

## USEFUL WEBSITES

The Wild Flower Page  
[www.Habitat.org.uk/wildflwr](http://www.Habitat.org.uk/wildflwr)

Natural History Museum  
[www.nhm.ac.uk](http://www.nhm.ac.uk)

The Wildlife Trusts national website with links to local Wildlife Trusts sites  
[www.wildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.wildlifetrust.org.uk)

Woodland Trust  
[www.woodland-trust.org.uk](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk)

British Bryological Society  
[www.rbge.org.uk/bbs](http://www.rbge.org.uk/bbs)

British Mycological Society  
[www.ulst.ac.uk/faculty/science/bms](http://www.ulst.ac.uk/faculty/science/bms)

Ancient Tree Forum  
[www.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancient-tree-forum](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancient-tree-forum)

Cornish Wildlife Group  
[www.groups.yahoo.com/group/cornishwildlife](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/cornishwildlife)

Flora locale  
[www.floralocale.org](http://www.floralocale.org)

National Biodiversity Network  
[www.nbn.org.uk](http://www.nbn.org.uk)

National Federation for Biological Recording  
[www.nfbr.org.uk](http://www.nfbr.org.uk)

Natural History Book Service  
[www.nhbs.com](http://www.nhbs.com)

Sedge Identification Key  
[www.keyhomepages.ed.ac.uk/ebfr89/key/keys.htm](http://www.keyhomepages.ed.ac.uk/ebfr89/key/keys.htm)

Bryophyte pictures  
[www.picturehome.clara.net/adhale/bryos/phframe.htm](http://www.picturehome.clara.net/adhale/bryos/phframe.htm)

Flora keys  
[www.reticule.co.uk/flora/](http://www.reticule.co.uk/flora/)

Phenology website  
[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/phenology/newsletter.htm](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/phenology/newsletter.htm)

Rare plants discussion group  
[groups.yahoo.com/group/ukrareplants](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ukrareplants)

UK Flora writers  
[www.smartgroups.com/groups/Florawriters](http://www.smartgroups.com/groups/Florawriters)

Launceston Parish Wildlife Project  
[www.parish-wildlife.org.uk/index.html](http://www.parish-wildlife.org.uk/index.html)

Botanical  
Cornwall  
Group



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Cornwall  
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# Newsletter No3 February 2003

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](http://www.floracam.co.uk/bcg)

## 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](mailto: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- [BSBIHonGenSec@aol.com](mailto:BSBIHonGenSec@aol.com)  
Website- [www.rbge.org.uk/bsbi](http://www.rbge.org.uk/bsbi)

### 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](mailto:Membership@eBPS.org.uk)  
Website- [www.eBPS.org.uk](http://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](mailto:ian@bennallick.fsnet.co.uk)

### Cornwall Wildlife Trust (CWT)

Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Five Acres, Allet, Truro, TR4 9DJ  
Tel: 01872 240777  
Website -  
[www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/cornwall](http://www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/cornwall)

### 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@cornwrt.demon.co.uk](mailto:ian@cornwrt.demon.co.uk)  
Website [www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/cornwall](http://www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/cornwall)

### Plantlife

21 Elizabeth Street, London, SW1W 9RP  
Tel:020 7808 0100  
Email - [enquiries@plantlife.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@plantlife.org.uk)  
Website - [www.plantlife.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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..

## Welcome to newsletter No3 of the Botanical Cornwall Group (BCG).

The response to the newsletters No1 & No2 has been very positive and I hope that this one and future ones will continue to be as useful and informative. In newsletter No1 it was stated that 4 newsletters would be produced per year. This has proved more difficult than I had anticipated, so three will be produced per year, in February, May/June and October. Since October a lot of information has been gathered for inclusion in this newsletter so please see the 'News' and 'Survey' sections of this newsletter for further details. Apologies to those whose information could not be included this issue. The next one will be out in May/June 2003 so it will be included then. Please send information you think would be relevant to botanists recording and enjoying Cornwall's flora to the BCG Co-ordinator for inclusion in Newsletter No 4 by April 30th 2003.

### There are two major events planned for Cornwall in 2003.

The Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI) AGM and Anglo-Hiberno-French meeting (Botanical Links in the Atlantic Arc) will be held from 8th - 12th May at Cornwall College, Pool, Camborne with many excellent talks and poster displays arranged.



Perennial Centaury *Centaureum scilloides*, Pembrokeshire, Wales 2002 © Matt Stribley

There are also planned visits 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 will be a great opportunity for Cornish botanists to meet those attending, which includes national and international experts - BSBI members please book as soon as you can! A booking form was inserted with BSBI News No 92 (January 2003). If you have lost this form or are not a BSBI member and would like to book a place please contact Jane Croft, BSBI Hon. Field Secretary, 12 Spaldwick Road, Stow Longa, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE28 0TL or email -

[jane@stowlonga.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:jane@stowlonga.fsnet.co.uk)

Places are booking fast so be quick. The other major event for 2003-2004 is the repeat of the tetrad part of the 1987-1988 BSBI Monitoring Scheme. This is to be known as the **BSBI Local Change Survey**, with the idea of gathering records in the same tetrads as were sampled in the original survey. For more details see Surveys.

Along with BCG arranged meetings, these will make 2003 an action-packed year for local botanists - enjoy!

**Ian Bennallick**

Botanical Cornwall Group Co-ordinator

Next newsletter due May/June 2003

## FIELD MEETINGS

### SECOND HALF

#### OF 2002 .....

*The second half of 2002 saw BCG members and guests attend meetings the length and breadth of the county.*



Tunbridge Filmy-fern (*Hymenophyllum tunbrigense*), St Peter's Wood, October 2002 © Matt Stribley

On 10th August the group held an extra meeting at **Rosspanel Farm (SW3926) and Porthgwarra (SW3721)**, at the extreme southwest tip of Cornwall. Rosspanel Farm was visited first. The owner, Bernard Hocking, had created a shallow pool within an area of marshy and heathy fields. The pool has become well vegetated with several species, the more interesting ones being Unbranched Bur-reed (*Sparganium emersum*), Lesser Water-plantain (*Baldellia ranunculoides*), Greater Water-plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*), the pondweeds *Potamogeton berchtoldii* and *P. natans*, Least Duckweed (*Lemna minor*) and Grey Bulrush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*). More worryingly the highly invasive Water-fern (*Azolla filiculoides*) was present. In the adjacent moor, Wavy St. John's-wort (*Hypericum*

*undulatum*), Ivy-leaved Bellflower (*Wahlenbergia hederacea*) and Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*) were seen. This visit to Porthgwarra was arranged primarily to check out areas of suitable habitat for Perennial Centaury (*Centaureium scilloides*), a species last recorded

and collected from Porthgwarra Cove by S. Bannister in 1957. These specimens are held at the Royal Cornwall Museum and were examined by R. J. Murphy and I. J. Bennallick in July 2002. Despite several members looking in suitable areas (along grassy paths and short heathy areas) no plants were found. However the area was not fully explored and further visits are recommended. Other species of note that were seen included Lanceolate Spleenwort (*Asplenium obovatum* ssp. *lancoletatum*), Rock Sea-lavender (*Limonium loganicum*), which is endemic to the short stretch of coast visited, Western Clover (*Trifolium occidentale*) and Allseed (*Radiola linoides*), a plant often overlooked by botanists. In late August 2002 three members of the BCG, on the way back from a BPS horsetail meeting in North Wales, stopped at the Pembrokeshire site for

Perennial Centaury, where it grows along the sides of a very ordinary cliff path, similar to those in Cornwall. The plants were flourishing and it was noted that the non-flowering plants looked very much like Thyme-leaved Speedwell (*Veronica serpyllifolia*) and a little like Common Milkwort (*Polygala vulgaris*) plants; both species are found in Cornwall. If anyone visits the Porthgwarra area (and also the Sandymouth area, SS2009, SS2010, in North Cornwall, its other lost locality) and sees vegetative Thyme-leaved Speedwell, please double-check the plants - you may be seeing Perennial Centaury!

On 28th August the group visited **Treloan near Gerrans (SW8734) and Pendower Beach (SW8837, SW8937, SW8938 and SW9038)**. Recording took the group into three tetrads. Treloan, in a shallow valley basin with small marshy fields, was visited to see abundant Galingale (*Cyperus longus*) a dominant plant in one field, covering about 1½ acres. No one in the group had ever seen so much Galingale in one place, and it was pure chance that the site was shown to a BCG member who visited the site in 2001 and realised what the 'sedge' actually was. One small field also had abundant Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), and Yellow Bartsia (*Parentucellia viscosa*) was also seen in well-grazed pasture. In the afternoon the group met at Pendower Beach aiming to find Shore Dock (*Rumex rupestris*). Walking east along the beach, the group could see that the low cliffs had frequent flushes oozing from the rocks, classic Shore Dock habitat, and indeed at the base of these flushes, several plants were seen, with one fruiting exceptionally well. Interestingly this plant seemed to be the most exposed of the Shore Dock plants present. The group retraced their route westwards along the beach and joined the coast path to **Creek Stephen (SW8837)** and returned via a higher path to Pendower.

**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.**

place to stay). The Botanical Cornwall Group will organise an introductory evening meeting on Friday 6th, and the recording for the survey on Saturday 7th June. Sunday 8th June will be a day spent recording on another island depending on sea-state. It is suggested that you travel to St.Mary's on the Friday morning and return to Cornwall on the Monday, or join in if you want to arrive earlier or stay longer.

**NOTE - PLEASE LET THE BCG CO-ORDINATOR KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING TO THE WEEKEND. AN ITINERARY WILL BE SENT TO YOU BEFORE THE MEETING.**

Useful info: A short break by helicopter (max 4 nights in week - not weekend) was £72 in 2002. A Short break by boat (£55) or plane (£70-86) is max 3 nights and not Sat for plane but might be ok for boat. These don't have any refunds so you need to insure against cancellation. Boat is much cheaper but the trip could be rough!

Contacts -  
Isles of Scilly Guide -- incl.  
accommodation 01720 422536 or  
[www.simplyscilly.co.uk](http://www.simplyscilly.co.uk)

IOS Travel (Boat/plane) 0845 710 5555  
[www.ios-travel.co.uk](http://www.ios-travel.co.uk)

Helicopter 01736 363871  
[www.scillyhelicopter.co.uk](http://www.scillyhelicopter.co.uk)

**BULB FIELD AND FARMLAND SURVEY - DRANNACK (GWINEAR) AND TREGADJACK (LUDGVAN), WEST CORNWALL**  
**Saturday 12th July**  
**10am - 5pm**

A day spent surveying bulb fields and other habitats in an inland farming area typical of West Cornwall. The morning will be spent in the Drannack Mill area (SW53Y), and if time allows an afternoon at Tregadjack, near Ludgvan (SW43W). **Meet in the Little Chef car-park behind the Shell garage (SW577387), Carwin Rise, Hayle, just off the roundabout, 10am for 10.30am start.**  
**Leaders - Hazel Meredith & Rose Murphy**



**WATERSIDE MEADOWS AND CULM GRASSLAND - TREDWEN BARTON, ST. CLETHER AND GREENA MOOR, WEEK ST. MARY.**  
**Saturday 19th July**  
**10am - 5pm**

A recording session in the morning of waterside meadows at Tredwen Barton (SX1785), recently under management advised by Westcountry Rivers Trust, and a visit to Greena Moor (once known as Creddacott) (SX2395) to see Culm grassland. This is the largest continuous area of Culm grassland left in Cornwall and is a Plantlife/Cornwall Wildlife Trust reserve. Species that will be seen include Meadow Thistle (*Cirsium dissectum*), Petty Whin (*Genista anglica*), Fen Bedstraw (*Galium uliginosum*) and many other typical Culm grassland species. Plantlife also have a walk at Greena Moor for their members on the same day so it is hoped that the two groups will meet up.

**Meet at Rising Sun Pub, near Altarnun SX216824, 10am for 10.30am start, to share cars to Tredwen Barton.** Visit Greena Moor in afternoon at about 2pm.  
**Leaders - Karen Edwards of Westcountry Rivers Trust and Ian Bennallick.**

*A joint Botanical Cornwall Group and Westcountry Rivers Trust meeting*

**WILLOW WORKSHOP - BUDE CANAL**  
**Saturday 9th August**  
**10am - 4.30pm**

Although the Botanical Cornwall Group held a meeting along the Bude Canal (SS20) last year several puzzling willows were encountered. This outdoor workshop will hopefully name some of them as well as helping novices in willow identification. The leader will be Desmond Meikle who wrote the BSBI handbook (No 4) on Willows and Poplars of Great Britain and Ireland. If you have a copy please bring this along.

**Meet at 10.00am at car-park, Helebridge (SS215037) for a 10.30am start.** The group will walk along the canal to Bude (SS208061). Bring fresh Willow material if you wish (with notes of shape and size of tree etc.) and if possible it may be identified.  
**Leaders - Desmond Meikle and Ian Bennallick**  
**BOOKING ESSENTIAL - contact 'Records Centre Wildlife Information Service', ERCCIS, Five Acres, Allet, Cornwall, TR4 9DJ**  
Tel: 01872 240777 ext.213.

*Organised by Botanical Cornwall Group and ERCCIS*

**WETLAND PLANT ID WORKSHOP - TAMAR LAKES**  
**Saturday 16th August**  
**10am - 5pm**

An outdoor workshop looking at the identification of wetland plants found in Cornwall at Upper and Lower Tamar Lakes on the Cornwall/Devon border.

Bring fresh material of those puzzling wetland plants that you would like identified and if possible the material will be named.

**Meet in the car-park, Upper Tamar Lake, near Kilkhampton, SS288117, 10am for 10.30am start.**

**Leaders - Richard Lansdown and Ian Bennallick**  
**BOOKING ESSENTIAL - contact 'Records Centre Wildlife Information Service', ERCCIS, Five Acres, Allet, Cornwall, TR4 9DJ**  
Tel: 01872240777 ext.213.

*Organised by Botanical Cornwall Group and ERCCIS*

**WOODLAND MOSSES WORKSHOP - CABILLA WOOD**  
**Saturday 11th October**  
**10am - 5pm**

Join Mark Pool, the British Bryological Society recorder for Devon, on an outdoor workshop on the identification of woodland mosses.

**Meet at the entrance to Lower Cabilla Wood, SX128652 10am for 10.30am start.**

Another site may be visited in the afternoon. Bring a hand lens (x20 preferable).  
**Leaders - Mark Pool and Ian Bennallick**  
**BOOKING ESSENTIAL - contact 'Records Centre Wildlife Information Service', ERCCIS, Five Acres, Allet, Cornwall, TR4 9DJ**  
Tel: 01872 240777 ext.213.

*Organised by Botanical Cornwall Group and ERCCIS*

**Other meetings arranged after June 2003 will be included in the next newsletter or check the web-site for details.**

**Meetings arranged for the BSBI Local Change Survey will be put on the web-site or contact the BCG co-ordinator for details**

## BSBI LOCAL CHANGE SURVEY STRATEGY MEETING

**Wednesday 12th March**

**10am - 5pm**

The meeting will discuss the national BSBI Local Change Survey for 2003 and 2004, what needs to be done in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly and in which tetrads the survey will be taking place. The afternoon will be spent recording in one of the tetrads to be surveyed (SW84J - St. Clement Woods area).

**Morning meeting - 10am, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Allet, near Truro, SW794485.**

**Afternoon field meeting - Meet at car-park at entrance to St. Clement Woods (V.c.1), Idless (SW821479) 2pm and should finish at about 5pm.** For those who do not wish to attend the field meeting, Rose will stay in CWT to answer any queries. If you are a BSBI member please bring the recently mailed Local Change booklet (with a blue cover) with you.

**Leaders -** Rose Murphy and Ian Bennallick

## POLRUAN and LANSALLOS AREA -SEARCHING FOR SAND CROCUS

**Saturday 5th April**

**10am - 5pm**

A visit to the re-discovered site of Sand Crocus (*Romulea columnae*) at Polruan to hopefully see it flowering. It will also be a chance to assess the population and discuss management and survey the associated plants present (hopefully also bryophytes and lichens). Other parts of the coastal area between Polruan and Polperro will also be visited during the day to see if any other populations of Sand Crocus are present.

**Meet in car-park at entrance of Polruan, SX132507, 10am.**

**Leader -** Ian Bennallick

## PENHALE DUNES - EARLY DUNE FLORA AND STONEWORTS

**Saturday 26th April**

**10am - 5pm**

A visit to the extensive Penhale dune system area (SW75) to collect stonewort material for identification by the national expert. It will also be a chance to see the early flowering plants of the dunes and several species of very restricted occurrence in Cornwall such as Lesser Pond Sedge (*Carex acutiformis*), Spurge-laurel (*Daphne laureola*) and Dune-fescue (*Vulpia fasciculata*).

**Leader -** Ian Bennallick

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL as access will be on MOD property - contact the BCG co-ordinator if you would like to 10 book a place on the visit.**

## LICHENS OF THE LIZARD

**Thursday 1st May**

**10am - 4.30pm**

An outdoor identification workshop looking at some of the rarer species of lichen present. The morning will be spent in the Kynance area and part of the afternoon in the churchyard at Landewednack, east of Lizard Village, to explore some of the species that can be seen on the headstones.

**Morning - Meet at National Trust Car-park, Kynance, SW689131, 10am for 10.30am start.** Parking fee is about £1.50.

Bring a hand lens (x20 preferable). Terrain is moderate so stout walking boots are advised.

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL** - contact Ian Bennallick, ERCCIS, Five Acres, Allet, Cornwall, TR4 9DJ or email [ian@cornwt.demon.co.uk](mailto:ian@cornwt.demon.co.uk)  
Tel: 01872 240777 ext.226

**NOTE:** If you would like to attend the afternoon at the churchyard only, the group will meet at Lizard Village SW702126, and at 3pm sharp walk to the church - you may wish to meet the group at the church if you prefer.  
**Leaders -** Bryan Edwards and Ian Bennallick

*A joint Botanical Cornwall Group, Plantlife and ERCCIS meeting.*

## BSBI AGM AND ANGLO-HIBERNO-FRENCH MEETING

**Thursday 8th May - Monday 12th May**

Cornwall College, Pool, Redruth.

This meeting will bring together a wide range of botanists from France, Britain and Ireland to consider the vegetation and vascular plant species found in the Atlantic regions of Europe, especially those that are common to the three countries. Several interesting talks have been arranged and poster displays organised.

The provisional programme is as follows: -

**Thursday 8th May** - Social evening for foreign delegates and local botanists.

**Friday 9th May** - Morning excursion to heathland sites near Bodmin. Lunch at Cornwall College and presentations in the afternoon. Poster displays can be viewed in the evening with dinner at Cornwall College.

**Saturday 10th May** - Presentations all day with viewing of poster displays in the evening with dinner at Cornwall College.

**Sunday 11th May** - All day excursion to the Lizard Peninsula.

**Monday 12th May** - Visit to Eden Project and/or excursion to Par Beach.

For booking a place, further information and costs please send a SAE to: Jane Croft, BSBI Field meetings secretary, 12 Spaldwick Road, Stow Longa, Huntingdon, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, PE28 0TL.

**NOTE: This meeting is being organised by BSBI nationally, but your help is needed. If you would like to act as local guides on the planned walks or coaches, can speak French, or would like to assist in the domestic arrangements of the weekend (helping speakers etc.) please contact the Botanical Cornwall Group Co-ordinator. Your help will be much appreciated. Rose Murphy will be the local contact for arrangements concerning the indoor meeting for Friday and Saturday at Cornwall College. This will especially apply to posters. Ian Bennallick will be the local contact for the Lizard, Par and St.Austell trips. If anyone would like more information please contact Rose Murphy or Ian Bennallick (details in useful addresses).**

## SEDGE WORKSHOP

**Wednesday 28th May**

**9.30am - 4.30pm**

A morning introduction to the sedges found in Cornwall, characters to look for in identification and notes on the distribution of the species in Cornwall. A trip to a sedge rich site is planned in the afternoon (to be arranged) to see the species in the field.

**Morning session - 9.30am for 10am start, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Allet, near Truro, SW794485.**

**Afternoon field trip - to be arranged.**

**Leader -** Ian Bennallick

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL** as places are limited - contact 'Records Centre Wildlife Information Service', ERCCIS, Five Acres, Allet, Cornwall, TR4 9DJ  
Tel: 01872 240777 ext. 213

*Organised by Botanical Cornwall Group and ERCCIS*

## BSBI LOCAL CHANGE SURVEY - ST. MARY'S, ISLES OF SCILLY

**Friday 6th June to Monday 9th June**

Help Rosemary Parslow (BSBI recorder for Isles of Scilly) in the local change survey for the Isles of Scilly (SV91A). If you would like to attend please make your own arrangements for travel to St.Mary's and your own accommodation (Hugh Town probably most convenient

Dark Mullein (*Verbascum nigrum*) was frequent in open scrubby bracken slopes and Hairy Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus subbiflorus*) widespread along the cliff paths. From the coast path a Tomato plant (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) and Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*) could be seen growing on Creek Stephen beach below. Although not many species were added to the known lists for the tetrads, the day was enjoyed by all.

On **10th September** Rose Murphy held an **indoor workshop** at ERCCIS (based at the Cornwall Wildlife Trust at Allet near Truro) in the morning on the **identification of Evening-primroses** (*Oenothera* spp.). With copious notes and handouts Rose showed how difficult it is to name material if the right parts of the plant were not collected and measured correctly. Those attending were encouraged to bring *Oenothera* spp. material. Hybrids and triple hybrids were discussed and a list of characters of *Oenothera glazioviana*, *O. biennis* and *O. cambrica* with the most useful for identification purposes was also given. A field trip was made in the afternoon to **Perranporth (SW7654)** to see another species, *O. stricta*, and collect material if possible. The group also made a short diversion to **Gear Sands (SW7755)** to see plants of Pale St. John's-wort (*Hypericum montanum*), which was discovered earlier in 2002 growing in dune grassland by Mr E.C.M. Haes. The plants were past flowering, but it is hoped that visits to the site can be made in 2003. Also in a dune slack close by was Shore Dock, the plants not as vigorous as previously seen in the locality. The group returned with *Oenothera* spp. material and used the information given by Rose in the morning to key through the species and hybrids.

Shore Dock was also sought for on **22nd September 2002**. A previous survey undertaken by

Miles King of Plantlife in 2002 along the coast between Marazion (SW5230) and Stackhouse Cove (SW5428). Miles found several new sites for the species, but the coast further east to Praa Sands was not surveyed at the time. The BCG offered to survey this section for Shore Dock plants in 2002. In the morning the group met at **Marazion (SW5131)** to see the population of Bermuda-grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) alongside the stream that flows onto the beach as well as on a recently constructed Cornish hedge along the road. A short walk along the beach offered Frosted Orache (*Atriplex laciniata*), Sea Rocket and Yellow Horned-poppy (*Glaucium flavum*). Shortly after, the group met at Trenalls, above **Prussia Cove (SW5528)**. At the beginning of the walk an initial wrong turn down a lane led to a dead end, but luckily into an arable field where some useful records were made, including Small Nettle (*Urtica urens*) and other interesting arable weeds. Re-directed, the group quickly made progress to **Cuddra Point (SW5427)**. The day was still and hot, and the view across Mount's Bay to Penzance and St.Michael's Mount was almost Mediterranean. A few of the group were happy to take in the view, leaving others to pick their way over the rocks to Cuddra Point. Most of the coast between Cuddra Point and **Kenneggy Cliff (SW5628)** was deemed too dry to support Shore Dock, flushes being few or absent, but some parts could not be thoroughly searched (inaccessible or private property), so plants may yet be present. A further detailed search is planned in 2003. Wild Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* var. *oleracea*) was quite frequent along the path to Prussia Cove and on a dry grassy area on an outcrop Ken Preston-Mafham found a few flowering spikes of Autumn Lady's-tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*) an updated record for the tetrad. Kenneggy beach (only accessed by using a thick rope for the last twenty feet of the descent down

the beach path) was the most surprising find of the day. Oblivious, the group (carrying binoculars) scanned the cliffs for possible Shore Dock plants, only realising until it was too late that the eastern part of the beach was obviously used by nudists! Unperturbed, a likely Shore Dock plant half way up the cliff was spotted, but through binoculars the fruits seen were identified as belonging to Curled Dock (*Rumex crispus* ssp. *littoreus*). On the return walk along the coast path along Kenneggy Cliff, many plants of Ivy Broomrape (*Orobancha hederaceae*) were found. In decidedly more autumnal mode, on **October 5th**, the group visited **St. Nectan's Glen (SX0788)** and **Minster Wood (SX1090 & SX1190)**. St. Nectan's Glen is home to some very rare species (thankfully now fully protected). The purpose of the visit was to refind Brittle Bladder-fern (*Cystopteris fragilis*), rare in Cornwall, which had been recorded in the Glen in the 1960s. It was not refound, but after a visit



Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), Marazion, 2002  
© Matt Stribley

to St. Nectan's Kieve (a plunge pool in a small deep ravine fed by a high waterfall), the group followed a footpath east to **Tredole Farm (SX0989)**. This stretch hadn't really been well recorded in the past so several new records were made for the tetrad. Interesting species found included Cornish Moneywort (*Sibthorpia europaea*) and Hay-scented Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris aemula*). The group visited Minster Wood and Peter's Wood in the afternoon to search for Oak Fern (*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*), ► **3**

which had been recorded in the past. Unfortunately it was not seen but several large patches of Tunbridge Filmy-fern (*Hymenophyllum tunbrigense*) were seen in the damp woodland.

The final field meeting of the year also concentrated on ferns. The group met at **Saltash railway station (SX4358) on 21st November** in pouring rain, with the intention on finding out if Southern Polypody (*Polypodium cambricum*) was more widespread in the area. It was seen on walls adjacent to the station, and also in **Forder (SX4158)**. The rain relented during the morning, and a visit to **Cargreen (SX4362)**, situated on the western bank of the River Tamar, also proved successful; Southern Polypody was found on walls in the village. The afternoon was spent at **St. Dominick (SX4068)** to check areas where historical records of Hard Shield-fern (*Polystichum aculeatum*), rare in Cornwall, had previously been made. Without a prior visit, a small lane north of St. Dominick was chosen from the map as a suitable place to search, and hopes of finding the species were low. Amazingly, at the end of the lane, Mary Atkinson found a fine specimen of Hard Shield-fern on the bank. No other plants could be seen, but further searches could prove successful. Although the light was failing, a small group walked to **Boar's Bridge (SX4168)**, hoping to see some last fronds of Lemon-scented Fern (*Oreopteris limbosperma*) which was seen on the roadside bank by Paul Green in 2001, but the road bank had been trimmed so no fronds were found.

The final meeting of 2002 was held on **7th December at Fraddon Village Hall** in mid-Cornwall and acted as an end of year indoor get together for local botanists, a chance to reflect on the finds of the year and to discuss

meetings and workshops for 2003. The group's co-ordinator brought handouts and other articles gathered during the year for people who wanted copies. Also available were spare copies of BSBI News, Watsonia and BSBI Abstracts, obtained from the BSBI Exhibition held in Cardiff in late November 2002. Tim Dingle, Matt Stribley and Ken Preston-Mafham showed some excellent slides and digital pictures of flora and places, not just from Cornwall but worldwide. Colin French demonstrated an updated version of the Flora of Cornwall CD-ROM and Rosemary Parslow brought some wonderful photos of the Isles of Scilly. Paul Green brought a display on Southern Polypody in Co. Waterford, Eire, where it grows very large and luxuriantly, and Mary Atkinson brought a mystery grass for the rest of us to identify. Dr Chris Page also brought news of a very exciting fern find (see BCG newsletter No 4!). The day turned out to be a very enjoyable meeting to end an eventful year.

Thanks for access and help on the trips include the Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS) and Cornwall Wildlife Trust for use of their meetings room, Bernard Hocking of Rospanel Farm, Judy Tomlinson of Treloan and Rose Murphy for the Evening-primrose workshop.

Finally many thanks go to those members who attended the meetings who have made them so enjoyable and each a success.

**Ian Bennallick**



## Botanical Cornwall Group - *We're Going Global!*

Just after Christmas 2002 a friend passed me an article from Des Moines in Iowa, U.S.A. about the work of volunteers to pull the invasive weed Garlic Mustard which is so pervasive now in their parks and woodlands, suppressing the native ground flora. I e-mailed her (Jo Hudson of Des Moines, Iowa, U.S.A.) at once to confirm that we were talking about the same plant and to ask if it was OK to include a note in the Botanical Cornwall Group newsletter. She came back straightaway with the following: "Yes, it is *Alliaria petiolata*...". Jo continues "The plant was brought to the Midwest from Europe in the mid-nineteenth century, as a food plant - a pot- herb. (I have wondered if it might also have had some medicinal use, but have found no mention of this) Anyway, it has no natural predators here; even our huge over-population of beautiful White-tail deer won't eat it. And there are large areas of the moist, lowland forest that it thrives in. It has been a severe problem in Wisconsin and Illinois for several years, and is moving west and rapidly becoming one here. Our natural resource managers were slow to recognise the threat to our parks and woodlands. Cathy (the botanist who wrote the article) asked me to ask you for any anecdotal or scientific information on the behaviour of the plant in England that would be valuable to us here. For instance, what is the species of butterfly that feeds on the leaves? What do you think are the factors or natural controls that have kept it from being a severe problem in England? A friend likes to sprinkle the unopened flower buds on her salads."

Any thoughts as to why it isn't a pest to us here in Cornwall and in England? Please send in your comments to the Botanical Cornwall Group co-ordinator.

**Mary Atkinson**



Autumn Ladies-tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*), Prussia Cove, September 2002 © Matt Stribley

### The Pteridologist

The fern magazine for the British Pteridological Society. Relaunched recently and is now A4 sized and full colour with many photos. You will need to join the BPS to receive it (see useful contacts for BPS details).

### THAT PLANT'S ODD

A newsletter of plant aberrations and news of unusual botanical occurrences. Contact - Martin Cragg-Barber, That Plant's Odd, 1 Station Cot, Hullavington, Chippenham, WILTS, SN14 6ET. Tel: 01666 837369 or email [martin@worldmutation.demon.co.uk](mailto:martin@worldmutation.demon.co.uk). Letters, reports, short articles, specimens and photos always welcome. Check with Martin the cost of subscription.

### British Plant Galls - Identification of galls on plants and fungi

Details of price and publication date will soon be available on the Field Studies Council website ([www.field-studies-council.org](http://www.field-studies-council.org)) or contact Field Studies Council Publications, Preston Montford, SHREWSBURY, SY4 1HW. Tel: 01743 852140

## USEFUL BOOKS

- Blamey, M. & Grey-Wilson, C. (1989). **The Illustrated Flora of Britain and Northern Europe**. Hodder & Stoughton, London.
- **BSBI Handbooks no1 - 10** (1982-2000). Useful identification guides on sedges, umbellifers, docks and knotweeds, willows and poplars, stoneworts (algae), crucifers, roses, pondweeds, dandelions and seabans and nickar nuts. Published by the Botanical Society of the British Isles, London.
- Davey, F.H. (1909). **Flora of Cornwall**. Penryn.
- Fitter, A. 1987. **Wild Flowers of Britain and Northern Europe**, Collins.
- French, C.N., Murphy, R.J., & Atkinson, M.G.C.(1999). **Flora of Cornwall**. Wheal Seton Press, Camborne.
- Garrard, I. & Streeter, D. (1983). **The Wild Flowers of the British Isles**. Midsummer Books, London.
- Margetts, L.J. & David, R.W. (1981). **A review of the Cornish Flora 1980**. The Institute of Cornish Studies, Redruth.
- Margetts, L.J. & Spurgin, K.L. (1991). **The Cornish Flora Supplement 1981 - 1990**. Trendrine Press, St.Ives.
- Marren, P. (1999). **Britain's Rare Flowers**. T & A D Poyser, London.
- Murphy, R. J. (1987-2001). **Botanical Cornwall Nos. 1-11**. Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Truro.
- Page, C.N. (1997). **The ferns of Britain and Ireland**. (2nd ed). Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Paton, J. A. (1999). **Liverwort Flora of the British Isles** Harley Books.
- Perring, F.H., & Walters, M. (1990). **Atlas of the British Flora**. (3rd ed). Botanical Society of the British Isles, Redwood Press, Melksham, Wiltshire.
- Phillips, R. (1977). **Wild Flowers of Britain**. Pan Books, London.
- Preston, C. D., Pearman, D.A. & Dines, T.D. eds. (2002). **New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora**, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Rich, T.C.G. & Jermy, A. C. (1998). **Plant Crib 1998**. BSBI, in assoc. with the National Museums and Galleries of Wales and the British Pteridological Society.
- Rodwell, J.S. (ed.) (1991-2000). **British Plant Communities. Vols. 1-5**. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Rose, F. (1981). **The Wild Flower Key**. Penguin, London.
- Smith, A.J.E. (1978). **The Moss Flora of Britain and Ireland**. Cambridge University Press.
- Spalding, A. ed. (1997). **Red Data Book for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly**. Croceago Press, Camborne.
- Stace, C. (1997). **New Flora of the British Isles. (2nd. ed.)** Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Stewart, A., Pearman, D.A., & Preston, C. D., (eds.) (1994). **Scarce Plants in Britain**. JNCC, Peterborough.
- Watson, E. V. (1981). **British Mosses and Liverworts (3rd edition)** Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Wigginton, M. J. (1999). **British Red Data Books 1 Vascular Plants**. (3rd ed.) JNCC, Peterborough.

*If you have a useful book that you think other group members should own or see please send details to the BCG co-ordinator*

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 that cover 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.

### Under-recorded 1km x 1km squares

An updated list of the under-recorded 1km x 1km squares in Cornwall is planned for the beginning of April - if you would like one, contact the co-ordinator in April. There are still 1km x 1km squares that are awaiting a recording visit. Visits to some of these squares in the last year, even if the tetrad in which it falls has been visited in the past, has added more species.

### What to look out for in Spring

Following the note in the last newsletter to look out for and record other species of certain early spring

flowers such as Daffodil (*Narcissus* spp.) and Snowdrop (*Galanthus* spp.), Phil Hunt has found Greater Snowdrop (*Galanthus elwesii*) near St. Austell (SX05). As well as the species mentioned in the last newsletter, there are others that warrant an early search. Early Dog-violet (*Viola reichenbachiana*) is of very restricted occurrence in Cornwall, but could it be overlooked in the early spring when it briefly flowers? South-east Cornwall would be a good place to search for more populations, especially in woodland and on shady banks on neutral soils. Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) seems to be most closely associated with the major river valleys in the east of the county, but west of a line from St. Austell (SX05) to Newquay (SW86) it is almost completely absent. It would be worth looking in the small valleys around Truro (SW84) for it. Another species that is often overlooked is Greater Chickweed (*Stellaria neglecta*) which is again, rare in West Cornwall. Check woodland and wooded banks. Also overlooked is Lesser Chickweed (*Stellaria pallida*). If you are in the sandy areas near the coast check that chickweed! Finally a species that was only rediscovered in Cornwall in 2002 at Polruan (SX15), after a space of over 120 years, Sand Crocus (*Romulea columnae*) could prove to be elsewhere. The best time to catch it

in flower would probably be in late March or early April. Its fruits were discovered on the 4th May and were well developed. If you find open, maybe partly grazed, grassy tops of rocky outcrops or areas of the cliff check the turf closely. The flowers open in bright sunshine, so choose a sunny day. The south coast of Cornwall may be the best coast to explore more closely. Happy hunting!

### Distribution of Purple Ramping-fumitory (*Fumaria purpurea*) in Cornwall

Rose Murphy and Ian Bernallick have been given to understand that the habitat for Purple Ramping-fumitory (*Fumaria purpurea*) in Cornwall is not always the same as that in the rest of Britain. In addition the identification of this plant is proving to be a problem. For this reason known sites are being revisited with the aim of making a more detailed survey of its occurrence at any one place. In order to confirm the identification specimens are being asked for and /or photographs and are having to be confirmed by the *Fumaria* referee. If anyone would like to be involved with this survey please contact Rose Murphy.

## PUBLICATIONS UPDATE

**BOTANICAL CORNWALL 12** is in preparation by Rose Murphy (the editor) and should be out by May 2002 - Full details in next newsletter.

Several newsletters and magazines are available for free to interested botanists, including the following: -

**Flora English Nature** covers some very interesting finds made nationally, recent books available, news from workshops etc. For a copy phone Enquiry Service - 01733 455000, or try [www.english-nature.org.uk](http://www.english-nature.org.uk)

Other publications that you may be interested in: -

# NEWS

Compiled by Ian Bernallick

### BSBI EXHIBITION November 2002

Seven members of the Botanical Cornwall Group attended the BSBI exhibition at Cardiff on 23rd November 2002. A Botanical Cornwall Group display was prepared for exhibition for the day and this showed the activities of the group during 2002. The display included sections on recording, meetings, publications and the website and was very well received. Several names were also added to the mailing list for the group. If those of you that signed up are reading this - Welcome to the Botanical Cornwall Group!

Of interest to Cornish botanists was an exhibit on research into Perennial Centaury (*Centaureum scilloides*), a species looked for at Porthgarra in 2002. A display of the distribution of Flax-leaved St. John's-wort (*Hypericum linariifolium*) and its hybrid with Trailing St. John's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*) was also of interest to the Cornish contingent. An old record for west Cornwall was marked as being a hybrid between the two species - further investigation of suspect looking plants on the Cornish coast will need to be undertaken as there is the possibility that the hybrid exists, maybe in absence of one of the parents, *H. linariifolium*. If you see plants intermediate between the two species on the coast please contact the BCG co-ordinator. Also relating to Cornwall Geoff Kitchener showed the hybrid between Hoary Willowherb (*Epilobium parviflorum*) and New Zealand Willowherb (*Epilobium brunnescens*) that he had collected from China-clay waste near Fraddon, Cornwall (SW95). This is a first for Britain and for the World.

**GIVEAWAY** - Obtained at the meeting were back issues of **BSBI News, Watsonia and BSBI Abstracts**. These were being given away. The co-ordinator has several of these publications in stock left so if you would like to add to your collection or would like to have some please contact the co-ordinator.

### Purple Viper's-bugloss (*Echium plantagineum*) in bird-cover seed mixtures

The possibility of the recent discoveries of Purple Viper's-bugloss (*Echium plantagineum*) in arable fields on Windmill Farm (SW6915) on the Lizard as being native has more or less been solved. The plants were growing in arable fields sown with a bird-seed cover mix which included Quinoa (*Chenopodium quinoa*). This mix had been sown by the joint owners of the site, Cornwall Wildlife Trust and the Cornwall Bird-watching and Preservation Society, to encourage birds. The mixture sown is called 'Kingmix', sold by Advanta Seeds ([hibird@advantaseeds.co.uk](mailto:hibird@advantaseeds.co.uk)).



Martin Titley of Advanta seeds was contacted and responded " I have checked with the producer of kingmix regarding the possibility of *E. plantagineum* being present in the seed. They confirm that the same cleaning line used to process the Quinoa also cleans *E. plantagineum* used for medicinal purposes and it may be possible that the plant has originated from the seed". Further proof that this is where the plants originated from came from a visit to Caerhayes (SW94) where game-cover mix was also being grown in parts of arable fields. Quinoa was part of the cover crop and sure enough, *E. plantagineum* was seen with it in three separate fields. If anyone is surveying arable fields that have been sown with Quinoa please look out for *E. plantagineum*. It would be interesting to see in what areas of Cornwall and indeed the rest of Britain and Ireland it may appear.

Ian Bernallick

### Ancient Tree Forum for Cornwall

Cornwall County Council's Principal Forestry Officer Colin Hawke has announced plans to set up a new Forum for Cornish Trees. Speaking at the International Tree Foundation's annual lecture at the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro in December 2002 Colin Hawke told delegates "National Tree Week seems an appropriate time to call for the formation of a new group to celebrate Cornwall's rich heritage of ancient trees." "The County Council is committed to supporting the Cornwall Biodiversity Initiative and this is one of the positive steps that we can take. Anyone wishing to be involved or who would like further information should contact me at County Hall." The emerging Cornwall Habitat Action Plan for Parkland Trees and Wood Pasture has highlighted the importance of ancient and veteran trees to Cornwall's biodiversity.

"Veteran trees are living trees, often of great age and large size. Typically decay in the trunk and large limbs create the habitat required by a highly specialised and scarce group of organisms. The trees were often pollarded in the past, and this prolonged their natural life span. One of the management issues is the rapid decline of some of the most ancient specimens, yet the risk that resuming pollarding may kill them. They are characteristic of long established parklands (e.g. Boconnoc) and wood pastures; in the latter a variety of grazing practices opened up existing woodland and left scattered ageing trees to provide shade and forage. Veteran trees have a high value for biodiversity conservation almost regardless of species, including exotics"

One of the proposed actions is to establish a Forum to help safeguard this habitat, to promote greater understanding of their needs and to celebrate them. The County Council is taking the lead in setting up the Forum and is organising an inaugural meeting in early February 2003.

Any individuals or organisations interested in being on the Forum



Frosted Orache (*Atriplex laciniata*) Marazion beach, with St. Michael's Mount in the background, September 2002 © Matt Stribley

are asked to put their names forward as soon as possible to Colin Hawke, Principal Forestry Officer, The Countryside Service, Cornwall County Council, County Hall, TRURO, TR1 3AY, [chawke@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:chawke@cornwall.gov.uk)

Veteran trees are important for particular fungi which create large, stable volumes of decaying timber, and insects and molluscs (known as saproxylic species) which depend on this. Veteran trees also support a unique epiphytic community (epiphytes are plants that grow on other plants) and may be a source of indigenous tree genotypes (genetically native to the area). Bats and birds use cavities and the trees may stand in a matrix of important heathland, grassland or woodland habitats. Substantial stands of ancient trees in wood pasture, managed forest or virgin forest are very scarce throughout Europe because of wars and other social and economic upheavals, so this habitat is internationally important, with a powerful historical and social dimension as well as unique ecology.

Other issues for this habitat include: pasture management, grazing, nitrogen and veterinary chemicals; reversion of arable to extensive pasture; tree management techniques such as pollarding; health, safety and access. The National Veteran Trees Initiative (VTI) has compiled a handbook which details issues in management of veteran trees and the approaches recommended to address them.

For further information on Veteran trees visit [www.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancient-tree-forum](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancient-tree-forum)

Marazion beach, September 2002 © Matt Stribley



## Workshops - useful information and notes available from previous workshops

Notes that may be of interest to Botanical Cornwall Group members made on or prepared for the following workshops (two were attended in 2002 by the Vice-county recorders for East Cornwall) are available on request from the BCG co-ordinator: -

- Rock-sea Lavender (*Limonium* agg.) workshop held in Dorset
- Horsetail (*Equisetum*) workshop held in Bangor, North Wales and Anglesey
- Lichen workshop held in North Cornwall
- Stonewort (Charophyte) workshop held in North Cornwall
- Evening-primrose (*Oenothera* spp.) held in Cornwall
- Arable weed workshop held in North Cornwall

## Phenology and reports of early flowering plants

If you are interested in sending in details of the first flowering of certain species you may be interested in the Phenology website [www.phenology.org.uk](http://www.phenology.org.uk). In Cornwall Ruth Lees has been noting some interesting species that have been flowering over the winter period. On the 23rd December 2002 Ruth recorded the following species in flower in the St.Mawes area (SW83): - Three-Cornered Leek (*Allium triquetrum*), Yellow Strawberry (*Duchesnea indica*) and Red-hot Poker (*Kniphofia* sp.). At Perranwell (SW73) Ruth found Pink Oxalis (*Oxalis articulata*), Narrow-leaved Hawkweed (*Hieracium umbellatum*) and *Erica lusitanica* in flower. On the 3rd January 2003 at Perran-ar-worthal (SW73) Ruth then found

some very large plants of Garden Lobelia (*Lobelia erinus*) flowering in a set-aside field, close to a garden. Also present were flowering Sharp-leaved Fluellen (*Kickxia elatine*), Field Madder (*Sherardia arvensis*), Wall speedwell (*Veronica arvensis*), Common Field-speedwell (*V. persica*) and Thyme-leaved Speedwell (*Veronica serpyllifolia*). Ian Bennallick also found a flowering Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) on an autumn-trimmed road verge near Rosenannon (SW96) on 1st January 2003.

If you have any unusual early flowering times for plants in Cornwall please send details of them to the BCG co-ordinator.

## Website and newsletters - material needed from you!

The website has been very popular but apologies for the lack of updates. From March 2003 the website will be updated on the 15th of each month and any useful information that needs circulating will appear on the site. There are several more photos ready to go onto the site. You can also download the newsletters from the site so if you would prefer to do this rather than having a newsletter sent to you please let the co-ordinator know. This would also save on postage. If you have any material (news, comments or photos) that you think would be relevant to other members of the group please send to the co-ordinator, preferably via email. Please send larger files (especially photos) on a floppy or CD.

If you would like to write a longer article or submit a paper on a particular subject relating to the flora of Cornwall for possible inclusion in the group's yearly journal 'Botanical Cornwall' contact Rose Murphy to discuss your ideas (see useful contacts).

# Surveys

## HELP WANTED!

One of the Botanical Cornwall Group's aims is to link the botanists present in Cornwall wanting to survey areas and gain access to private farms and land, with those groups or organisations who have access to land and would like these areas surveyed for one reason or another. Links have been formed between the Botanical Cornwall Group and the following organisations or groups: -

**Cornwall's Living Churchyards** - Carol Simpson the Co-ordinator is building up data on the wildlife of Cornwall's churchyards ranging from the lichens on the headstones (over 3000 records of Lichens from churchyards have been submitted to Carol in 2002) to the Bats in the Belfry! Botanical Cornwall Group members can help Carol by sending in records made from churchyards in Cornwall. For a list of churchyards that Carol would like surveys undertaken for 2003 or for more details of what information is needed please contact Carol at Narabo Creek, Devoran, Truro, TR3 6NF or phone 01872 862168.

**RSPB** - The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has been involved in obtaining stewardship for several farms in Cornwall, more especially those within the coastal areas along the north coast. Particular interest has been shown in the arable weed species that can be found and more information and survey work is wanted for farms already in stewardship and for those that may be put forward for stewardship. As permission from the landowners will be needed before surveys can be carried out please contact the BCG Co-ordinator if you are interested. Your details will then be sent to Claire Mucklow (Cornwall Farmland Bird Project Officer) the RSPB contact who will then organise which farms you would like to survey or those that need surveying first.

**FWAG** - The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group has been very active in the last few years building up a

good relationship with Cornwall's farmers and landowners. The FWAG officers have details of many farmers and landowners that would welcome surveys on their land. Please contact Mary Combe, FWAG, The Planning Directorate, Cornwall County Council, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY - or phone 01872 323600 for more details.

This is a great opportunity to gain access to land that otherwise may have been inaccessible and to do some useful targeted survey work of benefit to the landowners. I hope that some of you may be able to help. A copy of the information gathered from the survey and species seen should be sent first to the relevant BSBI Vice County recorders (see details in useful contacts section) who will validate the records. Once validated the records should be sent to the landowner and the organisation you are liaising with. The BSBI Vice County recorders will also pass the records onto ERCCIS as well as to the BSBI national database. If there are any problems please contact the BCG Co-ordinator.

## BSBI LOCAL CHANGE SURVEY

All BSBI members and other botanists in Britain are invited to take part in the survey 'BSBI Local Change' 2003 -2004. The objective of the survey is to survey pre-selected sample tetrads (2 x 2 km 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 one-in-nine 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. If you would like to take part in the survey please contact the BCG co-ordinator. An introductory meeting to the survey will be held on Wednesday 12th March at the Cornwall Wildlife Trust near Truro, please come along if interested (details in events section). **Hedge Importance Test (HIT)**

Combining History, Landscape and Wildlife, the Hedge Importance Test (HIT) provides working criteria that will fairly judge the importance of any hedge, hedgebank or dry-stone wall at any season of the year, in any part of the United Kingdom. Developed by Robin Menneer, the HIT is designed for use by the general public. If you would like a copy of the test please contact the BCG co-ordinator. Any comments about the test would be welcome.

## Hedge Survey Handbook

A glossy Hedge Survey Handbook has been produced 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](http://www.english-nature.org.uk) Robin Menneer will review the Handbook for the next newsletter.

## Arable site recording form

Much work has been undertaken in 2002 concerning surveying arable fields found in Cornwall, especially from Rose Murphy, John Whiteway, Ken Preston-Mafham, Ruth Lees and Hazel Meredith. The form standardises the information that is collected and with this information we are getting an idea of what is found in certain crops or what species are found in certain areas. It has also stimulated more recording on arable land and some exiting finds have been made, such as Large-Flowered Hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis speciosa*) and Small-flowered Catchfly (*Silene gallica*) in a field near Callington. Further surveys on arable land are wanted for this year. Copies of the above form are available from the BCG co-ordinator.

## 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.