Mrs L. Price (0666) //928
West	- Dr I. Cardy (0225) 703859
East	- Mr B. Heath (06772) 513691
South	- Dr T. Gimlette (0722) 716566

**Continuation of Tetrad Recording** - It was felt that this should be combined with Habitat Survey.

**Habitat Survey** - The projected habitat survey to be undertaken by the WBS in conjunction with English Nature (NCC) and the Wiltshire Trust will in future years be seen as one of the most important aspects of conservation to affect Wiltshire since the instigation of the SSSI scheme in the 1950's.

The project intends to identify sites of potential nature conservation interest (SNCI's) in Wiltshire. These would be surveyed by members of WBS using a set of agreed criteria and subsequent data would be held in a file for each site. The designation of SNCI is non-statutory.

With this information available at the Biological Records Centre, English Nature, Wilts. Trust for Nature Conservation, Wilts. County Council and other interested organisations will have access to unbiased and independent assessments of sites under planning application which are not protected by SSSI status.

Compiling all the required data will be a time-consuming job, but with the help of Wilts. Trust and English Nature the WBS hopes to present a scheme whereby fieldwork will begin in 1993.

**Finally, the names and addresses of the ad hoc committee:-**

(Dorothy Cooper, 8, Scotchel Green, Pewsey, SN9 5AU. (0672) 62965 )  
Dave Green, Tower House, 297, Bloomfield Rd, Bath, Avon, BA2 2NU. (0225) 833250  
Rita Grose, The Smithy, Smithy Lane, Woodborough, Pewsey, SN9 5PL. (0672) 851244.  
Malcolm Hardstaff, Bradbourne, Cold Harbour Lane, Marlborough, SN8 1BT. (0672) 512029  
Katie Hill, 31, Malthouse Close, Blunsdon, SN2 4BG. (0793) 726371  
Joy Newton, 1, Grasshills, Aldbourne, Marlborough, SN8 2EH. (0672) 40356  
Jack Oliver, High View, Rhyls Lane, Lockeridge, Marlborough, SN8 4ED. (0672) 86251  
John Presland, 175c, Ashley Lane, Winsley, Bradford-on-Avon, BA15 2HR. (02216) 5125  
John Rayner, Rowans Cadley, Collingbourne Ducis Marlborough, SN8 3E8. (0264) 850459  
Audrey Summers, Easton House, Easton Royal, Pewsey, SN9 5LS. (0672) 810268.  
Phil Wilson, 4, Prospect Place, Grove Lane, Redlynch, Salisbury,  
Barbara Last The Stables Berwick St James Salisbury SP3 4TN (0722) 790368

## Wiltshire Botanical Society Field Meetings 1992

As a change from our years of Flora Mapping we have arranged 3 meetings outside Wiltshire, in very exiting habitats.

Our Wiltshire meeting is a beginners guide to lower plants, such as mosses, liverworts and lichens.

Please bring sandwiches and wellington boots to them all.

1. Saturday, 30th May, 10am.

Charterhouse on Mendip, Somerset. GR 505557.

Follow B3134 from Burrington Combe and take first right, towards Charterhouse, then left at crossroads.

Old lead workings with interesting local flora, and a possible visit to Cheddar Gorge in the afternoon.

Leader: Dave Green.

Numbers limited, so please phone Dave on 0225 833250 to book.

2. Thursday, June, 11.30am.

Savernake Forest. GR 225668.

Meet at Eight

A beginners guide to mosses, liverworts and lichens.

Leader Rod Stern.

No booking required.

3. Saturday, 25, July, 10am.

Matley Bog, New Forest. GR 332075.

From Lyndhurst take B3056. Park in car park on left adjacent to Matley Wood.

This is acidic wetland flora.

Leader Dave Green.

Numbers limited so please phone Dave on 0225 833250 to book.

4. Sunday, 9th August, 10am.

Acres Down and Wood Crates, New Forest. GR 267078. Meet at Millyford Bridge car park, near Lyndhurst.

Acidic grassland, wetland and woodland. Many New Forest specialities.

Leader Phil Wilson.

No booking required.

Any queries, Please contact:-

Joy Newton, 1 Grasshills, Aldbourne, Marlborough, SN8 2EH

Tel. 0672 40356

Wiltshire Botanical Society

Application for membership

Please complete the form below if you wish to apply for membership of the Wiltshire Botanical Society.

Individual membership is (a minimum of) £5 per year;  
family membership is (a minimum of) £7.50 per year,  
renewable in January each year.

Family membership confers the benefits of ordinary membership on all the members of a household (parents and children) except that they receive one copy of newsletters and other literature per family.

Please return the completed form with your subscription (cheques made payable to "Wiltshire Botanical Society"), to:-

Miss Katie Hill,  
Wiltshire Botanical Society  
(Treasurer/Membership Secretary),  
31, Malthouse Close,  
Blunsdon,  
Wiltshire, SN2 4BG.

or to any committee member.

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I wish to join the Wiltshire Botanical Society as

an ordinary member / family members

(Please delete as necessary)

I enclose ..... pounds for my/our subscription for 1992.

Signature of applicant .....

Name (block capitals) .....

Address .....

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..... Tel. ....

In case of family membership, please give names of others joining as family members with you

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