

# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021 Number 527

THERE ARE NO MONTHLY MEETINGS AT THE PRESENT MOMENT.

## Ray Harrison

Sadly Ray passed away at the beginning of February, many of our longer serving members will have fond memories of him. Ray was the group Secretary from 1987, taking over the reigns from Frank Tingey, until he retired in 1999 when I took over from him. Back in those days Ray produced the newsletter, booked the speakers, as well as all the other Secretarial duties. Our condolences go out to his wife Linda son Ashley and the family.

Hi everyone, I hope you are well. I seem to have a little spare time at the moment and thought I would help Paul with the newsletter. Paul would like you to send him items for the newsletter if possible. It is great to keep in touch at the moment so well-done Paul.

I would like to share a few memories of when Sue and I visited The Burren, Ireland.

We went in early June with Naturetrek, there were 6 others on the trip and the weather was sunny but the wind was gale force, not good for taking photos. We all met up at Shannon airport and there was a long hold up as the hire firm needed a £3000 deposit as Naturetrek had forgotten to cover that expense.

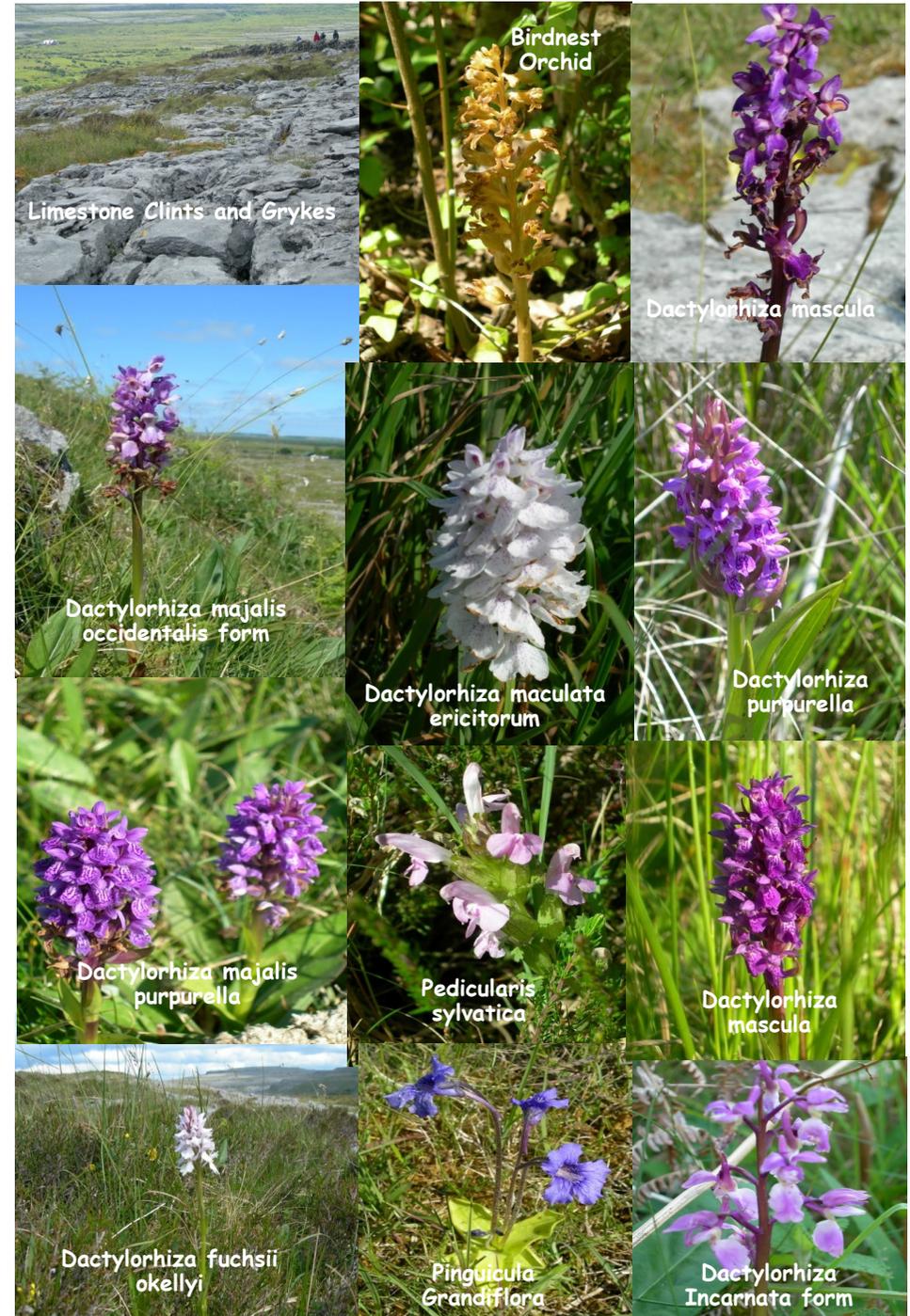
Our tour leader Derrick Donnison-Morgan had to get money transferred before we could go.

We drove to Lisdoonvarna in County Clare to Sheedy's Hotel which was also a farm. We saw the field next to it was covered with Early Purple Orchids, a good start.

Derrick earned his money, he knew where the best sites were because he had spent days mapping the area. There were over 200 plants on our check list, Gentians, Pinguicula, Orchids and many plants in between. The only downside of the trip was that all the plants we saw that day had to be discussed and logged before the bar was allowed to open.

It seemed odd that with all the surrounding gems, some people did not get 20 yards from the van in a morning, looking at Daisies, Grasses, Sedges and the like, it goes to show we all have our own goals.

I was surprised to see the pressure put on tour leaders, people would say, "this is a so and so isn't it" to which he would answer "it can be whatever you want"





Gentian verna

Common Twayblade

Pinguicula



Dactylorhiza fuchsii okellyi

Dactylorhiza maculata hybrid

Dactylorhiza majalis occidentalis



Fly Orchid

Man Orchid

Lesser Butterfly Orchid



Dactylorhiza maculata

Hope you have enjoyed these pictures we have put together for you but be mindful that it was very windy and as Eric Morcombe used to say about his music 'the plant names may be right but not necessarily in the right order'.

Rod and Sue Willett.



Terrain above

Ferns and other plants growing in the grikes between the clints, left.



A big disappointment, the daffodils I planted in the Autumn have come up as Marigolds.

### THE BURREN.

Is an area of environmental interest covering up to 220 sq. miles, situated in County Clare, Ireland, part of which forms The Burren National Park, now designated a Special Area of Conservation. The landscape consists of limestone pavement, heathland, wet grassland, woodland, intermittent bogs, springs, lakes and farmland.

The area is a haven for flora and fauna, over 70% of Irelands plant species are found growing there and wildlife ranges from rare insects and butterflies to foxes, badgers, stoats and is one of the main breeding areas for the pine marten. Otters and grey seals live along the coast as do many seabirds including gulls, razorbills, guillemots and puffins.

This is on my bucket list of places to visit.  
Ed,

This is what to expect if I don't start getting some articles and photos from you all soon. Its nearly Spring and you must have plants starting to come into flower in your Alpine houses and gardens

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