Seeds of Fen Violet ready to be squeezed out of the open pod as it dries in the English summer sun.

Photograph by Phil Cutt
INTRODUCTION

The year began as always with four Spring Talks (See summary later in the report). These were well attended and well received.

At the January committee meeting it was felt there was a need for all Flora Guardians to meet and discuss issues that have arisen during the year. The upshot was a workshop held at the end of March where general problems could be aired and discussed. This proved popular and it was agreed that Frances Watkins would produce a task list including the issues raised at the workshop to serve as guidance for present and future Flora Guardians. This document has now been produced, amended and enhanced by the Flora Guardians and committee.

During the summer an impressive amount of work was done by the Guardians and their reports are summarised in this newsletter. As well as numerous monitoring meetings, there were some educational field meetings held at Hill End. All meetings are put on the calendar on the website and all supporters are urged to read this and attend meetings. Do not feel you do not know enough. Most monitoring meetings involve only one species and that is identified for everyone at the start. The more eyes the better, especially for some of the smaller rarities such as Creeping Marshwort and Broad-leaved Cudweed, so do come to the meetings.

Throughout the year OFG members have been helping the vice-county recorder at meetings to record species in tetrads for the BSBI Atlas 2020. These meetings will continue until 2020, so please come along. Contact details can be found at the end of this report. As every species needs recording, there is a great deal to do; again the more people involved the better the result. Dates for meetings will be on the website.

Sandra Parkinson, Sue Helm, Terry Swainbank, Ruth Ripley, Frances Watkins and Susan Erskine recording species at City Farm near Eynsham on 18 June 2016 for the BSBI Atlas 2020

Photograph by Sally Abbey

The year ended with a very successful conference ‘Plant Conservation in the Anthropocene’. Presentations were given by:

Dr. Timothy Waters (Focusing on British Native Species: does it make sense?). Tim outlined the comparative poverty of the British Flora, the question of what is really native and the preoccupation with microspecies. He asked whether these among other things made sense when plants in other, less studied and botanically richer, parts of the world were endangered and going extinct.

Timothy Pankhurst (Introduction, Reintroduction and Reinforcement – a sceptic’s perspective). Tim outlined work that has been done in his area, East Anglia, and explained that three-quarters of attempts at introduction or reintroduction fail, mainly because not enough research has been carried out on the plants’ requirements first. This means that a large amount of conservation effort is being wasted.
Professor Dieter Helm (Natural Capital and Conservation). Dieter outlined the main ideas in his book, *Natural Capital*, and explained some of the ways in which the Natural Capital Committee, which he chairs, is trying to bring about proper accounting for the renewable and non-renewable resources, including the natural environment. He explained that if someone wants to damage renewable resources then this should be accounted for in the costing of the project. *Natural Capital: Valuing the Planet* is published by Yale University Press; it is a must-read for anyone interested in conservation.

*Susan Erskine and Frances Watkins*

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**THE PLANTS WE MONITOR**

*Apium graveolens  Wild Celery*

The counts for Wild Celery are typically variable. In 2016 the count was 347 flowering (i.e. second year) plants, down from over 1000 the previous year, with only one or two seedlings seen in addition. This fluctuation in numbers is not a great cause for concern in itself given that hundreds of seedlings can arise after a year of non-flowering plants, provided the management is favourable. Management for this biennial species at the site currently follows a rotational pattern of cultivation (under a HLS agreement) to create bare soil for Wild Celery to germinate within before it is crowded out by more competitive grasses and ruderal species such as Bristly Ox tongue *Helminthotheca echioides*.

This management may need to be refined further, however, in light of the identification of two other species of interest, both of which are perennial and therefore not as tolerant of ploughing: Distant Sedge *Carex distans* and Saltmarsh Rush *Juncus gerardii*. The latter is being confirmed by Judy Webb, and is potentially of even greater interest than the Wild Celery for which the site is designated as a LWS.

*Rebecca Read*

*Apium (Helosciadium) repens  Creeping Marshwort*

On Port Meadow this summer, surveys revealed a continuation of the decline in Creeping Marshwort that has been observed for many years. A ‘lake’ remained on the southern end of Port Meadow well into July, with no plants that were inundated surviving. Very few populations of Creeping Marshwort were detected by the end of August; all that were found were growing in the previous lake ‘strandline’ positions. One inflorescence was found and only two seedlings detected in the ex-lake area by October.

*The one inflorescence of Apium repens, showing the pink anthers on flowers and the long peduncle.*
The alien Australian Swamp Stonecrop *Crassula helmsii* in Long Pond on Wolvercote Common is a potential threat to Creeping Marshwort on Port Meadow. Unfortunately the Stonecrop thrived in the cold and wet June of 2016, resulting in a large population. Hot foam proved very expensive so another method of control is to be tried by the Wolvercote Commoners this autumn, use of a flame gun.

The introduced population of Creeping Marshwort in North Hinksey Meadow (grazed by horses) did reasonably well with a good number of inflorescences. However, horses were observed to consume leaves and inflorescences and it seemed unlikely seed was being set. A check visit by Camilla Lambrick and David Morris in November confirmed the absence of seed formation.

The route of the planned Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme channel has been decided. The channel will curve around North Hinksey Meadow with this introduced population of Creeping Marshwort. Whilst the population will be avoided, I remain concerned that the digging out of the channel will, in the future, possibly adversely affect the hydrology in the adjacent Creeping Marshwort field. The possibility of electric fencing the main population, to keep horses away, from next August through to the end of October, is being explored. Seed formed and collected in this time will be sent to the Millennium Seed Bank and to Oxford Botanic Garden. Storage of such seed would be a safeguard for this species. I am still actively searching for new suitable translocation sites with the right hydrology and essential heavy grazing pressure.

Creeping Marshwort plants translocated last autumn from the North Hinksey Meadow site to new suitable situations on Port Meadow, away from the southern ‘lake’ position, could not be located in early September 2016. Possibly the grazing in the chosen position was not hard enough, as the vegetation was quite dense. This area was, however, difficult to search so they may still be present.

There was no sign of the F1 hybrid plant of Creeping Marshwort *Apium repens x A. nodiflorum* (Fool’s Watercress), first detected in 2014 and confirmed last year by DNA analysis. This hybrid remains in cultivation at Oxford Botanic Garden. Network Rail’s upgrading of the line has been going well and I hope that the line ditch can soon be re-instated. This should help with Port Meadow drainage next spring to avoid the prolonged inundation of the south end.

Judy Webb

*Carex vulpina  True Fox-sedge*

As in 2015, June 2016 saw monitoring of the nationally rare species True Fox Sedge, *Carex vulpina* on the BBOWT reserves at Meadow Farm and Asham Meads (Murcott Meadows SSSI).
Carex vulpina is listed by the JNCC in category A2c due to “decline in area or occupancy or extent of occurrence”. Globally it is listed by the IUCN as “Least Concern”; it is widespread and abundant throughout eastern Europe, Russia and north-western Asia where it is a dominant species of several wetlands plant communities, to the point to be listed as a weed, suggesting it is not threatened!

Since the early cut of the Asham meadows in 2013, earlier monitoring visits were undertaken in June when the inflorescences appear to be fully developed. Monitoring in 2016 continues to show the apparently healthy persistence of both the original plants and seedlings. At Asham, growth was good again, with 184 inflorescences on the original plant in the spinney (165 in 2015), and only 10 were grazed off; this is well below the maximum count of over 300 in 2009 but shows a generally increasing trend in flower spike count over the last 10 years. A little bramble and thistle was starting to spread back and these were cut away but are not likely to have been affecting the plant. The seedlings in the field corner had a total of 8 flowering spikes in 2016, substantially fewer than the 39 in 2015; a partial count of vegetative shoots suggests more vegetative growth in 2016. In Row Bottom Field no Carex vulpina plants were found where the 12 seedlings were planted out.

At Meadow Farm, in total, the count was 350 flower spikes across all locations compared to 365 in 2015 (which had been a considerable increase on the count in 2013). At this site many clumps are cut annually during the meadow management but appear to persist well. The clumps here are often in damp hollows such as the pond edge, or the historic furrows of ‘ridge and furrow’ field management. This reflects the comments on habitat and autecology in the IUCN species assessment (see http://bit.ly/2i6KeAL), and this may support the consideration by BBOWT of management such as scrapes to encourage seedling germination and establishment.

A montage of Judy’ Webb’s photos of the new site at Arncott Bridge Meadows SSSI.

In addition, two new locations have been recorded for the species, both in wet / swampy vegetation, with Judy Webb finding it at Arncott Bridge Meadows SSSI and David Morris locating it in Weston Wood – so keep your eyes peeled when encountering chunky sedges as it could turn up near you!

Keith Cohen
**Cynoglossum germanicum  Green Hound’s-tongue**

The site at Pyrton, near Watlington is still producing thousands of plants. They are spreading down the lane towards Model Farm. Goosegrass *Galium aparine* has started to appear but at present is not a problem.

It has been decided to abandon the site at Stratford Bridge, near Wootton, Woodstock as Goosegrass is such a problem. In spite of the work done by myself and the Woodstock Green gym in removing large quantities of this weed in March, it had returned with full vigour in May. The whole site was covered by Goosegrass, with only a couple of Green Hound’s-tongue plants on the edge of the wood visible. The Blenheim Estate are looking for another suitable site where we can sow seed away from agricultural land.

*Shirley Leach*

**Filago pyramidata  Broad-leaved Cudweed**

On 8 July, five members of the OFG visited Span Hill/Flowing Spring Quarry, with permission from the Coppid Farm Estate, to conduct the annual survey of Broad-leaved Cudweed. This event has taken place each year since 1997. A transect line is laid out across the quarry and 21 one metre quadrats are surveyed along the transact. In addition, 6 other quadrats over the quarry floor are also surveyed, and a general count is done outside the quadrats.

At this site, the plant continues to be exceptionally small in size, about 70% are less than 2cm high – Rose says it has stems 6-30 cm long. 38 plants were counted in the transect survey, less than half the number counted in 2015 (94). A further 111 were counted outside the quadrats making a total of 149 plants (about 300 in 2015). These results highlight the fact that annual plants do not necessarily come up in the same places each year. As noted in previous years, Broad-leaved Cudweed is not found where the coverage of other vegetation like grass and brambles is high. It needs bare ground with thin soils for germination and growth. Perhaps more systematic surveying of the plants outside the quadrats is required, resources permitting. Also, more clearing to extend the suitable habitat is needed.

Broad-leaved Cudweed is a poor competitor but can survive in areas of low fertility. Its natural habitat is arable farmland, but it has adapted to other sites where it is not subject to pesticides and fertilizers. Span Hill Quarry is one of only two sites in Oxfordshire where it has been found in recent years although it wasn’t found on the other site, Buckland Warren SSSI, Carswell Golf Club, in 2015 or 2016. There were only 16 sites in the UK in the BSBI Atlas 2000 and some of these have since been lost. The Atlas says ‘Populations vary greatly in size annually’ so the drop in numbers this year may be just natural variation.

No more has been heard of the planning application, submitted in 2015 but turned down, to build a sorting and grading unit for aggregates in the quarry, so it is to be hoped that the rare plants it supports (Broad-leaved Cudweed, Lesser Centaury *Centaurium pulchellum*, and Wild Candytuft *Iberis amara*) are now safe from that threat.

Our thanks go to the owners of both sites for allowing access for monitoring purposes.

*Sally Rankin*
**Galium tricornutum**  
**Corn Cleavers**

Corn Cleavers *Galium tricornutum* is an annual of arable fields and an archaeophyte. It is Critically Endangered and a Priority BAP Species. Corn cleavers was re-introduced to an arable field known as the Triangle in Wytham Woods SSSI in 2013.

*Planting out corn cleavers (Tom Price)*

In 2015 96 plants were recorded and in 2016 32 plants were found, so the plant is surviving.

*Corn Cleavers fruits (Sally Abbey 2015)*

In 2016, Wild Parsnip dominated the sward again. In September the Triangle was cut with a forage harvester and then ploughed. It was then sown at low density with a traditional variety of wheat. A spring sowing was considered impractical as the Spring tends to be too wet and cold for germination.

In 2016, the triangle was included within a new Countryside Stewardship Scheme for Wytham. Under the Scheme, the triangle has been split into two, with one half Spring-cultivated (AB11) and the other half Autumn-cultivated, with a low density cereal crop (AB14 - harvested low-input cereal). These options will be swapped over each year.

Peter Marren visited the site in July 2016 and commented:

‘*Many thanks for escorting me to the Triangle and showing me Corn Cleavers. It was a thrill to find it in good fruit when I expected just a few shrivelled seedless plants, if that!*’

Peter suggested that I talk with Plantlife, Somerset Wildlife Trust and Rothamsted, who have experience of maintaining weed-rich arable fields and Rothamsted. He also thought that a visit to Rothamsted’s reserve Fivehead Arable Fields Nature Reserve, might be useful.

*Rebecca Tibbetts*
**Himantoglossum hircinum  Lizard Orchid**

I discovered a Lizard Orchid on an Oxfordshire verge in 2015 but it was decapitated shortly before coming into flower. A few days later the surviving base of the plant was driven over and died off. I kept an anxious eye on the verge to see if the plant had survived, and was rewarded with a sighting of new leaves emerging on 1st November 2015.

Within a month there was already some damage to one of the leaves and tyre marks close by so I contacted Oxfordshire County Council, who constructed a guard around the plant. This was successful in keeping off the traffic and by 12 June 2016 it was in flower. It was at its peak when I returned on 26 June and was still in flower on the 17 July.

*All three photographs taken in 2016 by Christopher Hoskin showing the plant in full bloom inside the cage installed by Oxfordshire County Council, in seed and the new rosette.*

By 27 July it had gone over, and seed pods were forming on 15 August. On 11 September I observed that the seed pods for the lower 7 flowers had swollen and split open.

The surrounding verges were cut in July. I raked off some of the thatch from a stretch where Bee and Pyramidal orchids grow, to improve their chances and in case this strip might also be suitable for Lizard Orchids. I also collected a couple of bags of rubbish from the verges, although this is a Sisyphean task.

On 9 October 2016 I saw a new shoot emerging from the ground, and a new rosette has now formed.

Some Lizard Orchid plants are monocarpic, so it will be interesting to see in 2017 if the plant is able to produce a flower spike for the third year running.

*Christopher Hoskin*
**Lythrum hyssopifolia**  Grass-poly

This plant was not found due to the vigorous growth of surrounding vegetation. Flooding has not taken place which usually suppresses the vegetation.

*Shirley Leach*

**Microthlaspi perfoliatum**  Cotswold Penny-cress

There were three large clumps of Cotswold Penny-cress at Bridgefield Bridge on 23 March. Each had several flowering shoots, indicating a good seed crop for next year. A month later there were 79 flowering stems. The patch was dug over in the autumn, care being taken not to remove soil from the quadrat area. Our thanks go to Network Rail for granting this area conservation status.

Palmer’s Bank was visited on 22 April where 91 flowering stems were counted from 24 plants. Those doing best were in the area which had been dug over the previous year by members of the Wychwood Flora Group.

Linch Hill verges were not visited this year and really need a separate Flora Guardian. If anyone is interested in taking this on, please get in touch with Rob Burton robsjourneys@btinternet.com.

*Susan Erskine*

**Oenanthe silaifolia**  Narrow-leaved Water-dropwort

A planned visit to the population in Arncott Bridge Meadows could, in the end, not happen at peak flowering time. Instead I decided to look at fruiting success in the nearest population in Yarnton West Mead, part of Oxford Meadows SAC, where *Oenanthe silaifolia* is present in the wetter soil of the palaeochannel areas. A visit on 14 July 2016, which was estimated to be just prior to the hay cut, revealed a good number of plants with maturing green to orange red-flushed seed, but this was obviously still immature and tightly fixed, thus not yet ready for dispersal. Unless the seeds were able to mature in the cut hay, it seems very likely that seed would not have dropped to the ground but been taken away off site in the hay in an immature state. This is obviously a species that only returns a good number of mature viable seeds to the soil in a year when the hay cut is very late, giving time for seed maturation. As it is a long-lived perennial, this may not be a problem for long term population health.

*Judy Webb*

*Maturing seeds of Narrow leaved Water-dropwort, Yarnton West Mead 14.07.2016*

*Photograph: Judy Webb*
The tiny remnant natural population of Pasqueflowers in the original exclosure at Aston Upthorpe showed little change from previous years; likewise the transplants introduced in 1999 (grown from Aston Upthorpe seed) which are running at a little under 50% survival. It was a pleasure this year to have the company of a group of BBOWT staff to help with the annual audit. Again, small numbers of plants were in evidence outside the exclosure, including some at a considerable distance, and hopefully the extent of their spread can be mapped next year.

Monitor the ‘old’ exclosure at Aston Upthorpe in April 2016: with BBOWT staffs Debbie Lewis, Andy Fairbairn, Karl Lofthouse and Andy Phillips.

Meanwhile survival of the transplants introduced into a new exclosure at the end of the valley in October 2015 was encouraging at 90% (48 out of 53). However, the 2012-collected seed had shown reduced vigour compared to other seedlots and this may also be reflected in survival rates in the longer term.

Transplant in the new exclosure in April 2016: 75% of survivors flowered. Centimetre wide mesh is used to protect the young plants from grazing by small rodents. As well as damage to the developing foliage, flowering stems are also commonly bitten off, by rodents or possibly birds, so the mesh protection serves to enhance seed set.

The downside of having exclosures is, of course, that they need management. Though both the Aston Upthorpe exclosures are fitted with gates so that they can be opened up to allow grazing at appropriate times (by sheep, and the ubiquitous rabbits) an autumn cut and clear is always part of the regime.
Oxfordshire Flora Group members tackle the ‘new’ exclosure: with many thanks to Sally Rankin, Rod d’Ayala and Alan Parfitt

Some six miles from Aston Upthorpe, at BBOWT’s Hartslock reserve, 18 years on from the introduction of 72 plants raised from seed collected from Barton Hills NNR in Bedfordshire 72% still survive (52 plants) and a limited amount of natural recruitment by seedlings is in evidence.

Kathy Warden

Hartslock Pasqueflowers
All photographs in this particular report by Kathy Warden
**Salvia pratensis  Meadow Clary**

The lay-by at Ardley is a rather unsavoury place; it is after all used by long-distance lorry drivers as an overnight stop, being situated on the busy B430 leading to Junction 10 of the M40, and is within the shadow of the Ardley Incinerator. Despite its unprepossessing location, several plants of a robust nature survive severe competition from rank grasses and encroaching scrub.

A photo taken on 19 June shows how large the introduced plants (up to 7) within the detached part of the former lay-by have now grown. One other plant was also found on the part of the verge that designated as a roadside nature reserve.

*Photographs by Christine Marsh*

My thanks must go to Brian Laney for his sterling efforts in December for raking off all the vegetation from the road side reserve cut a few months earlier by OCC and for strimming with his "trusty brush-cutter" the detached part of the lay-by. The reduction in nutrients, thatch and competition resulting from this clearance is bound to reap rewards in 2017.

|Christine Marsh|

**Sium latifolium  Greater Water-parsnip**

The small Marston Meadows population of *Sium latifolium* had its worst year since monitoring started, with all three mature plants that should have flowered, eaten to the ground by deer. There was, therefore, no
chance of seed production. Shearing back the dense Lesser Pond-sedge Carex acutiformis next to the mature plants revealed a small number of young Sium plants and some seedlings, however.

![Young Sium latifolium plant in Lesser Pond-sedge sward, Marston Meadows 30 July 2016](image)

Photograph by Judy Webb

There is a reserve population grown from Marston Meadows seed and maintained in Milham Ford Nature Park in the shallow margin of one pond. In summer 2016 two mature plants of Sium were present and flowered, but subsequently no seed was set when checked in late September. A search of the marginal wet vegetation revealed a number of young Sium plants and the competing vegetation was sheared back to enable them to have a better chance of growing well and flowering next year.

Judy Webb

**Viola persicifolia  Fen Violet**

In May the Steering Group visited Kingfishers Bridge in Cambridgeshire. This nature reserve is on reclaimed arable land with the water levels controlled to suit breeding birds. This makes it suitable for introductions of fen plants; Saw Sedge and Cambridge Milk-parsley are now established and the rare Water Germander is flourishing. Suitable areas for Fen Violet were identified and we hope for an introduction when plants have been raised from seed from Wicken Fen NNR.

This last season seemed to have been a fairly average one for the numbers of plants in Compartment 2. However, there was no overall count and this comment is based on counts in the permanent quadrat where there were 41 stems. What was noticed though, was the lack of flowers in 2016. This happened at several locations in the area, including plants that were to be used for student experiments, testing the difference between open and closed flowers. There were plenty of closed, cleistogamous flowers to compensate towards the end of the season.

A short experiment late in the summer was quickly devised to give an indication of when most seed is set by counting every two weeks. This revealed a definite peak about three weeks later than the usual time of the hay cut in mid-July. There was an additional observation that seeds are dispatched by two different means, one violently as the pod rapidly opens and the other slowly for seeds that are not initially released but instead squeezed out as the sides of the pod contract together.

The introductions to RSPB Otmoor received a casual glance in 2016 now that the three year experiment is over. The patch on Greenaways Field was nowhere to be found, probably because of the dense covering of Agrostis stolonifera that has taken over the site after the ditch was scraped out last autumn. The other location in The Closes was under water well into June but by the end of July, plants were beginning to show and two of the new seedlings found in 2015 were growing again this year.

Phil Cutt
**Veronica praecox**  Breckland Speedwell,

Breckland Speedwell was looked for, but not found, in 2016.
*Frances Watkins*

**Wytham Triangle habitat**

Two visits were made during the year: a survey on 23 June and a late summer survey on 4 September. The weather was dry on both occasions. The early visit in June gave a count of 96 species with much of the area covered with rank grass but the Charlock *Sinapis arvensis* was not as rampant this year. It was also noticed that Small-flowered Buttercup *Ranunculus parviflorus* was again very evident. The survey in August revealed a further 14 species giving a total of 110 species recorded for the year. Seedlings of Corn Cleavers *Galium tricornutum* were found near the originally planted areas.

It was good to see some of the rarities previously recorded on the site being seen, namely White Helleborine *Cephalanthera damasonium* (Near the Woodland), Slender Tare *Vicia parviflora*, Long-stalked Geranium *Geranium columbinum*, Dwarf Spurge *Euphorbia exigua* and Sharp-leaved Fluellen *Kickxia spuria*. However, Blue Pimpernel *Anagallis foemina* was not seen

*Rob Burton*
OTHER EVENTS IN 2016

Educational Surveys at Hill End Field Centre 2016

It was only possible to hold one survey at Hill End Field Studies Centre this year, in July, at which useful additions were made to the lists. We hope to make the usual three visits in 2017.

Frances Watkins

Spring Talks

In many ways all these talks were about recording. There are different reasons for doing this: Scientific research, on a national or local scale; on a single species or genus, on a habitat and, perhaps, what is the most frequent reason-- pure pleasure, often allied to some research project.

The opening talk by Ian Trueman was on Axiophytes, which in Greek means a worthy plant. Decades ago lists of plants associated with different habitats were made. The recent interest in axiophytes is in their value as indicators of areas worthy of conservation. Ian Trueman illustrated his talk with examples from the West Midlands, which is a very built up area. He was able to find areas which had fragments of open land which were worthy of conservation effort, thus managing them in a way to preserve the existing flora.

Pete Stroh’s talk on a holiday on Colonsay, came both under the heading of recording for pleasure and for the BSBI records for Atlas 2020. With a group of like-minded botanists, the recording seemed to become quite competitive: many records were sent in for the Atlas. A good time was had by all. Some of the audience were thought to be re-planning their own holiday destination.

Recording Plants through Time, monitoring biodiversity change by Oliver Pescott gave us an insight into how recording has become much more scientific over time. The BSBI Atlas 1962 was the first real attempt to record all species in the British Isles on a grid basis. This has provided a data base for subsequent recording projects, both local and national. With computers to crunch the numbers recording should go from strength to strength.

Finally Terry Swainbank gave us a fascinating talk on the work he did on Platanthera chlorantha and Platanthera bifolia Greater and Lesser Butterfly Orchid, which obligingly grew close together on the Skye croft where he was living for a time. He looked at all aspects of their growth, physiology and habitat preference and came to many interesting conclusions. He is hoping to look at the differences between these orchids in Skye and Oxfordshire, but is somewhat hampered by so few areas where these both grow in proximity.

The thanks of the OFG committee and their supporters go to the Plant Sciences Department for making us so welcome. John Baker deserves a special mention for his help with the technical aspects of the lecture theatre, as does Nick Baldwin for his help with car parking.

Susan Erskine
**Oxfordshire Flora Group audited accounts: Summary Jan to Dec 2015**

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**Notes:** Expenses of £1,417.25 for 2015 were claimed in 2016
A long standing payment of £840 for the Millennium Seed Bank was paid on 12/04/16
Expenses of £1,671.11 for 2016 came out of the bank account in 2017

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*Sally Rankin*
Committee

The committee is made up of volunteers. The committee for 2016 and the roles they undertook are listed below. Any member of the ANHSO who feels they can make a significant contribution to the running of the OFG and would like to join the committee, should get in touch with a member of the committee to find out more. There are also opportunities to become Flora Guardians. It is not necessary to be on the committee to do this. There are some species and sites on our original list which still need more help. Again get in touch with any committee member for more information.

- Chair and Talks Organiser: Susan Erskine
- Vice Chair: Frances Watkins
- Treasurer: Sally Rankin
- Secretary: Phil Cutt
- Flora Guardian Co-ordinator: Rob Burton
- BSBI/Vice-County 23 Recorder: Sue Helm
- Records Officer: Kathy Warden
- Webmaster: Frances Watkins
- Newsletter Editor: Sally Abbey
- Liaison with OUBG: Tom Price
- Librarian: Camilla Lambrick
- Hon. Auditor: Andrew Churchill Stone

PLANS FOR 2017

Numerous field events take place which involve plant monitoring and practical conservation work, not all strenuous, such as scrub clearance and scarifying. They are too numerous to list in this newsletter. Please check on the Oxfordshire Flora Group website which is regularly updated by Frances Watkins and can be found at www.anhso-ofg.org.uk. This site is linked to the Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire website www.anhsol.org.uk where you will find a link to the calendar on the left-hand side. Alternatively, you can email the chairman at chairman@anhso-ofg.org.uk

Wychwood Flora Group (Formerly Cotswold Rare Plants Group)

Brenda Betteridge is the contact for the summer programme of monitoring various plants in West Oxfordshire, especially Meadow Clary. Do get in touch with her if you can help. Email - bbetteridge@phonecoop.coop

Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) Update on BSBI Atlas 2020

Botanical recording for the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland's (BSBI) next Atlas continues this year in Oxfordshire. Meetings contributing toward this project are being organised through the
OFG, with separate events across the county organised by Sue Helm (sue@helm.uk), David Morris (david.m.morris1989@gmail.com) and Sally Rankin (s.rankin@btinternet.com). Dates are available on the OFG website and David's blog (oxbot.blogspot.co.uk/p/botanical-events.html). Please get in touch with an organiser if you are interested.

Meetings are not the only occasion for recording: botanists are encouraged to record their local areas, submit records from walks etc. There is much to do and any contribution will be gratefully received. Email David or see his blog for more information (oxbot.blogspot.co.uk/p/recording-resources.html).

Nationally, the BSBI's annual summer field meeting is being held this year in Flintshire in North Wales from 5th to 9th June. See bsbi.org/annual-summer-meeting for details. David will be attending and is happy to car share.
ABOUT THE OXFORDSHIRE FLORA GROUP

The Group (formally the Rare Plants Group) is part of the Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire and works in partnership with many other organisations to conserve rare wild plants in Oxfordshire:

- Oxford City Council
- Oxfordshire County Council
- The Department of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford
- Farm Animal Initiatives
- Network Rail and the following:

The newsletter is intended to inform about the work of the Oxfordshire Flora Group and is circulated to interested members of the Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire, our partners, landowners we work with and other interested parties. If you don’t think you are on our mailing list and you would like to be, please email vice-chairman@anhso-ofg.org.uk