



# <u>Flora of North-west</u> <u>Yorkshire</u>

# A botanical newsletter for VC65

Issue 7. Spring 2015

**Welcome** to this our seventh newsletter for VC65 which is intended to keep you up-to date with botanical activities in North-west Yorkshire. For geographical details of the vice county please visit our website at: <u>http://www.bsbi.org.uk/nw\_yorkshire.html</u> and click on 'A brief tour of v.c.65.

Big thank you to Dave Hickson for the picture of the Burnt Orchid in Low Wanless meadow featured at the top of this page.

Apologies too for the late appearance of this Newsletter, went a bit OTT last year in the recording stakes and gathered over 11,000 records, 9,000 + have already been inputted into Mapmate and the others will be soon, decided I couldn't wait any longer to get the Newsletter out.

#### Field Meetings in 2014

We lost one of our Recorders early this year, Ian Wallace who recorded mainly around the lower reaches of the Ure and Wensleydale died suddenly in the spring, despite not being in the best of health Ian continued to send in records until just before his death. Our condolences go to his widow Mavis.

The Field Meetings were reasonably well attended during 2014 despite many being in the south-east of the v.c. We were really trying to fill in gaps in recent tetrad recording as the forthcoming Atlas will be in tetrad form (basically panic stations for us !!!). With that in mind we are having a week's Recording Meeting based in Richmond at the end of June/beginning of July 2015 (details later).

Thanks must go to Frances Graham and the YDNP staff who managed to get a small grant from the Wharfedale Naturalists (a big thank you to them too) to get the records from the Haymeadow Projects out of the files and on to a memory stick, I will get them put into Mapmate as soon as possible, just need a few more hours in the day !

In the west of the v.c. Julie Clarke, Brian Burrow, Mike Canaway and members of the Craven Conservation Group have been coming into the v.c. to help out, many thanks to all of you, you really have been filling in the gaps on the western edge of the area and getting some really interesting records to boot. Brian Burrow I really must thank for all the Taraxacum and Hieracia records he has given me, and now even I can recognize two or three Dandelion species thanks to him. Many thanks too to Mike Canaway and his group of volunteers who carried on regardless when I was getting dental treatment and had to cry off the Monkey Beck Scar meeting.

I was joined by two new recorders (new to v.c.65), Nick Morgan and Allison Pierre who joined me on Field Meetings in the south-east of the v.c. Nick lives in Ainderby Steeple and was keen for us to have a look at the remnants of the old Ainderby Bottoms (fenland and moss site) and another remnant area of the Bottoms below Morton-on-Swale. He gave me a copy of a visit to the area by the Yorkshire Naturalists Union in 1946 and amazingly we turned up quite a few of the species mentioned in this, we found Scutellaria galericulata (Skullcap), Thalictrum flavum (Common Meadow-rue), Carex riparia (Greater Pond-sedge), Carex rostrata (Bottle-sedge), Carex disticha (Brown-sedge), Carex acuta (Slender Tufted-sedge), Lythrum salicaria (Purple Loosestrife), Valeriana officinalis (Common Valerian), Phalaris arundinacea (Reed Canary-grass), Persicaria amphibia (Amphibious Bistort), Alisma plantago-aquatica (Water Plantain), Epilobium hirsutum (Great Willowherb), Scrophularia auriculata (Water Figwort), Sparganium erectum (Branched Bur-reed), Apium nodiflorum (Fool's Water-cress), Eupatorium cannabinum (Hemp Agrimony) and Phragmites australis (Reed). We are hoping for a return visit in 2015 for a more concentrated search of this area and the ditches bordering the lower fields. The field just below the private garden has only been successfully drained in the last 3 years, it would be good if the owner could be persuaded to stop the drainage and re-wet the area, could be a really good project for the local Wildlife Trust or similar, might be the last chance of reinstating one of the now extinct fens/carrs that used to be commonplace in the area.

In the north-east of the v.c. Chris Irvine came down to the Field Meeting at the Fairy Glen Waterfall, thank heavens she did because I would have missed the find of the day, Royal Fern in the gorge below. We thought it was too dangerous to go any further down the river till Chris spotted the fern through binoculars, suddenly any fears dissipated and yours truly scrambled down the huge slippery rocks and got the record and this pic ! Thanks Chris!



Stuart Hedley and John O'Reilly organized another Teesdale week-end Field Meeting after the success of the 2013 Meet. This was really well attended and we got some excellent records of the Teesdale assemblage from Cronkley Fell and White Well area, thanks guys for organizing this, keep it up !

The northern reaches of the v.c. are well recorded by Tim and Eileen Laurie, Trevor Lowis, Jim Parkin and Beryl Armstrong and a few friends who often accompany me on my jaunts, Marie Saag, Janet Owen, Edna Banks and occasionally Celia Cooper.

Tim and Eileen are particularly interested in the flora of the upland Gills and Tim's paper 'Relict Woodland on the Cliffs and within the Waterfall Ravines of Swaledale' has been published in the BSBI Newsletter, it can be accessed on the Website.

Many thanks to John Newbould and his YNU Group who make annual forays into the v.c., he always sends a good list of records in.

Thankyou to Sally Peacock who makes some epic journeys from Nottingham to have a day's botanising in the Dales and Deborah Millward who have both accompanied me during the summer months in the centre of the v.c. Thanks also to Roger Singleton-Turner who gave us access to some excellent sites in and around Richmond and fed us too !

Kevin too has been getting out and about in the south of the v.c., keeping fit running and recording on the watershed around Whernside down to Boroughbridge.

### Notable finds in 2014

Alchemilla glaucescens (Silky Lady's Mantle) – Found in May in one of the lower Pastures in profusion below Berry's Teashop by L.R.,Sally Peacock and Trevor Lowis (SE47/90)

Alopecurus myosuroides (Black-grass) – A noxious arable weed spreading north and found in August by L.R. and Allison Pierre, well established in a couple of fields in the south of the v.c. at Little Langton (SE31/96) and Danby Wiske (SE33/99)

Anacamptis morio (Green-winged Orchid) – One small clump found in May in Pasture below Swinithwaite by Sally Peacock, this now scarce Orchid has not been seen in this location since Mike Porter's records from the 1980's (SE48/89)

Asplenium adiantum-nigrum (Black Spleenwort) – Usually seen as small plants in ones and twos on scar limestone or mortar on walls but not in the quantity L.R. & Mike Canaway found in October on a hedgebank along Howgill Lane near Sedbergh, wonderful site ! (SD64/92)

*Carex aquatilis* (Water Sedge) – Another site was spotted in May by L.R. and Beryl Armstrong between High Holwick Bridge and Low Force, downstream a little from Alex Peart's 2012 discovery (NY89/28) **Chenopodium quinoa (Quinoa)** – Found in a hedgerow near Thrintoft by L.R. and Nick Morgan in August (SE33/93)

**Cymbalaria pallida** (Italian Toadflax) – a garden escape found naturalised in a couple of places around Sedbergh in August by Julie Clarke (SD65/92)

**Cyperus longus (Galingale)** – an update of Martin Hammonds record from Foxglove Covert in 2008, the only v.c. 65 record, found again by the Bradford Botany Group during their survey of Foxglove Covert in July (SE16/97)

**Dactylorhiza traunsteinerioides** (Pugsley's Orchid) – Found by David Tennant and Brian Burrow during a visit to Locker Tarn in August, 33 plants were recorded.

*Erigeron karvinskianus* (Mexican Fleabane) – spotted growing on a disused limestone railway cutting, probably had been planted because there were other rockery species alongside, the Fleabane was seeding so getting established, this was found by L.R. and Marie Saag during a visit in April (SD99/89)

**Gagea lutea** (Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem) – Following up an old 1969 record of *Gagea* from 'Richmond' Janet Owen and L.R. set off at the end of March from the Upper Bridge in Richmond and went downstream as far as the Station, we then changed tack and went upstream where we found a good patch of *Gagea* in flower round the base of a mature tree near the Round Howe, just downstream from Hudswell Woods (NZ16/00), because of the lack of records from the Swale catchment there were a succession of visits by L.R., Brian Burrow and Trevor Lowis and they located more *Gagea* in Iron Banks Wood (SE18/99), Catterick (SE24/97) and Scorton (SE18/99). More recording further downstream needs to be done in 2015.

*Geranium rotundifolium* (Round-leaved Geranium) – Two more sites for this plant were found by Julie Clarke in August around Sedbergh, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> records for the v.c. (SD65/92)

*Hammarbya paludosa* (Bog Orchid) – Visits in July by L.R., Trevor Lowis, Alan Gendle, Brian Burrow and the Bradford Botany Group produced records of at least 9 plants in flower at the well known Frostrow Fells sites for this rare little Orchid.

*Helleborus viridis* (Green Hellebore) – Two records from sites near Tanfield were sent in by the late Ian Wallace in March, sadly these will be the last records we receive from Ian (SE26/78)

*Hypericum hircinum* (Stinking Tutsan) – this was discovered in May by L.R. walking up the lower section of Cam Road Track, definitely lives up to its name, quite stinky and unpleasant !!! Probably originally planted (or thrown out because of the smell) and now naturalising (SD85/89)

*Juncus compressus* (Round-fruited Rush) – Found in June in cracks in the limestone bedrock alongside the River Cover by L.R. and Tim & Eileen Laurie (SE12/86)

Juncus x surrejanus (Juncus acutiflorus x J. artculatus) – This uncommon hybrid rush was found in August on the edge of a small pond near the confluence of Hebblethwaite Gill and Nor Gill by L.R., Tim & Eileen Laurie and Katy Metcalfe (SD69/93)

Juniperus communis (Juniper) – A seedling was spotted at the head of Uldale Gill near the falls, in heather, there are no Juniper stands nearby so a promising result from the reduced grazing pressure on the fells. This was spotted by L.R., Tim & Eileen Laurie and Trevor Lowis (NY81/03)

*Lagarosiphon major* (Curly Waterweed) – Found in Foxglove Covert during their visit in July by the Bradford Botany Group (SE16/97), previously recorded in the same site by Martin Hammond in 2008 and only record in v.c.65.

Lamium amplexicaule (Henbit Deadnettle) – The only recent records we have since the 1990's were found on a dry bank near Scorton in April by L.R. and Brian Burrow (SE2399 & SE24/99) then it was spotted in July by L.R., Allison Pierre and Nick Morgan on the edge of an arable field below Morton-on-Swale (SE33/91) and again in August near Ainderby Steeple by L.R. and Nick Morgan (SE33/92) Lathyrus latifolius (Broad-leaved Everlasting-pea) – Refound in its only site in v.c.65 in Foxglove Covert by the Bradford Botany Group (SE16/97)

Lepidium coronopus (Swine-cress) – Found in the field alongside a track just below Berry's teashop at Swinithwaite by L.R., Sally Peacock and Trevor Lowis in May (SE04/89)

*Lilium pyrenaicum* (Pyrenean Lily) – L.R. spotted two well established plants flowering alongside the Tees downstream from Wynch Bridge in June, probably garden escapes (NY99/27)

*Malva neglecta* (Dwarf Mallow) – This uncommon little Mallow is anything but in the village of Danby Wiske and alongside the track to North Farm just outside, L.R. and Allison Pierre spotted it everywhere in profusion on a visit there in August (SE33/98 & SE33/99) and L.R. spotted it again in August on a verge in Thrintoft (SE32/93)

*Minuartia verna* (Spring Sandwort) – A beautiful double form was spotted by Dave Hickson and LR on a visit to Ballowfields LNR at the beginning of June (SE98/89)

**Osmunda regalis (Royal Fern)** – One plant was spotted by Chris Irvine and L.R. in June in the gorge below the Fairy Glen Waterfall below Holwick, only the third record for v.c.65, the last one in Teesdale was by Baker, above Wynch Bridge in 1867 and the other in the west of the v.c. and last seen in 1969. (NY91/26)

**Parthenocissus quinqueflora (Virginia Creeper**) – Well naturalised on the railway line through Ainderby Steeple, spotted by L.R. and Nick Morgan in August , 1<sup>st</sup> v.c.65 record (SE33/92)

**Potentilla x mixta (Potentilla anglica x P. reptans**) – This rare hybrid was recorded from Foxglove Covert by the Bradford Botany Group (SE16/97)

**Prunus cerasifera (Cherry Plum)** – One bush seen in fruit at Danby Wiske in August by L.R. and Allison Pierre (SE33/99)

**Pulicaria dysenterica (Common Fleabane)** – Found in June in a wet field along Cover Banks by L.R. and Tim and Eileen Laurie (SE12/86) and later in July at Foxglove Covert by the Bradford Botany Group (SE16/97) **Ranunculus auricomus (Goldilocks)** – Fairly common but more usually found in lowland woodlands and along streamsides, this was spotted at 450mOD on steep grassland under the limestone scars at the head of Bishopdale in April by L.R., Tim Laurie, Jim Parkin and Trevor Lowis (SD95/80)

Salix caprea subsp. sphacelata (Scottish Goat Willow) – Some old trees of this subspecies were seen in June by L.R., Tim & Eileen Laurie and Katy Metcalfe whilst walking up Hebblethwaite Gill, these trees have started to be recorded in other upland gills in Teesdale, Eden Valley in Cumbria, in Swaledale and Wensleydale in the past few years, they have definitely been overlooked in the past (SD69/93)

Sedum villosum (Hairy Stonecrop) – A small patch with 32 shoots and 7 flowers was spotted by Brian Burrow and L.R. at the head of Arten Gill in June, only the second record of this plant since 2000, the other from Mickle Fell in 2005 (SD79/86)

**Solanum lycopersicum (Tomato)** – Lots of plants found in August by L.R. & Allison Pierre whilst exploring the shingle banks at Great Langton, first record for v.c.65 (SE29/95 & SE29/96)

**Thalictrum flavum (Common Meadow-rue)** – Anything but common in v.c.65, found initially in June in a ditch below Morton-on-Swale then again in August in a quarter acre remnant of the old fen now part of a private garden near the first site below Ainderby Steeple, noticed by L.R., Nick Morgan and Allison Pierre (SE33/91)

Verbascum virgatum (Twiggy Mullein) – Probable garden escape found in August by Julie Clarke on a verge near Sedbergh, 1<sup>st</sup> v.c. record. (SD65/92)

# **Recording plans for the future**

We are now frantically recording at tetrad scale, trying to visit any tetrads with very few or no records, the new BSBI Atlas is being produced at tetrad scale and we do not have many records in the files at this scale. We collected about 11,000 records this year but due to work commitments and lack of time L.R. has not managed to get them all into Mapmate (overdid the recording a little last summer). These will get done shortly then they will be uploaded to the BSBI Distribution Database. Just had to get this Newsletter out before the summer is over !

We are hoping to publish a check list for v.c. 65 in the next year or so and we are still in the process of producing a Rare Plants Register and focusing our recording efforts on species that are either nationally rare or scarce (i.e. recorded in less than 100 10  $\times$  10 km squares) or classified as threatened in the new Red Data List of the British flora published in 2005. Currently this includes the 126 native and archaeophyte taxa listed below:

Actaea spicata Alchemilla acutiloba Alchemilla glaucescens Alchemilla glomerulans Alchemilla minima Alchemilla monticola Alchemilla subcrenata Alchemilla wichurae Allium oleraceum Alopecurus borealis Anthemis arvensis Arabis glabra Asplenium trichomanes ssp. pachyrachis Bartsia alpina Blysmus compressus Bromopsis benekenii Cardamine impatiens Carex capillaris Carex digitata Carex ericetorum Carex muricata ssp. muricata Carex vaginata Chenopodium bonushenricus Chrysanthemum segetum Circaea alpina Clinopodium calamintha Cochlearia micacea Cochlearia pyrenaica Coeloglossum viride Crepis mollis Cynoglossum officinale Cypripedium calceolus Dactylorhiza traunsteinerioides Daphne mezereum Draba muralis Dryas octopetala

Hypericum montanum Juncus alpinoarticulatus Juncus compressus Kobresia simpliciuscula Limosella aquatica Linum perenne Luronium natans Lysimachia thyrsiflora Melampyrum sylvaticum Meum athamanticum Minuartia hybrid Minuartia verna Myosotis alpestris Myosotis stolonifera Myosurus minimus Myriophyllum verticillatum Oenanthe fistulosa **Ophrys** insectifera Anacamptis morio Neotinea ustulata Orobanche alba

Orobanche rapum-genistae Orobanche reticulata

Papaver argemone Persicaria minor Peucedanum ostruthium Pilularia globulifera Polemonium caeruleum Polygala amarella Polystichum lonchitis Potamogeton coloratus Potamogeton friesii Potentilla crantzii

Potentilla fruticosa Potentilla neumanniana Primula farinosa Pseudorchis albida Dryopteris submontana Epipactis atrorubens Epipactis phyllanthes Equisetum pratense Equisetum variegatum Eriophorum gracile Erophila majuscula Euphorbia exigua Euphrasia rostkoviana ssp. montana Euphrasia rostkoviana ssp. rostkoviana Filago vulgaris Fumaria purpurea Galeopsis angustifolia Galeopsis speciosa Genista anglica Gentiana verna Gentianella campestris Gnaphalium sylvaticum Groenlandia densa Gymnocarpium robertianum Helianthemum oelandicum ssp. levigatum Hordelymus europaeus Hornungia petraea Hymenophyllum wilsonii Hyoscyamus niger

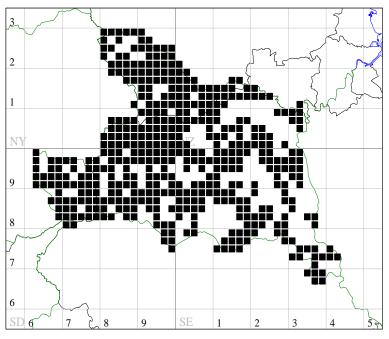
Ranunculus arvensis Ribes alpinum **Ribes spicatum** Rosa agrestis Rumex pseudoalpinus Saxifraga hirculus Saxifraga hypnoides Scandix pecten-veneris Scheuchzeria palustris Sedum villosum Sesleria caerulea Silene gallica Silene noctiflora Sium latifolium Sorbus rupicola Spergula arvensis Spiranthes spiralis Stachys arvensis Stellaria palustris Teesdalia nudicaulis Teucrium scordium

Thlaspi caerulescens Tilia platyphyllos Utricularia australis Valerianella dentata Vicia orobus Viola tricolor Woodsia ilvensis

Some of these species are long extinct (e.g. *Cypripedium calceolus*, *Eriophorum gracile*, *Scheuchzeria palustris*, *Woodsia ilvensis*) whereas others are relatively common in VC65 (e.g. *Minuartia verna*, *Primula farinosa*, *Sesleria caerulea*). We would welcome any recent records or help with checking out old sites for any of these species.

We have already made good start to record the flora of the entire county, at the tetrad scale, our Field Meetings this year reflect the areas where we have few or no records, along with some to turn up old records. Please feel free to come along to these meetings or alternatively if you would like to concentrate on specific areas or hectads closer to home then please get in touch to see how we can help. We can supply lists of species for each hectad, probably some old records and recording forms if you need them. You can send lists in on excel or word too. We have produced an excel spreadsheet with all the tetrads and numbers of records for each, if you would like it please ask L.R. The following map shows any tetrads that have not been visited yet.

VC65 Vascular Plants Recorded Sites 2km



#### Facebook

We now have a Facebook Site if you are on Facebook look up **North West Yorkshire Botany**, and become a member of the group, whilst it is not directly associated with the BSBI it was set up with a view to giving a 'not too serious' look at our work, out there and hopefully getting some records back, this has worked well and we have had more records coming in during 2014 and gained a few new members.

#### Field Meetings 2015

All Field Meetings start at 10.30am. If you intend to come along to meetings please try and let Linda Robinson know, contact details at end of Newsletter.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Garsdale Head and Upper Ure, meet at Moor Cock Inn @ SD797.926

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May** – North Cowton, meet at the footpath near the dismantled railway north of the village @ NZ283.044

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May** – Craven Conservation Group - join international bryophyte expert Tom Blockeel at Settlebeck Gill, Sedbergh to explore the mosses and liverworts of this delightful gill. Free street parking at SD655923 on Howgill Lane. The A683 and A684 converge on the outskirts of Sedbergh - from either proceed towards the town centre. A sign for Howgill will be seen - take the left turn indicated into a side street which soon turns sharp right. At the end of this turn left and after a short distance the "Peoples Hall" with its car park and sports ground will be seen on the left. Continue past this to park further along by the concrete railings adjacent to the sports ground. Easy pace but stream crossing may be required. For additional information call Mike Canaway on 01729 823808.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May** – Bellerby, meet at the junction with Friar Ings near Wood Hill @ SE135.936

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May** – Alston Moor Wildlife Group meeting (in Cumbria) to look at Spring Gentians on Alston Moor, meet on the village green in Garrigill, near George & Dragon at 10.00am (for further details get in touch with L.R.)

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June** – Halnaby Hall area, meet at junction with Home Farm @ NZ255.071

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June –Craven Conservation Group, Short Gill, Barbondale, join Mike Canaway and Linda Robinson for a botanical recording day at this spectacular but well-hidden limestone gorge which changes to gritstone and is crowned by a waterfall high up. Varied geology and habitat ensures a long list of plants. Coming from Barbon park on the rough ground beside the road **before** the cattle grid near SD668847. Beyond the cattle grid are walls both sides. Moderately steep uphill, rough terrain at times, maximum height gain 220m. For additional information call Mike Canaway on 01729 823808.

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June** - Grinton Moor, Apedale area, meet at Cattle Grid @ SE042.940

**Saturday 27th June** - Meeting in conjunction with Craven Conservation Group, Winder Flushes and Howgill Lane, join Mike Canaway and Linda Robinson to explore some interesting flushes on Winder above Sedbergh, returning via Howgill Lane with its species-rich hedgerows with many ferns including Black Spleenwort. Like the other Howgill Hills Winder is steep but mainly grassy with a 340m height gain to the summit. Parking and directions as per the 9 May meeting. For additional information call Mike Canaway on 01729 823808.

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July** – 5 day B.S.B.I botanical meeting based around Richmond, if you would like to attend please book with L.R. Numbers limited to 16.

**Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>** – Meeting in conjunction with Craven Conservation Group at Jubilee Wood and Settlebeck Gill,

join Mike Canaway and Linda Robinson to record the flora of this delightful gill and also to see the "flute casts" from a geological perspective. Once in the gill it is uphill over some difficult terrain with stream crossings required. Escape on to the open fell makes for an easier decent. Height gain will be about 250m depending on progress made. Parking and directions as per 9 May meeting. For additional information call Mike Canaway on 01729 823808

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July** – Great Shunner Fell with Neil Barrett, meet at the Cattle Grid on the summit @ SD868.955

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July** – Crakehall, meet in centre beside the Pub @ SE241.901

Saturday 8th August – Yorkshire Naturalists Union meeting in Whitsundale, led by Terry Whittaker, meet at Ravenseat Farm @ NY863.033

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August** – Barton, meet north of Barton at Little Beck Bridge @ NZ223.094

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August – Grinton Moor, meet near Footpath @ SE060.961

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August** – Meeting in conjunction with Craven Conservation Group to Aye Gill Pike from Garsdale, join Mike Canaway and Linda Robinson to record an area with no previous botanical records. A gentle hill walk with fine views over Garsdale and Dentdale. Meet at Tom Croft Hill car park on the N side of the A684 1.8 miles from Sedbergh at SD694912. Boggy in parts though not steep, height gain 350m. Fine hummocks of Strict Haircap moss to be seen near the summit. For additional information call Mike Canaway on 01729 823808

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August – Dishforth, meet at Cemetery @ SE384.736

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August – Howgills, south side of Carlin Gill, meet at cattle grid at Carlingill Bridge @SD624.996

There will be other unscheduled field trips which get organised at the last minute depending on weather, work etc. so if anyone is prepared to drop everything at a moment's notice you are welcome to come along. Please give me your email address and I will put you on our short notice list.

# **Contact details**

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