

Botanical Cornwall Group



Newsletter No4 March 2004

Joint Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI)
& British Pteridological Society (BPS) group

Botanical Cornwall Group is kindly supported by the Environmental
Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS)

BCG web-site www.floracam.co.uk/bcg

Welcome to newsletter No4 of the Botanical Cornwall Group (BCG).

In recent years invasive non-native plants have threatened native flora and habitats in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Aquatic species such as Parrot's-feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum* and Australian Swamp Stonecrop *Crassula helmsii* can grow at a phenomenal rate choking a pond with extensive growth pushing out native wildlife.

ERCCIS has produced a leaflet (enclosed with this newsletter) highlighting the four species that pose the greatest threat to our ponds in Cornwall natural balance. Please also be on the look out for Floating Pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*; this was discovered new to Cornwall in a tributary of the River Inny near Davidstow in 2003 but was quickly treated by diligent staff of the Environment Agency.

Currently in consideration for investigation by Plymouth University and Ecoscope is Giant Hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, which in itself is not a problem widely in Cornwall but is for a short stretch of the River Tamar between Devon and Cornwall. It is hoped that analysis of distribution combined with analysis of the plant's make-up will help towards a suitable and economical way to its removal. The Environment Agency along with other partner bodies has tackled the spread on the Cornish side but of great help is continued recording of it anywhere you see it growing. Please send details of any populations of the species to the BCG co-ordinator who will then

send it to the relevant people. Of particular interest is any site where it once grew but no longer does and also the most upstream site where it could be acting as a reservoir for seed and new plants.

The Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI) held its AGM and related Anglo-Hiberno-French meeting (Botanical Links in the Atlantic Arc) from 8th - 12th May at Cornwall College, Pool, Camborne with many excellent talks and a variety of displays. Visits were made to the Lizard, the China-clay area looking at heathland recreation and to the Eden Project, with an alternative visit to Par Beach. This meeting was a great opportunity for Cornish botanists to network with over 100 delegates that attended, which included national and international experts. All who attended enjoyed the weekend

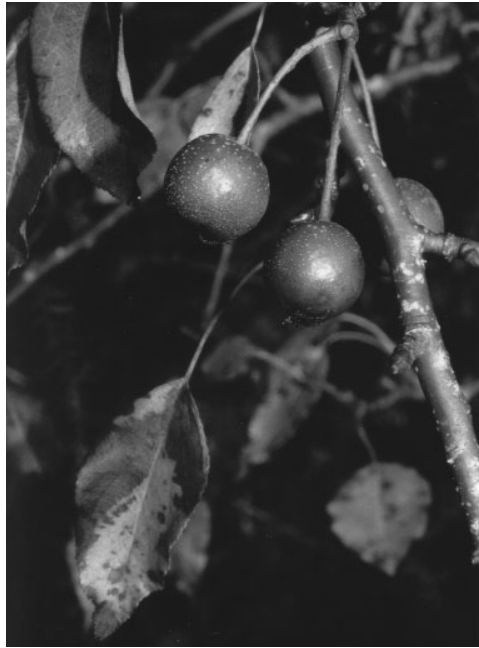
immensely. Many thanks to those who helped in the smooth running of the weekend, especially Rose Murphy and Jane Croft for the excellent organisation.

The 'BSBI Local Change Survey' 2003 -2004 is now in its second year. The objective of the survey is to survey pre-selected sample tetrads (2km x 2km National Grid squares) during 2003 and 2004. The sample tetrads are those that were surveyed during the BSBI Monitoring Scheme 1987-1988 and are the A, J and W tetrads of 10km x 10km squares (hectads). BSBI Local Change is thus a second survey of these tetrads. The aim is to record as many as possible of the taxa - species, subspecies and hybrids - that are present in the tetrad. The survey is part of a three-year project with Plantlife funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.



Long-Headed Poppy *Papaver dubium*, West Pentire © Hazel Meredith

A report on the results from the survey should be available in 2005 but in Cornwall (VC1 & VC2) all the 11 tetrads have been visited at least once up to present with a few having had more visits. It is too early to draw too many conclusions about which species have been 'lost' and those that have been 'gained' but it is likely that most tetrads will have more species recorded during this survey than the last one in 1987-1988. This is partly due to more people being involved but also locally knowledge of alien species and



Plymouth Pear *Pyrus cordata*, near Truro, 2003
© Brian Laney

hybrids have increased. However there are a few species that despite searching cannot be found. Luckily there are 9 months left to look! Several meetings have been organised for 2004 so if you would like to take part in the survey please contact the BCG co-ordinator. Progress for each tetrad can also be viewed on the Local Change web-site www.bsbi-projects.org

Another project for the future is the production of a 'Rare Plant Register' for Cornwall. A small group of interested botanists have set up a 'steering group' to guide the gathering of information and production of the publication and further news will appear in the next newsletter.

A full account of the meetings held in 2003 will appear in the next newsletter.

New species of Fern for the British Isles

Many probably already know that Matt Stribley has discovered Britain's first 'new' fern for more than 50 years, and it has been widely reported in national and local press. One of these press releases from the BBC appears below. Well done Matt for finding it and Rose Murphy for tracking down its true identification!

Matt Stribley has discovered Britain's first 'new' fern for more than 50 years beside the River Camel in Cornwall

An amateur naturalist from Cornwall has discovered Britain's first "new" fern for more than 50 years after studying the plants for just six months.

Cornwall County Council civil engineer Matt Stribley was inspecting a bridge over the River Camel near Wadebridge when he made the find.

"I had finished inspecting the bridge when I went to have a look at a rocky area," he explained. "I stuck my head inside this crevice and saw something I didn't recognise."

Mr Stribley, who lives in Truro, took a sample to local botanical recorder Rosaline Murphy, who sent the species to the Natural History Museum.

The plant was originally thought to be Brittle Bladder-fern, a widespread UK species. But the museum identified it as a

Diaphanous Bladder-fern *Cystopteris diaphana* - a species common in southern Europe, but not known in the UK.

"The Brittle Bladder-fern is quite rare in Devon and Cornwall so I thought that was quite exciting," Mr Stribley said.

"When it turned out to be something new to Britain I couldn't quite believe it."

Some 300 to 400 metres of the fern were found on the banks of the River Camel, four miles south of Wadebridge.

Because it was found growing in a habitat similar to that in which it occurs further south, museum scientists believe it has been in the UK for thousands of years and was previously mistaken for Brittle Bladder-fern.

"Britain is arguably the best biologically known piece of land in the world, so the discovery of a new native species is an increasingly rare and very exciting event," Fred Rumsey, the Natural History Museum botanist who identified the fern, said.

"It is amazing to think this plant could have been here waiting to be discovered since just after the last Ice Age. It just goes to show how important amateur naturalists are in helping us to discover more about British biodiversity."

Mr Stribley has always been interested in botany but only started seriously studying plants four years ago. He started specialising in ferns six months ago.

"It is odd to think I have found something new after just such a short period of time," he added. *"I'm particularly interested in hybrid ferns so perhaps I can find a new one of those. I'll just have to keep on looking."*



Diaphanous Bladder-fern, *Cystopteris diaphana*, Polbrock, 2003
© Matt Stribley

Hedge Survey Handbook

- a review

A glossy Hedge Survey Handbook was produced in 2003 by DEFRA as a 'standard procedure for local (hedge) surveys in the UK'. It has been prepared on behalf of the Steering Group for the UK Biodiversity Action Plan for Ancient and/or Species-rich hedgerows. Copies of the booklet can be obtained for free from DEFRA, Conservation Management Division, Area 4D, Ergon House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR. Tel: 020 7238 5668 Fax: 020 7238 6058 or viewed and downloaded from www.english-nature.org.uk

As promised Robin Menneer has reviewed the above handbook. His review follows -

The bright red cover of this handbook is well chosen. Red for danger, red for stop, gives the message that caring conservationists may not be happy with the contents. Claiming to "provide a simple and efficient way of gathering standardised hedgerow data that are applicable across the United Kingdom" it repeatedly fails to live up to its aims. Recorders will find nothing new or helpful, and would be as well advised to continue with their own methods.

The handbook largely ignores the legal and moral obligations of the countryside. Nowhere does it state that incidental destruction of birds' nests, eggs or chicks, not only Schedule One species, is an offence if it could reasonably have been avoided. As the handbook advises that the best time for surveying is April to September, which is well known to be the height of the breeding season, surveyors who accidentally destroy a nest would be in trouble, as the level of data this survey will produce could be provided by surveying at other times of year. Given the activities the handbook requires, carrying it out in summer can only leave the vegetation badly trampled and many unseen creatures and their

broods destroyed. This is unforgivable, for the sake of such poor quality data, as this handbook's instructions appear to produce.

Undecided from the start as to whether the surveyor should be an amateur volunteer or an experienced naturalist, the handbook claims that "around a day's training" is sufficient for accurate identification of plants and trees, knowledge of farming, reading mammalian signs, surveying techniques, parametric statistical analysis, health & safety etc. This can only be called hopeful, and the same applies throughout this ill-conceived and ill-constructed scheme.

The handbook does not distinguish between a hedgerow and a hedge, so regional types of hedge are disadvantaged. It is undecided on what methods should be used and what data recorded, allowing such a loose approach and application that there is little hope of the end product holding together at all. Processing the data will be like eating spaghetti with a cocktail stick.

The reader who battles his way through the disorganised text will have to beware of absurdities. We are told to wear an anti-bracken mask for our safety, but not warned against entering a field containing loose horses or farm livestock with young, both dangerous situations. Advice is given to pick unknown plants "unless believed to be rare." If unknown how does one know it isn't rare? And has the author ever tried measuring the bottom of a ditch full of water or brambles? These are small straws in the wind that, like the glaring spelling errors in three main page headings, indicate the lack of quality thought behind this production; a great pity when it has had the trusting support of many well-meaning people and organisations. Perhaps it should have occurred to them that red is the opposite of green.

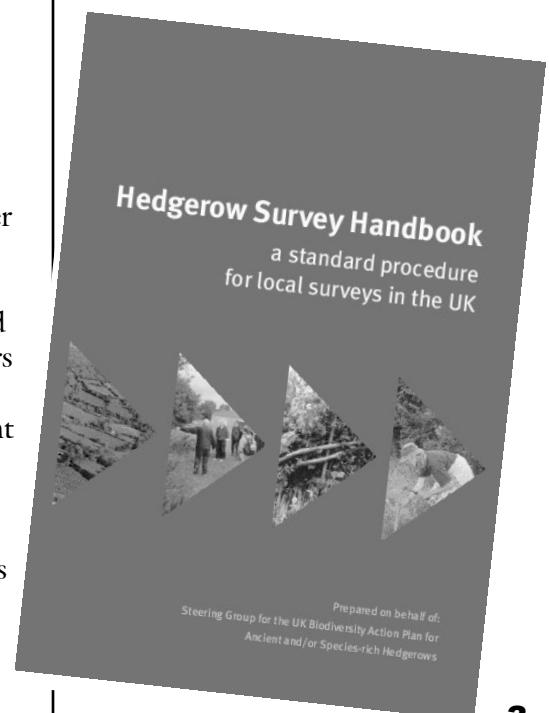
Robin Menneer
Cornish Hedge Group



REMINDER

- Species lists for 10km x 10km squares (hectads) in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

The CD-rom made available with the New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora (Preston *et. al*, 2002) is proving very useful for comparing data on a 10km x 10km square (hectad) basis. Truly interactive, there is the facility to copy species lists for all the hectads in Cornwall into an excel spreadsheet. This has already been done by the BCG co-ordinator for the sixty-eight hectads in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. However the list gives all the species found in the hectad regardless of vice-county. The squares along the border of Devon and Cornwall and along the boundary of East and West Cornwall do not distinguish which species has been recorded in which vice-county, so caution is needed when using them. If you would like a copy of lists let the co-ordinator know; a copy will then be emailed or a printout sent.



PUBLICATIONS UPDATE

Botanical Cornwall 12 (2003)

Editor R. J. Murphy

The twelfth issue of Botanical Cornwall is now available.

About 30 pages of notable records are included, as well as notes about new species and the rarer plants found in Cornwall, such as *Silene gallica*, *Romulea columnnae* and *Cystopteris diaphana*. There is also information concerning non-native aquatic plants with distribution maps for four of the most invasive. A progress report



Killarney Fern *Trichomanes speciosum*, Cornwall 2003 © Brian Laney

of the *Fumaria purpurea* survey is given as well as brief notes from Botanical Cornwall Group trips.

Articles include the following:

· The difficulties of identifying the sub-species of *Vicia sativa* (with illustrations of each sub-species and distribution maps) by R.J. Murphy.

· *Hypericum montanum* found new to Gear Sands by E.C.M. Haes.

· The relationship between hybridization in *Epilobium* and Cornish China clay and other mining waste by G.D. Kitchener.

· A report on the rediscovered x *Asplenophyllitis jacksonii* in Cornwall by Dr. C.N. Page

· The generic status of *Phyllitis* by Dr. C.N. Page.

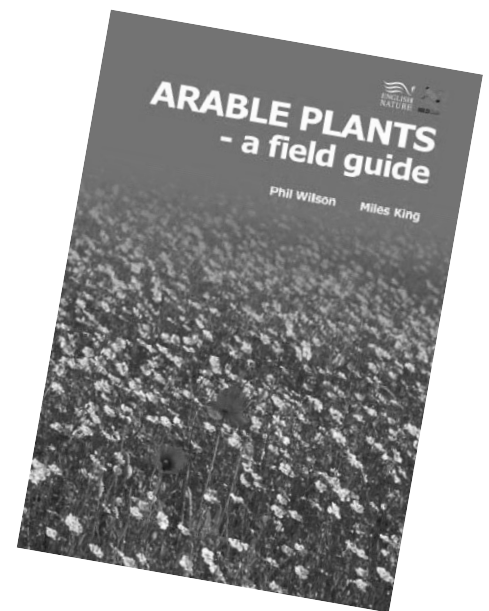
· A review of the records for *Chara fragifera* in Britain (with a full list of records and mention of other stoneworts) by N.F. Stewart

There are plenty of illustrations, both in colour and in black and white, including *Romulea columnnae* from cliffs at Polruan, *Hypericum montanum* at Gear Sands and *Epilobium brunnescens* hybrids. Scanned herbarium specimens of *Gymnocarpium dryopteris*, *Vicia sativa* sub-species, *Rorippa islandica* and *Rorippa palustris* are included.

Copies of Botanical Cornwall No. 12 are priced at £6.50 (includes post and packing) from Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Five Acres, Allet, Truro, TR4 9DJ

Back issues are also available

- Please contact Ian Bennallick on 0187240777 or ian@cornwt.demon.co.uk for more details.



A handy book on arable plants has recently been published by Wildguides in partnership with English Nature. This book concentrates on the group of plants showing the steepest decline of the British flora over the last 25 years, those plants that grow among the crops. Its easy-to-use format is designed to enable people to take it into the field and to identify these species whether they are a beginner or an expert. The text covers the history and includes practical recommendations for managing the places where these plants still occur. 100 plant profiles include information on key features to aid identification, their flowering and germination times and indicates differences with similar species. Colour distribution maps show where they have been seen in the last 25 years while the accompanying text makes clear the current position.

Arable Plants - a field guide by Phil Wilson and Miles King (ISBN 1-903657-02-4) 312 pages, 88 colour plates Can be ordered post-free by email - sales@wildguides.co.uk or call a 24 hour order line on 01404 815383.

Alternatively send a cheque for £15.00 made payable to WildGuides Ltd to: Parr House, 63 Hatch Lane, Old Basing, Hampshire RG24 7EB.

Useful identification guides of wild flowers and ferns in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly - *additional to previous newsletter*

Blamey, M., Fitter, R. & Fitter, A. (2003). **Wild Flowers of Britain and Ireland**. A & C Black, London.

Margetts, L.J. (1988). **The Difficult and Critical Plants of the Lizard District of Cornwall**. Grenfell Publications, Bristol.

Paton, J.A. (1968). **Wild Flowers in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly**. D Bradford Barton, Truro.

Stace, C. (1999). **Field Flora of the British Isles**. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Stace, C.A., Ellis, R.G., Kent, D.H. & McCosh, D.J. (2003). **Vice-county Census Catalogue of the Vascular Plants of Great Britain**. BSBI, London.

Wilson, P. & King, P. (2003). **Arable Plants - a field guide**. WILDguides, Old Basing.

British Pteridological Society visit to North Devon September 2003

Tony and I drove up to Lynton into a glorious dawn sky for the Saturday part of the meeting. About 25 of us from all over the country met up at 9.30am and drove in convoy to Simonsbath SS7739. From the car park, we walked first of all up a wooded valley, which was rich in ferns, with good examples of Broad Buckler-fern *Dryopteris dilatata*, and Scaly Male-fern *Dryopteris affinis* ssp. *affinis* and *Dryopteris affinis* ssp. *borreri*. Although heading out to the open moorland about ¼ mile beyond, to see Lemon-scented Fern *Oreopteris limbosperma*, we in fact saw a couple of plants at the path-side within the wood.

Discussion over a Polypody *Polypodium* sp. growing on the wall at the woodland edge came down in unanimous favour of *Polypodium vulgare*, but there were no firm conclusions a bit further along where we found two large and closely adjacent clumps of *Dryopteris*. One, rather more yellow, had free lowest basioscopic pinnules. The pinnae were set at an angle to the rachis giving a laddered effect: the pinnule margins were rather rolled under and the basioscopic pinnules were large and sticking out on a

different plane to the others in the pinna. This eventually was named as *Dryopteris cambrensis*.

The second clump, rather more robust and a darker green, had semi-adnate lowest basioscopic pinnules and rather indistinct black spots at the base of the pinnae where they join the rachis. The indusium was chanterelle-shaped but the spores all seemed shrivelled husks. The rachis scales were a brown-buff. It didn't happily sit in ssp. *affinis*, ssp. *borreri* nor ssp. *cambrensis* groups; *Dryopteris complexa* (*Dryopteris filix-mas* x *affinis*) was postulated and finally a frond was taken to be sent to Natural History Museum, London.

We then retraced our steps to the car park, having a look as we passed at a few fronds of Brittle Bladder-fern *Cystopteris fragilis* growing among Maidenhair Spleenwort *Asplenium trichomanes* ssp. *quadrivalens* on the wall outside the Gents. We walked downstream through pleasant sunny meadows up to a track on the valley side with an enormous pelt of Maidenhair Spleenwort covering the retaining wall for some yards, interspersed by plants of Black Spleenwort *Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*. This track soon led us into another patch of woodland with a small overgrown quarry. We scrambled up over stones and Broad Buckler-fern to the back wall which in one place

was a bit damp and growing among mosses were about 20 smallish fronds of Beech fern *Phegopteris connectilis*. This is one of few colonies in Somerset for the fern and with none known in Devon and only our ancient Cornish record it may perhaps whet our appetite for further search in Cornwall!

After lunch we convoyed again, this time to Joan Lorraine's garden near Porlock Weir. Her garden featured a year or so ago on TV but what wasn't shown were her ferns. She has an extensive woodland garden beyond her ornamental gardens, with not only the National Collection of Shield-ferns *Polystichum* spp., but also many other British and foreign species and forms. These are seen along a network of paths weaving through the woodland which is on a north-facing slope with views across the Bristol Channel to the South Wales coast over in the haze.

Joan, a real fern enthusiast, is a feisty lady who has gardened there for 57 years and can follow the history of her fern sporelings for generations. She began our visit with a talk about the Shield-ferns and the myriad forms and then sent us out with maps of her garden so we could find everything.

Her garden and its plants and their history is all carefully documented in a large folder which we were able to look at, and the visit ended with a lavish tea laid out in the house.

Not only does she have ferns but a very fine ornamental garden with something to interest at all times but especially from her National Collection of Dog's Tooth Violets *Erythronium* spp. best seen in early April, right through to her roses in June. She is in the Yellow Book of gardens under Greencombe in the Somerset section.

Truly an excellent day and we drove home then, into a glowing sunset.

Mary & Tony Atkinson

B C G E V E N T S 2 0 0 4

All meetings start at 10am unless otherwise stated (those marked with a *) and usually finish at around 4pm, but some may continue later.

All meetings are open to all and free unless otherwise stated. Where booking is preferred or essential this is noted under each event.

Some events below are organised by other organisations, groups or societies so please contact the people noted as the contacts for these events. Please mention that you saw the event advertised in this newsletter.

ERCCIS - Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

BSBI - Botanical Society of the British Isles

BCG - Botanical Cornwall Group

BBS - British Bryological Society

BPS - British Pteridological Society

CWT - Cornwall Wildlife Trust

CIG - Cornwall Invertebrate Group

HVMCA - Helford Voluntary Marine Conservation Area

LC - Local Change survey (re-survey of selected tetrads, 2km x 2km squares)

Tetrad - a 2km x 2km square within a 10km x 10km square (known as a hectad) following the Ordnance Survey National Grid. 25 Tetrads are found within a hectad and are given letters from A to Z omitting O. For more details please contact the BCG co-ordinator.

24th and 25th April

Bryophyte recording weekend Chapel Porth, Perranporth, Camperdown Farm and Polbrock

Saturday 24th April - Chapel Porth and Perranporth

Morning - Meet at Chapel Porth National Trust car park (SW697495). Here we shall walk up the path by the stream looking at the moss flora of marshy ground before visiting plants growing on mine waste.

Afternoon - We shall proceed after lunch to the dunes to the north of Perranporth and park in a layby off the road at (SW775555). These dunes have a wealth of plants to see; particularly on the damp ground, and this should prove to be an exciting afternoon. The meeting

should finish around 4pm.

Sunday 25th April

Bodmin Moor and Polbrock

Morning - Meet on the track to Camperdown Farm at (SX122792). Here we shall be visiting bogs where the main interest will be Sphagnum mosses.

There should however be time to examine some streams on the moors with their specialised flora.

Afternoon - We shall proceed to Polbrock Bridge (SX013695). Here we shall be looking at the flora growing on some rock faces by the road and on the tracks along the side of the River Camel. A bonus will be a short diversion from bryology to look at the newly found fern species Diaphanous Bladder-fern *Cystopteris diaphana*. The meeting aims to finish at 4pm, but there may be time to go to the nearby Dunmere Wood to see the beautiful liverwort *Trichocolea tomentella* and mosses such as *Brachythecium rivulare* growing on the banks of a stream there.

Leaders - Mark Pool (BBS recorder for Devon), Nicholas de Sausmarez and Ian Bernallick.

Wednesday 28th April - Upton Towans

A walk around the sand dunes at Upton Towans and adjacent dunes to see early dune flora. A special effort will be made to find Early Spider Orchid *Ophrys sphegodes*, which has been recorded on the dunes in the past. Meet at the Little Chef car park Hayle (SW577387).
Leader - Ian Bernallick

*Sunday 9th May - Helford Flowers (Helford VMCA organised walk)

2.15pm - 4.15pm

Enjoy a stroll from Gweek at the head of the Helford River looking at the spring flowers with botanist Keith Spurgin. Meet by the bus shelter near the entrance to Gweek Boatyard for directions to nearby parking (SW704264). Contact Pamela 01209 842316 or David Nightingale 01326 341181. **BOOKING PREFERRED**

*Wednesday 26th May - Ken Preston-Mafham's Cacti collection in Bodmin (am) and BSBI LC meeting (pm) in SX17W, near Colliford Lake.

Please contact Ian Bernallick about this meeting as details may change.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL. Leader - Ken Preston-Mafham & Ian Bernallick

*Sunday 30th May - CWT Restormel Branch - Wildflower walk at Rosenannon Downs

Meet in Rosenannon village (SW956661) at 1pm. We will walk to the highest part of the downs and look for heathland wildlife, including Bog Bush Cricket *Metrioptera brachyptera*, Cornish Bladderseed *Physospermum cornubiense* and various butterflies.
Leaders - Dave Thomas & Ian Bernallick
Are you a member of the Cornwall Wildlife Trust? If not please join - phone 01872240777 for details of joining and for more information.

Wednesday 2nd June

BSBI LC SW54W (Godrevy area)

Meet at the Little Chef car park Hayle (SW577387). As well as recording for the Local Change survey there will be a short visit to Hayle to look for Round-fruited Rush *Juncus compressus*.

Leader - Ian Bernallick

*Wednesday 23rd June - CIG Millook area, near Bude

A meeting organised primarily for those interested in recording invertebrates but there is also the chance to join the BSBI East Cornwall recorder to record the flora of the area.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL - For further details please call Sue Scott or Ian Bernallick on 01872240777.

*Friday 25th June - Monday 28th June - BPS fern recording weekend on the Isles of Scilly

A long weekend of recording the ferns and fern allies on St. Agnes, St. Mary's, Treco and St. Martin's, and Small Adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum azoricum* and Lanceolate Spleenwort *Asplenium obovatum* ssp. *lanceolatum* should be seen. Organised for BPS members but others interested are welcome.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL. Please contact Ian Bernallick for more details and an itinerary.

Saturday 3rd July

BSBI LC meeting (am) in SW54A (St. Ives) and Porthgarra (pm)

In the morning we will be recording for the Local Change survey in SW54A in St. Ives. Meet in the car park at SW514401. In the afternoon we will be a visiting Porthgarra (SW370218), on the southern coast of West Penwith, to search for Perennial Centaury *Centaureum scilloides* in an area where it had been recorded in the past.

Leader - Ian Bernallick

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - For field meetings bring a packed lunch and sufficient drinking fluids, adequate weatherproof clothing and footwear. A hand-lens, notebook, field guide if you wish, relevant 1:25000 OS maps and a GPS would also be useful. If you need transport to any of the meetings contact the BCG co-ordinator to arrange a lift with other group members if possible.

Sunday 4th July - Crousa Downs and eastern parts of the Lizard

Meet in the car park in Coverack (SW780186). The aim of the meeting is to look for species such as Common Butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris* and Cyperus Sedge *Carex pseudocyperus* on Crousa Downs and also to record the heathland species in other areas close by. A walk to Lowland Point to see Pennyroyal *Mentha pulegium* is also planned. Leader - Ian Bernallick

***Wednesday 14th July**

CIG Nare Head, near Veryan

A meeting organised primarily for those interested in recording invertebrates but there is also the chance to join the BSBI East Cornwall recorder to record the flora of the area.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL - For further details please call Sue Scott or Ian Bernallick on 01872240777.

Saturday 17th July - BSBI LC SW84J (Bishop's Wood area, north of Truro)

We will be recording for the Local Change survey in the Bishop's Wood and St.Clement Wood area. Meet at the car park at St.Clement Wood SW820478. Leader - Ian Bernallick

Wednesday 28th July - BSBI LC SW17A (Preeze Cross area) am, SW17J (Camperdown Farm area) pm

We will be recording for the Local Change survey in the Preeze Cross area and Camperdown Farm area. Meet in the lay-by between Preeze Cross and Pounds Conce (SX117712). In the afternoon meet on the track north of Camperdown Farm (SX121791). Leader - Ian Bernallick

Wednesday 11th August

Dodman Point area

We will be exploring areas inland from Dodman Point including a wetland area, arable fields and also parts of the coast. Typical coastal species should be seen. Meet at in National Trust car park at Penare (SW999404).

Leader - Ian Bernallick

Saturday 14th August - BSBI LC SW84A (Carnon Downs and Playing Place area)

We will be recording for the Local Change survey in the Carnon Downs and Playing Place area. Meet at the Brewer's Fayre car park at SW802408. Leader - Ian Bernallick

Sunday 22nd August - BCG SX29R (Clubworthy area) (VC4 in Cornwall)

Help the VC2 recorder record in this under-recorded tetrad in a VC 4 part of Cornwall. Contact Ian Bernallick for where to meet and further details of the day. Leader - Ian Bernallick

Saturday 28th August

BSBI LC SW87W (St.Merryn) area

We will be recording for the Local Change survey in the St.Merryn area. Contact Ian Bernallick for where to meet and further details of the day. Leader - Ian Bernallick

Wednesday 1st September

Maenporth to Rosemullion Head

A coastal walk from Maenporth to Rosemullion Head looking at coastal flora. Meet at Maenporth SW789296. Leader - Ian Bernallick

***Sunday 5th September - Polwheveral Picnic and exploration (Helford VMCA organised walk)**

12.30pm - 4.00pm

A special visit to Goongillings Farm and Scott's Quay to look at creek-side farming, natural history, geology and local mining history. Leaders - farmer Charles Pugh, botanist Ian Bernallick, geologist Peter Ealey and biologist Pamela Tompsett. Meet at SW734284.

BOOKING PREFERRED. contact Pamela Tompsett 01209842316 or Tricia 01872240777

***Wednesday 29th September**

CIG Clitters Wood near Gunnislake

A meeting organised primarily for those interested in invertebrate recording but there is also the chance to join the BSBI East Cornwall recorder to record the flora of the area.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL - For further details please call Sue Scott or Ian Bernallick on 01872240777.

Wednesday 6th October

ERCCIS/BCG Conifer Identification meeting at Cardinham Woods (SX06)

Leaders - David Blake (Forestry Commission) and Ian Bernallick
A chance to learn the commoner conifer species that are planted in Cornwall from an experienced forester. Meet at SX099667 Cardinham car park. The Callywith Tearooms will be open to provide refreshments. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL** - Contact Nic Harrison-White 01872240777

Wednesday 20th October

ERCCIS Fern Identification Workshop with an afternoon trip to Breney Common and Helman Tor (SX06)

Leader - Ian Bernallick

A chance to learn how to identify ferns and fern allies found in Cornwall. Indoor morning venue to be confirmed.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL - Contact Nic Harrison-White 01872240777

OTHER MEETINGS RELEVANT TO BOTANICAL CORNWALL GROUP MEMBERS

Wild Flower Society

Two meetings are planned in Cornwall.

Saturday 8 May: Rame Head, Cornwall - Leader Paul Green.

Friday 18 June: Polbrock, Cornwall - Leader Paul Green.

Other meetings are organised all over the country including some in Devon and Somerset. If you wish to attend please contact Ian Bernallick who will put you in touch with the relevant leader or alternatively why not join the Wild Flower Society!

Somerset Rare Plant Group

A full and varied list of events has been published for 2004. Several Cornish botanists have joined the group in the past and these visits have been very useful comparing the two counties and their species. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Liz McDonnell 01823 285533 (Day) lizmcdonnell@btopenworld.com or Steve Parker 01823 283211 (Day) sd.parker26@virgin.net. Alternatively the BCG co-ordinator has a copy of the meetings if you would like one.

The Devonshire Association Botany Section

As with Somerset a full and varied list of events has been published for 2004. For more details please contact Roger Smith (Chairman) or Christine Smith (Secretary), 12 Castlewood Avenue, Highweek, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 1NX. Telephone 01626 368577 or email ren_smith_001@hotmail.com or cjsmith_012@hotmail.com. Alternatively the BCG co-ordinator has a copy of the meetings if you would like one.

Any other meetings arranged will be included in the next newsletter or check the web-site for details.

USEFUL WEBSITES

The Wild Flower Page
www.habitat.org.uk/wildflwr

Natural History Museum
www.nhm.ac.uk

The Wildlife Trusts national website with links to local Wildlife Trusts sites
www.wildlifetrust.org.uk

Woodland Trust
www.woodland-trust.org.uk

British Bryological Society
www.rbge.org.uk/bbs

British Mycological Society
www.ulst.ac.uk/faculty/science/bms

Ancient Tree Forum
www.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancient-tree-forum

Cornish Wildlife Group
www.groups.yahoo.com/group/cornishwildlife

Flora locale
www.floralocale.org

National Biodiversity Network
www.nbn.org.uk

National Federation for Biological Recording
www.nfbr.org.uk

Natural History Book Service
www.nhbs.com

Sedge Identification Key
www.keyhomepages.ed.ac.uk/ebfr89/key/keys.htm

Bryophyte pictures
www.pictureshome.clara.net/adhale/bryos/phframe.htm

Botanical Society of the British Isles
www.bsbi.org.uk

Phenology website
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/phenology/newsletter.htm

Rare plants discussion group
groups.yahoo.com/group/ukrareplants

UK Flora writers
www.smartgroups.com/groups/Florawriters

Launceston Parish Wildlife Project
www.parish-wildlife.org.uk/index.html



USEFUL NAMES AND ADDRESSES

Botanical Cornwall Group (BCG)
Ian Bennallick (Botanical Cornwall Group co-ordinator), Lower Polmorla, St. Wenn, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL30 5PE
Tel: 01726 890384
Email: ian@bennallick.fsnet.co.uk

Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI)
General Secretary - Miss Ailsa Burns, 3 Rosliston Road, Stapenhill, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire, DE15 9RJ
Tel: 01283 568136
Email: BSBI_HonGenSec@aol.com
Website: www.bsbi.org.uk

Vice-county recorders
West Cornwall (VC1a) -
Dr. Colin French,
12 Seton Gardens, Camborne,
Cornwall, TR14 7JS

Scilly (VC1b) -
Rosemary Parslow,
17 St. Michaels Road,
Ponsanooth, Truro,
Cornwall, TR3 7ED

East Cornwall (VC2) -
Joint recorders-
Rose Murphy,
Shangri-La,
Reskadinnick, Camborne,
TR14 0BH
and Ian Bennallick (details above)

British Pteridological Society (BPS)
Membership Secretary- Mr M.S. Porter, 5 West Avenue, Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 9LG
Tel: 01697 343086
Email: Membership@eBPS.org.uk
Website: www.eBPS.org.uk

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Federation of Biological Recorders (CISFBR)
Ian Bennallick (CISFBR secretary), Lower Polmorla, St. Wenn, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL30 5PE
Tel: 01726 890384
Email: ian@bennallick.fsnet.co.uk

Cornwall Wildlife Trust (CWT)
Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Five Acres, Allet, Truro, TR4 9DJ
Tel: 01872 240777
Website: www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS)
Ian Bennallick, ERCCIS, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Five Acres, Allet, Truro, TR4 9DJ
Tel: 01872 240777 ext.226
Email: ian@cornwt.demon.co.uk
Website: www.erccis.co.uk

Plantlife
21 Elizabeth Street, London, SW1W 9RP
Tel: 020 7808 0100
Email: enquiries@plantlife.org.uk
Website: www.plantlife.org.uk

The Wild Flower Society (WFS)
The Wild Flower Society, 82a, High Street, Sawston, Cambridge, CB2 4HJ
Telephone: 01223 830665
Fax: 01223 839804
Email: wfs@grantais.demon.co.uk

If you would like to join the BCG please send your details to the BCG Co-ordinator at the address shown above..

Next newsletter due October 2004

