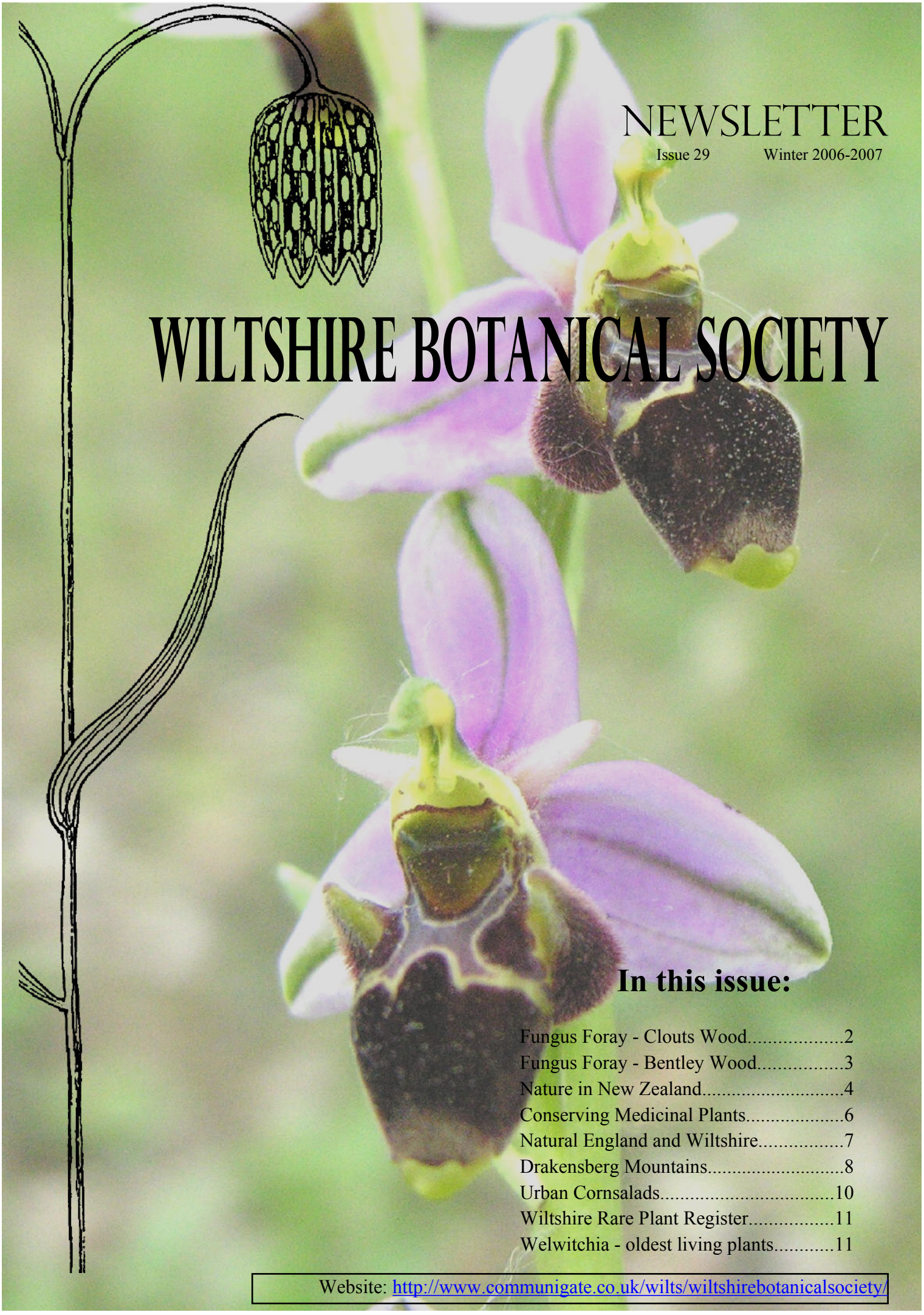


NEWSLETTER

Issue 29 Winter 2006-2007

WILTSHIRE BOTANICAL SOCIETY

In this issue:

Website: http://www.communigate.co.uk/wilts/wiltshirebotanicalsociety/

Sunday 8 October 2006

Clouts Wood, Fungus Foray

Leader: Peter Marren

Waxcaps poking up through the grass - Richard Aisbitt

Peter Marren took us to a new venue this year, Clouts Wood, a lovely old woodland at Wroughton, adjacent to an airfield. There were 12 of us, including the environmental officer for the airfield establishment.

We began well with exciting finds on the unimproved grassland surrounding the runways. Wax-caps are perhaps the showiest of all fungi and we immediately found 3 species; *Hygrocybe conica* (Blackening Wax-cap) *H. psittacina* (Parrot Wax-cap) and *H. persistens* (Persistent Wax-cap) There were *Agaricus campestris* (Field Mushroom) in some quantity but not fresh enough to tempt us to collect for eating. *Agaricus xanthodermus* (Yellow Stainer) stained yellow on bruising and is only poisonous to some people – only one un-named member had a nibble.

Into the woods were some large *Macrolepiota rhacodes* (Shaggy Parasol) and *Psathyrella condolleana* (Pale Brittlestem).

Many of the English names are descriptive, so useful. We found the Bracket fungi *Tyromyces stipticus* and *Trametes versicolor* (Turkey tail) on dead wood.

The path descended steeply, luckily with wooden steps to help and there we found *Geastrum triplex* (Common Earthstar), one fairly new and the remains of two from last year; an extraordinary species. The familiar *Daldinia concentrica* (King Alfred's Cakes) was showing its concentric rings beautifully. *Inonatus obliquus* (Clinker Polypore) had a hard black cracked body exactly like clinker.

We saw a beautiful *Fistulina hepatica* (Beefsteak Fungus) growing low down in the hollow of an old oak so we had a good view and a tiny bright orange fungus was identified as *Rickenella fibula* (Orange Moss-cap)

Continuing through the wood, we found two species of Lactarius, *Lactarius quietus* (Oak Milk Cap) and *L. subdulcis*. We also saw *Clavulina cinerea* (Grey Coral Fungus), and two species of dead wood fungi, the gelatinous *Tremella mesenterica* and the yellow *Bisporella citrina*. Although our minds were on lower things, we were pleased to see large numbers of the dead flowering stems of *Ornithogalum pyrenaicum* (Spiked Star-of-Bethlehem or Bath Asparagus), a plant for which the wood is well known. One member of the group found a fructifying orange slime mould on a dead twig and there was some discussion of the peculiarities of slime mould.

Beefsteak Fungus - Richard Aisbitt

Grey Coral Fungus - Richard Aisbitt

Sunday 29th October 2006

Fungus Foray in Bentley Wood

Leader: Ted Gange

Members joined with Salisbury Natural History Society and the Friends of Bentley Wood on a lovely autumn afternoon. Our leader, Ted Gange has been recording fungi in the wood over the last twenty years and is the county recorder for the southern part (VC 8). His tally at the end of 2005 was 825, so it takes quite a lot of hunting these days – and some good luck – to add to his list. We didn't manage to do so that afternoon but did find 129 species from one sub-compartment of beech and pine. Ted regarded it as 'just a useful collection'

Some notable finds included Horn of Plenty (*Craterellus*), so easily missed because of its black colour, *Macrolepiota gracilenta* and several species of *Russula* including *R. brunneoviolacea*, *R. laurocerasi*, *R. amara*, and *R. densifolia*. An attractive red cap with yellow pores proved to be *Boletus versicolor* whilst a small species with a central stalk and a hairy edge was *Polyporus ciliatus*. There were several Dead Men's Fingers, *Xylaria polymorpha* spotted as well as the more common Candle Snuff, *Xylaria hypoxylon*.

We emerged from the woodland into a field, where we found Hygrocybe conica (Conical Wax Cap), *Conocybe tenera* and *Panaeolus sphinctrinus*, a species of manured meadows, often growing on cow dung. The next field, clearly improved, yielded nothing of interest.

Returning to the wood by a different route, we spotted a *Pleurotus ostreatus* (Oyster Mushroom), edible and good to eat and familiar to most people because it is cultivated and now widely available. There were some very fine specimens of the Shaggy Parasol nearby. The third species of the day, *Lactarius pyrogalus* (Milk Cap) associated with hazel, was also found. Peter confirmed its identity by tasting the 'milk', as 'hot and acrid', and regretting it! Our final finds before returning to our cars included *Xerocomus badius* (Bay Bolete), another edible species and the poisonous *Inocybe geophylla* var *lilacina*. Peter told us that the bolete stores heavy metals and that people are advised not to eat it after the accident at Chernobyl.

Once again, members were very grateful for Peter's expertise and thanked him for and informative and enjoyable visit.

Joy Newton and Anne Appleyard

Common Earth Star - Richard Aisbitt

At the end of the foray we gathered around a table to exhibit the finds and check their identity. One enthusiastic family (who had found the foray on our web site) was very keen to sample anything remotely edible. Some stern warnings were sounded! As a leader, Ted was acutely aware of the pitfalls of recommending material for consumption.

Pat Woodruffe

Mountain Top above Awatea Valley - John Presland

Saturday 11 November 2006

Nature in New Zealand

John Presland

A promise of excellent slides attracts a good audience to any talk which John gives. We were not disappointed on this occasion when we were taken on a detailed journey around both North and South Islands.

The variety of habitats became quickly apparent as we moved from warm, sub-tropical areas in the north to sub-antarctic mountainous regions much further south. The remoteness of New Zealand has resulted in a high degree of endemism and the persistence of older forms, such as tree ferns and groups of conifers not common elsewhere. About 10% of the 400 genera are confined to New Zealand and, of the 1800 species of higher plant; some 75% are found nowhere else.

The tall, dense growth and limited light made photography difficult in the sub-tropical areas but John managed to capture the essence and show us the habitat of the Waitakere Ranges very effectively. We saw huge podocarps – conifers without cones – as well as examples of the two main genera of trees ferns: *Cyathea* and *Dicksonia*. *Lygodium articulatum* was an intriguing fern which climbed by means of the rachis with the pinnae looking like individual leaves. The rachises (or rachides to the purists) were used by Maori to tie parts of huts together and to make fish traps.

Moving on, we saw the landscape of the geothermal areas in the centre of North Island where both native and introduced species of *Azolla* thrive in the craters. The idea of plants, and particularly ferns, adapted to survive hot ground conditions was fascinating. The endemic manuka tree (*Leptospermum scoparium*) is another such plant and its roots can sometimes penetrate so deeply that steam emerges and kills the plant. The plant has long been known and used for medicinal purposes and

Flowers of Manuka Tree - John Presland

Acaena sp. (New Zealand Burr) - John Presland

White Cushoin Daisy - John Presland

Kaka Beak - John Presland

manuka honey is obtained from the nectar of a cultivated red variant.

New Zealand is, of course, well known for its Hebes of which there are about 100 species, nearly all of which are endemic. John explained that leaf characteristics were more important diagnostic features since the flowers are all rather similar. He showed us just three examples and told us of the great range of medicinal uses to which the plants have been put. There is also a good range of endemic gentians, most of which are white, although sometimes streaked with colour. Since moths are the major pollinating insects, it was thought that white might be advantageous and pigments a waste of resources. As in Europe, the species are mainly alpine.

In common with almost all countries, New Zealand has its fair share of aliens and although some, like *Ipomoea indica*, are very attractive most compete with the native flora.

Gentiana amabilis - John Presland

John described the contrast as the group moved up from the lower slopes of a mountain in the Awatea Valley (South Island) where gorse and other European plants dominated to the native flora at higher altitude. The main reasons behind this problem lie in the introduction of grasses for sheep to graze, overstocking and high rabbit populations.

Moving even further south John visited Mount Cook National Park and walked up the Hooker Valley, showing us plants such as South Island Edelweiss, *Helichrysum* and *Acaena* with adaptations to the very cold conditions which they experience. Then on to Milford Sound with extensive forests of *Nothofagus* and finally to Dunedin so see some coastal plants plus a quick trip to the Botanic Garden to chase up a few species not usually seen in the wild.

A good botanist always has great stamina! Thank you John for sharing your holiday.

Pat Woodruffe

Saturday 2 December 2006

How Can We Conserve Medicinal Plants?

Alan Hamilton

Thirty people attended this presentation, in which Alan Hamilton, of Plantlife International gave a convincing account of perhaps the most widespread aspect of international botany. About 70-80% of the world's population use herbal medicines. One of the main areas in which the medicinal plants are grown is the Himalayas; with about 2 billion people using Himalayan plants medicinally. In Nepal some 2½ million people depend on herbal medicine and many of the families derive their living from sales to India and China. The trade in herbal plants is increasing; the plants are being over-harvested and not replaced. This has lead Plantlife and other organisations to try to help to conserve medicinal plants in the Himalayan and far eastern areas.

In addition to herbal medicine about 57% of prescriptions in the USA contain at least one active component based on a plant product. An estimate of the number of plants with medical properties varies between 7 to 44% of vascular plant species. In Ladakh alone some 700 plant species are used medicinally. Progress has started to be made to conserve medicinal plants. In South India 55 medicinal plant conservation areas have been established and 150,000 home herb gardens have been set up and the women usually run these.

Alan Hamilton did not tackle head-on the effectiveness of herbal treatments. Medicinal use so often overlapped with agriculture, nutrition, perfumes, cosmetics, cultural practices, spiritual rituals and other folk activities that disentanglement of beneficial factors could be daunting. Dr Jack Oliver's guess is that additions of iodine to salt in Bangladesh could, for instance, improve the health of inland populations more than the products from 100,000 herb gardens. However some herbal treatments have actual and potential importance and few indeed of the 55 South Indian plant conservation areas would exist without the medical motivation. Retention and increasing use of the wonderful world plant genetic diversity is the prize that must not be

PLANTLIFE

eroded, and medicinal usage is the greatest use of plants as measured by numbers of different species involved.

Plantlife and other organisations are working with the local communities to set up village management committees to help conserve and manage their medicinal plants as a crop, to form co-operative marketing groups and to enable them to retain their traditional knowledge and culture. As an example of recent bad practice we were shown a picture of a dead tree, killed by ring-barking, the bark collected to order for an outsider. The tree would not have been killed if the ancient practice had been followed of just taking a patch of bark. The Amchi are the spiritual healers and botanists of Ladakh and are able to identify over 1,000 plant species. One venerable Amchi in one short speech swung a whole community over to full support of a Plantlife International plant conservation project.

From Pakistan to the East of Nepal, Plantlife International has seven major conservation areas in the Himalayas alone. Species worldwide have been declining to the point of extinction with an even more catastrophic collapse of local botanical expertise. Conservation projects require governmental co-operation (or at least tolerance), the activists (Plantlife International) with recruitment of other activist organisations, and support of the locals. In India one man started FRLHT, revitalization of local health treatment initiatives, involving information dissemination on medicinal plants and gene banks. Plantlife supports FRLHT and vice versa.

Some of the plants under consideration which were mentioned included the following: -

Ginkgo biloba (Ginkgoaceae), from Jurassic time
Madagascar Periwinkle *(Catharanthus roseus*), - anticancer extracts
Kuth *(Saussurea costus, Asteraceae)*
Adhadota *(Justicia, Acanthaceae)*
Cardiospermum (Sapindaceae)
Flame Lily *(Gloriosa superba, Colchicaceae\Liliaceae)*
Aloe ssp *(Asphodelaceae\Liliaceae)*
Pomegranate *(Punicaceae)* – possible anti HIV extracts
Taxus baccata ssp wallichiana (Taxaceae) – Taxol, an anticancer drug
Warburgia ugandensis (Canellaceae). This is a tree whose bark has purgative, vermicidal and possible anti-malarial properties.
Quinine *(Cinchona spp, Rubiaceae)* – *Apocyanaceae,* Jesuit's Bark is still used as an antimalarial drug, not yet wholly superseded by synthetics.

Conservation of plant diversity becomes feasible only if the beliefs and practices of local societies are respected and linked to basic human interests. Sacred forests survive; other forests tend to be plundered or cleared. Traditional healers protect their valuable plant populations. Development should be rooted in people's cultures. Alan Hamilton made a convincing case for these principles and for the work of Plantlife International, with many pleasing illustrations.

Jack Oliver and Joan Davies

Naxi traditional physician in Yunnan - photo Alan Hamilton

Saturday 3 February 2007

What does Natural England mean for Wiltshire?

Katie Lloyd (Natural England)

Katie began her talk by introducing herself. After obtaining a degree in botany she spent eight years at Kew sorting out the correct nomenclature of *Protea* specimens in the herbarium. This was followed by a spell in forestry, so Wiltshire must be quite a change.

English Nature will be familiar to all for its National Nature Reserves, and Natural England, formed in 2006, is the reorganised progression from this. In Wiltshire, the Natural England (NE) team has three divisions: an area team covering Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol, based in Devizes and led by Mark Watson, to which Katie belongs; the land management team for north and south Wiltshire, led by Roger Griffin; and the government and communities team led by Dagmar Junghanns. The direction that NE is here to follow is ensuring a healthy natural environment and the enjoyment of the same by its sustainable use for a secure environmental future.

Katie went on to describe what this would mean for work on SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest). These are a national series of sites showing characteristic species, geology and geomorphology and are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act, Countryside and Rights of Way Act. Wiltshire has 135 SSSIs, 11 of which are of international importance and eight of which are National Nature Reserves. These have to be assessed and monitored to ensure that they are in favourable condition. If they are unfavourable NE will work with the owner to adapt or improve the management of the site. If necessary, NE has the power to enforce this, for instance by removing unsuitable planting of trees in a chalk downland. NE's consent is required for any operations likely to damage the special interest. The aim is to work with owners to find a solution to any conflicts of interests whenever possible. This is sometimes very time consuming as the site may have multiple interests.

Unfavourable conditions may be caused by under or over-grazing, the way in which woodland is managed, direct or indirect pollution, water abstraction, and military and agricultural activities (although the latter two may also have beneficial effects). Monitoring by groups such as the Wiltshire Botanical Society carried out over several years can be very useful in showing whether there is an increase or decrease in species.

There is a strong emphasis on landscape and a move away from considering just a small site within it, and they work with communities on various projects to enhance this. Planning authorities must obtain consent if landscape could be affected.

The Living River Project (supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund) is focused on the River Avon (south Wilts) for the next twenty years and there will be consultation with various conservation groups, fisheries, Plantlife, WBS, and garden centres. It wishes to involve communities in removing invasive plants – Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed.

Natural England and the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust will launch Wessex Chalk Streams Project in April 2007 as part of the Living River Project. Anyone interested can contact the Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre in Devizes or Martin de Retuerto at Natural England. Martin would particularly like help from WBS members with checking existing records and tracking the spread of invasive aliens named above (and also some alien aquatics) along the River Avon. He can arrange access to the river banks, including some areas which are rarely open to the the public.

There is also an Arable Plants Project which several WBS members have already taken part in. It will continue with Simon Smart returning as a consultant.

All of these aspects of sites and projects rely heavily on volunteers to monitor or assist in other ways, and their efforts are hugely appreciated – nice to know!

From what we hear Katie and other team members are being kept busy for the foreseeable future. It is hoped that funding will remain to keep their group going.

Gwyneth Yerrington

NATURAL ENGLAND

Monitoring rare plants on SSSIs in Wiltshire

A message from Katie Lloyd

Natural England assesses the condition of SSSIs through a rolling Condition Assessment programme. On sites specifically notified for rare plants it is particularly important to monitor the populations so we can determine how they are fairing. In Wiltshire, the following SSSIs are notified for vascular plant interest:

Ebsbury Down
Knighton Down and Wood
Martin and Tidpit Downs
Parsonage Down
Pewsey Downs
Porton Down
Salisbury Plain
Wylye and Church Dean Downs

If anybody in interested in doing some volunteer monitoring on any of these sites this season, please contact Katie Lloyd at Natural England's Wiltshire Team; thanks to anyone who has already come forward for this. We will arrange maps and landowner permission and get in touch in the near future.

Contact details:
Simon Smart. Tel 01380 830281, email simonsma@tiscali.co.uk
Martin de Retuerto. Tel 01380 737008, email martin.deretuerto@naturalengland.org.uk

Katie Lloyd. Tel 01380 737011, email katie.lloyd@naturalengland.org.uk

Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre. 01380 725670, email brc@wiltshirewildlife.org

Saturday 17 March 2007

The Flora of the Drakensberg Mountains, South Africa

Maureen Ponting


Brunsvigia radulosa - Maureen Ponting

The Drakensberg Mountains run along the Natal-Lesotho border for 320 km, forming an escarpment which reaches up to 3,000m, or not far short of 10,000ft. The mountains are formed of basalt extruded through sandstone, and are eroded to leave caves and overhangs. Maureen leads the trip for Naturetrek, most recently in January 2007. The route passes through many different habitats, and covers a wide altitudinal range. As would be expected, the flora is very extensive: some 2,000 plant species can be seen on the trip, of which 400 are endemic. Many of the photographs were of plants that one would regard as typical South African species, but at least an equal number bore unfamiliar names.

Maureen took us on a journey starting in the Royal Natal National Park, with superb views of an amphitheatre formed of 1,000m high cliffs. In the valley of the Tungela River were *Agapanthus campanulatus, Zantedeschia albomaculata,* several species of *Eucomis* (pineapple plants) and *Kniphophia* (pokers). Travelling towards Lesotho we next drove through the lovely Natal grasslands dominated by Red Grass, Thatching Grass and Drop Seed. In these grasslands grows a species of *Hypoxis* (Star Flower) with medicinal properties, as it


Kniphophia caulescens - Maureen Ponting

is used to treat HIV. Aloes are also common, together with further species of Poker. In the same area are the spectacular *Brunsvigia natalensis* (Tumbleweed) with its 3ft high spreading pink flower head, and two species of *Phygelius,* both pollinated by birds.

The road to Lesotho crosses the headwaters of the Orange River, which rises in the Drakensberg and then flows west right across South Africa and out into the Atlantic. After negotiating the Moteng Pass, 3,220m, the party were put up in the Oxbow Rest House which consists of a collection of small thatched cottages. Close by were *Galtonia regalis* (Royal Berg Lily)


Protea dracomontana - Maureen Ponting

Helichrysum milfordiae - Maureen Ponting

Eucomis autumnalis - Maureen Ponting

and an amazing display of *Kniphophia caulescens,* full of sugar birds which pollinate the flowers. In high, damp places can be found the iris-like *Moraea alticola.* Climbing by minibus to the Mahlasela Pass, 3,220m, a natural rock garden provided such plants as *Ursinia tenuiloba,* with red reverse to the petals, *Cerastium arabidis,* like our alpine *Cerastiums, Felicia drakensbergensis* and *Moraea alpina. Helichrysum trilineatum* is the dominant summit shrub. In other parts of Lesotho *Dieramas* are common, as are also several species of *Gladiolus,* including the magnificent Lesotho Lily, *G. saundersii.*

A night was spent at Sani Top Lodge, from which there is a terrifying road up to the top of the pass – steep, loose gravel with hairpin bends. Plants include *Rhodohypoxis baurii* and the suitably named Suicide Lily, *Gladiolus flanaganii.* (There are no true lilies in South Africa).

From Lesotho the route leads down to the South African town of Howick and the Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve. Plants seen on the way are various species of *Watsonia,* and a number of orchids such as *Habenaria epipactis, H. dives* and *Eulophia foliosa.* Looking back towards the Howick Falls we were shown the flat-topped thorn tree, *Acacia sieberana.* As a general rule most African acacias are thorny, whereas Australian acacias, such as *A. dealbata* (Mimosa), are unarmed. In the Midmar Nature Reserve is the dam where the famous one-mile swim is undertaken by thousands of people every year. The final part of the tour took us down into the coastal dune forests around Port Edward, where the party were successful in finding the Flame Lily, *Gloriosa superba.*

This mouth-watering part of South Africa was really brought alive for us by Maureen's superb slides.

Jeremy Wood

Losotho shepherds - Maureen Ponting

Valerianella carinata - Sharon Pilkington

Urban Cornsalads

Wiltshire is home to three of the five known British cornsalad *Valerianella* species. One of these – Narrow-fruited Cornsalad *V. dentata* – is nearly always associated with currently or formerly cultivated land, usually on free-draining chalky soils. The other two – the 'urban cornsalads' are very commonly found close to human habitation, often in towns and villages.

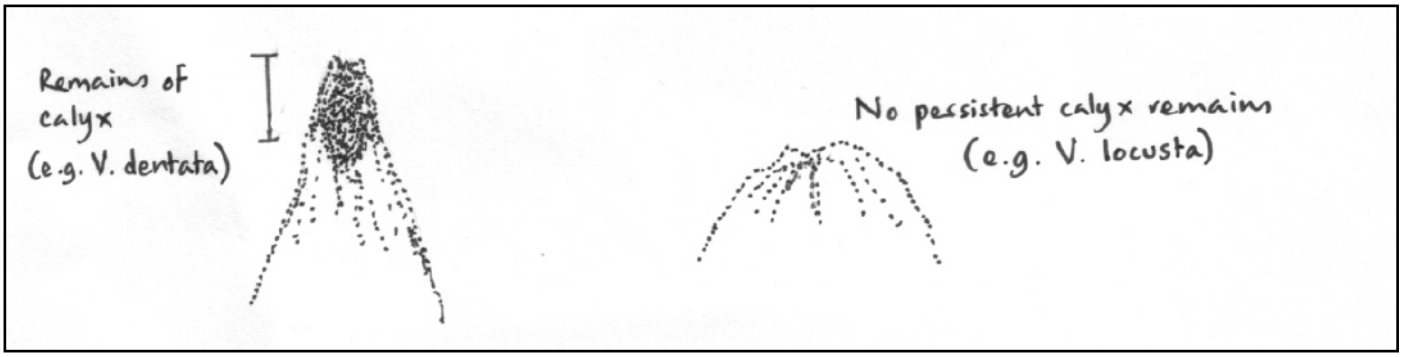
Common Cornsalad *V. locusta* is widespread across VC7 North Wiltshire and VC8 South Wiltshire; it has been recorded in more than 70 1km OS grid squares. In contrast, Keeled-fruited Cornsalad *V. carinata* is relatively scarce, and has only been regularly noted in the Bradford on Avon and Trowbridge areas. However, this may merely reflect the distribution of botanists interested in recording the species rather than the actual distribution of the plant! *V. carinata* is an archaeophyte (a plant which became naturalized in the British flora before AD 1500) and is considered by some authorities to be spreading eastwards from its main heartland in southwest England.

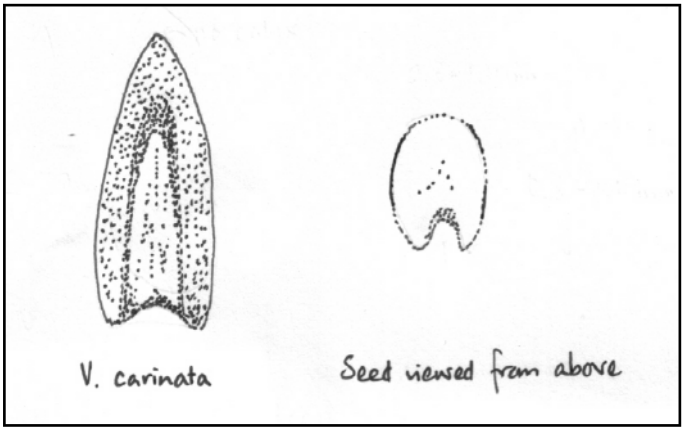
I believe *V. carinata* may be more widespread across Wiltshire than the current records suggest, and I'd like to encourage close inspection of urban cornsalads this year.

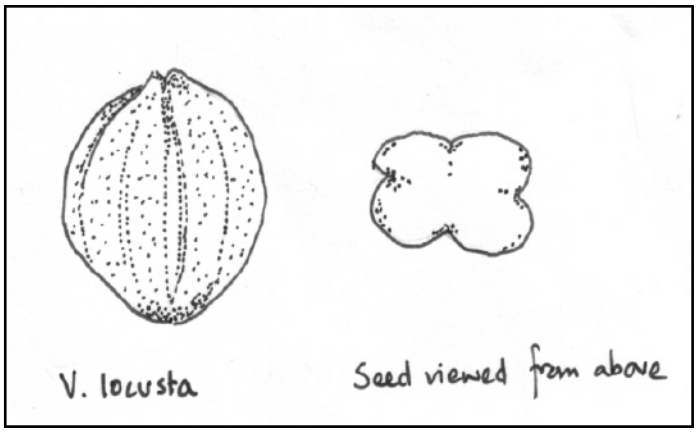
Typical habitats for both species include wall-pavement angles, gravel paths, railway sidings, garden margins, pavement cracks and other disturbed open ground. *V. locusta* and *V. carinata* are very similar in appearance and habit when in flower, and the only reliable way to separate them is by examination of ripe or nearly ripe seeds, which are usually produced in profusion by May or early June. They can be readily differentiated from *V. dentata* by the absence of a residual calyx on the seed (see illustration below).

A low-power dissecting microscope is ideal for verification of seed characteristics, but a x 10 hand lens or field magnifier is also good. With a little practice, seeds can be easily identified in the hand.

The side and plan views of both seeds are shown below. The seeds of *V. locusta* are nearly orbicular, and distinctly compressed in one plane. Shallow grooves are usually present on the faces. The seeds of *V. carinata* are at least twice as long as wide, and are not compressed. There is a single deep groove on one face. The differences are summarised on the next page.







A summary of the differences between the two cornsalads	
Keeled-fruited Cornsalad *Valerianella carinata*	**Common Cornsalad *Valerianella locusta***
Seed not compressed	Seed laterally compressed in one plane
Deep groove on one face	Deep groove absent
Seed length much greater than width	Seed nearly orbicular

I would be delighted to receive records of any cornsalad species, and would also be pleased to receive seeds for identification or confirmation.

Sharon Pilkington

Wiltshire Rare Plant Register

The Wiltshire Rare Plant Register (by Sharon Pilkington) will be on sale from early May. The culmination of two years of survey effort by members of the Society and others, it provides an account of the current status of the county's rare, threatened and notable vascular plants. 140 pages, A4 soft-bound, with distribution maps and colour photographs.

Price £12 plus P&P from Summerfield Books, The Arches, Main Street, Brough, Cumbria, CA17 4AX. Tel 017683 41577. www.summerfieldbooks.com

Weird *Welwitchias*

On my recent visit to Namibia, I saw a number of extraordinary *Welwitchia* plants sprawling over the desert. They are primitive conifers which can grow to an amazing age and are believed to be the oldest herbaceous plants in the world. The oldest is supposed to be 2,000 years.

The age has been determined by carbon dating.

They have two broad leaves that continue growing from the base, getting worn and tatty round the extremities. The central disc of the female plant produces cones that form 10,000 seeds that are wind dispersed. The first plant was discovered by Frederich Welwitch in 1899 and he was so astonished he fell over on his knees in disbelief.

This bizarre plant spreads over the sand like a stranded octopus. The most remarkable thing about it I think is its method of obtaining water, which it does by absorbing the dew from the Atlantic mists condensing on it. It provides shelter for the Toc-tokki beetle which also collects dew which it allows to run down its back to form a drop at its mouth.

Barbara Last

Welwitchia - Barbara Last

Wiltshire Botanical Society Committee

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Pat Woodruffe	Meetings Secretary	01794 884436	pmw.bentley@waitrose.com
Simon Young		01225 769551	drsimonyoung@yahoo.co.uk

Summer Meetings

Wednesday 18 April	The Hillier Arboretum
Tuesday 1 May	Devizes – ancient woodland
Tuesday 1 May	Broadleas Gardens
Saturday 12 May	Asham Woods and Eley's Field
Thursday 17 May	New Grove Meadows, Monmouth; Great Doward, nr. Symonds Yat
Thursday 24 May	Distillery Meadows and Emmet Hill Meadows
Sunday 3 June	Scratchbury Hill, Warminster
June 11 – 14	Residential visit to The Lizard, Cornwall.
Thursday 21 June	Dean Hill Park
Sunday 1 July	West Yatton Down
Sunday 8 July	Shapwick Heath NNR
Wednesday 18 July	Home Farm, Cholderton
Wednesday 1 August	Manor Farm RSPB Reserve
Sunday 5 August	Summer Picnic, Oliver's Castle
Sunday 9 September	Dean Hill Park – Roses workshop
Tuesday 18 September	Oare Arboretum and Estate
Sunday 7 October	Fungus Foray in Savernake Forest
Saturday 13 October	Dean Hill Junipers, with Plantlife
Sunday 4 November	Fungus Foray in Bentley Wood

For details, see our meetings leaflet or the Wiltshire Botanical Society website at http://www.communigate.co.uk/wilts/wiltshirebotanicalsociety/

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

Wiltshire Botanists do not hibernate; the society has indoor meetings during the dark days of winter and these largely make up this newsletter. We now look forward to a busy schedule of outdoor meetings during the summer.

Thank you again to the authors who willingly contributed meeting reports and other articles. The drawings and photographs have also been most welcome.

I aim to send out the next newsletter in early October 2007, so **all copy to me by 24 September 2007 please.**

Please send material by post to:

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Swindon
Wilts SN1 4HT

or even better, by email: richardaisbitt@yahoo.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:

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Subscriptions (new rates):

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

Cover picture: *Ophrys scolopax* - Woodcock Orchid, Lot-et-Garonne, southern France, photo Richard Aisbitt