

PRESIDENT	Mr E.F. GREENWOOD M.Sc.
VICE-PRESIDENTS	Dr H. McALLISTER, Dr J.R. EDMONDSON
HON. SECRETARY	Miss V. GORDON, 23 Alder Grove, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 2AL
HON. TREASURER	Miss J. BENTLEY, 16 Waterford Road, Oxton, Wirral L43 6UU
HON. LIBRARIAN	Dr A. GUNN, Liverpool Museum, Liverpool L3 8EN
HON. EDITOR	Miss J. VINCENT, 34 Burden Road, Moreton, Wirral L46 6BQ

INDOOR MEETINGS 1991/92

These are held at the Museum, William Brown Street at 19.30. Council meetings are at 19.00.

FEBRUARY 12th 1991	Miss Gordon - A fortnight botanising in Southern Poland
MARCH 12th	Mr Peter Gateley - An illustrated account of the flora of Ben Lawers
APRIL 9th	Dr Hugh McAllister - Siberia
OCTOBER 8th	Dr Goronwy Wynne - Summer in Greenland
NOVEMBER 12th	Holiday Exhibits 1991 - All members are invited to contribute.
DECEMBER 10th	Fern Video
JANUARY 14th 1992	Annual General Meeting and Resume of 1991 Field Meetings. All members are invited to participate.
FEBRUARY 11th	Dr Angus Gunn - Unbelievable Plants

FIELD MEETINGS 1991

APRIL 13th, 1991	Dibbinsdale. Leader: Dr Keith Watson. 09.41 train from Liverpool Central to Hooton, alight Spital at 09.57
MAY 5th	BSBI Meeting to Llandudno and Bodnant Gardens. Coach from Maritime Museum, Pierhead Entrance 09.30. Price £9.95 includes entrance to Gardens. Please let Dr A. Gunn know of intention to attend by April 20th. Tel no. (051) 207 0001 Ext 290
MAY 25th	Caergwrle. Leader: Miss V. Gordon. 09.21 train from Liverpool Central to West Kirby, alight at Bidston, then 09.41 train to Wrexham, alight at Caergwrle at 10.31.
JUNE 22nd	Nob End. Leader: Miss P. Tolfree. 09.26 train from Liverpool Central to Kirby, change at Kirby and also at Wigan, alight at Farnworth 10.40.
JULY 6th	Burgy Banks. Leader: Mr P. Gateley. 09.42 train from Liverpool Lime Street to St Helens, arrive 10.09.
JULY 20th	Ainsdale. Leader: Mrs P. Lockwood. 09.35 train from Liverpool Central to Southport, alight at Ainsdale at 10.07.
AUGUST 3rd	Fazakerley. Leader: Miss V. Gordon. 09.56 train from Liverpool Central to Kirkby, alight at Fazakerley at 10.08.
AUGUST 24th	Hale Shore. Leader Miss V. Gordon. H26 bus from Liverpool gyratory at 09.30 to Hale, arrive at Hale Village 10.10.
SEPTEMBER 21st	Helsby. Leader Miss M. Wilson. 09.11 train from Liverpool Central to Hooton, then change for Helsby, arriving at 10.05.
OCTOBER 5th	Bidston Hill and Woods. Leader: Miss J. Bentley. 09.51 train from Liverpool Central to West Kirby, alight at Bidston at 10.05.

N.B. Members should please note that bus and train times for all the field trips should be verified on current time tables. Winter times only i.e. up to May 12th, are available at the time of publication. Food should be carried on field meetings.

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 1991 are due in January and should please send them to the Hon. Treasurer, otherwise it will be assumed that the membership is terminated.
Annual subscription rate: £1.00.

REPORTS OF INDOOR MEETINGS 1990

JANUARY. The A.G.M. was followed by a resume of 1989 field meetings when slides recalled the places visited and plants seen.

FEBRUARY. Dr Angus Gunn gave "A peep behind the scenes." He took us to the Botany Department on the top floor where we saw many stored exhibits not on public display. These ranged from the large collection of wood samples in the economic botany section which also included plants and their products used to produce drugs and stages in the production of rubber. Large models of plants made in Germany prior to 1914 illustrated their family characters. The herbarium was examined and finally the Museum's botanical library.

MARCH. Mr Ken Hulme gave his talk "Home truths from abroad - some lessons in plant conservation from China." He gave an account of a visit to China in 1988 to attend an International Symposium on Botanic Gardens. All China's many botanical gardens are more than 100 hectares, one is 1000 hectares. Ness Gardens is only 25 hectares. Slides illustrated their pre-conference sight-seeing from Beijing and then travels to Nanjing and Kuming and the plants and habitats seen.

APRIL. Due to the last minute absence of the lecturer members of the Museum staff showed us round the Museum's natural history exhibits. Of particular interest were the colour enlargements of mosses and liverworts and models of habitats containing growing plants in their natural surroundings.

OCTOBER. Mr Colin Twist gave his talk "Britain's varied Flora" liberally illustrated with colour transparencies. He drives hundreds of miles at week-ends to be shown our rarest species and to take many photographs of them. In the South rarities from Kynance Cove, Arne in Dorset, Portland Bill and on to Kent: Gower in South Wales to Holyhead Island, Deganwy, Great Orme and Pensarn in North Wales: then Derbyshire and the carboniferous limestone areas of Yorkshire and North Lancashire. The rarest of our local dune plants were also included.

NOVEMBER. At the Holiday Exhibits meeting Mrs Greenwood displayed a huge and heavy cone of the knobcone pine, Pinus attenuata collected in California. She then showed slides illustrating their holiday there.

John Richardson had been to Skye and Raasay and showed slides of various habitats.

Miss Gordon contributed slides of plants taken on a spring holiday on Samos and a few Canadian Rockies flowers.

DECEMBER. Mr Peter Gateley gave "An illustrated account of the Natural Vegetation Classification Survey and the method and results covering the Sefton Dune System." He described the various categories of NVC and explained how the field work was computerised for analysis and comparison with similar areas. He showed slides of the coastal areas and plant communities as well as close up photographs of some of the typical species.

REPORTS OF FIELD MEETINGS 1990

21ST APRIL. WEPRE WOODS. Leader: Miss Gordon.

While half of the party was delayed due to transport failure the others spent a profitable hour examining the salt marsh vegetation where Cochlearia anglica was in flower. A neglected tarmac tennis court was white with Erophila verna. In Wepre Woods the usual spring woodland flowers included some deep pink Anemone nemorosa among masses of white ones, Oxalis acetosella, Lathyrus montanus, Carex pendula and Polystichum setiferum.

26th MAY. PLEASINGTON and DARWEN BROOK VALLEY. Leader: Miss Wilson.

A very varied flora was seen on a walk which covered many habitats from acid heathland to hilly meadows, riverbanks, lanesides, woodlands and marshy ground. Outstanding among the many species listed were Viola palustris, Equisetum sylvaticum, tiny Ophioglossum and Circaea intermedia.

9th JUNE. LLANDUDNO. Leaders: Mr & Mrs Lockwood.

A few minutes after leaving the minibus we found Sedum dasyphyllum, seconds later Iris foetidissima in good flower. In quick succession came Silene nutans, Filipendula vulgaris, Hypochaeris maculata, Arbutus and Rhamnus alaternus. Weeds in the Haulfre Gardens included Hirschfeldia incana, Brassica nigra and Rapistrum rugosum. The Little Orme produced Marrubium, Brassica oleracea, Orobanche hederæ and Antirrhinum majus.

23rd JUNE. CABIN HILL. Leader: Mr Gateley.

Duneland species too numerous to list here included Littorella uniflora and Apium inundatum in good flower, Epipactis palustris and Dactylorhiza incarnata, a few Bee Orchids and Campanula latifolia in a small wood.

14th JULY. BIDSTON to MEOLS. Leader: Mr Duerden.

Some time was spent on the reclaimed Bidston Moss where Centaurea nigra subsp. nemoralis, C. scabiosa, Vicia hirsuta and V. tetrasperma had colonised clay banks. In shallow water Myriophyllum verticillatum and Crassula helmsii were in luxuriant growth. Butomus, Rorippa palustris and R. amphibia dominated the River Birket while on the remains of Leasowe salt marsh was Cotula and Oenanthe lachenalii.

18th AUGUST. ST HELENS and SANKEY VALLEY. Leader: Miss Gordon.

In the remains of the St Helens canal Egeria densa was still in flower among Elodea nuttallii and Azolla. In Sankey Valley Pimpinella major was notable. Return was made by way of Burgy Banks where we saw lots of Orobanche minor, Puccinellia distans and remains of Orchids. A re-visit was requested for an earlier date in 1991.

15th SEPTEMBER. RUNCORN and NORTON PRIORY. Leader: Miss Wilson.

The Runcorn part of the Bridgewater Canal was almost sterile of vegetation but ferns grew from the stone walls of the locks and included small Royal Ferns. In an artificial pond Nymphoides peltata was naturalised. After inspecting Norton Priory the walled garden was visited which had many interesting herbs and unusual cultivated species. On the way back along the banks of the Manchester Ship Canal we could tell there had been a good floral display by the dead remains of Blackstonia, Centaureum erythraea and Dactylorhiza species. As well as our native Alnus glutinosa, A. incana and A. cordata had been planted.

13th OCTOBER. CHAIN ACRE WOODS KNOWSLEY. Leader: C. Felton.

Despite the hot dry summer, recent rain had encouraged a good display of fungi. Over 100 species were recorded.

Oreopteris limbosperma, the lemon-scented mountain fern was abundant on one stream bank where leaves of Viola palustris were seen. The narrow buckler fern Dryopteris carthusiana was found among bracken.