
Brian Roy Pitkin, 12 November 1945 – 31 August 2021

Caroline Bateman

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Brian on 31 August 2021. We are immensely grateful to him for the huge contribution he made to the Society, maintaining the website, producing the invaluable record and taxa spreadsheets and setting up the SBS Facebook group. He will be much missed by all of us on field outings and at committee meetings and we send our heartfelt condolences to Linda. A full obituary will appear in the Spring newsletter.



Brian admiring *Conium maculatum* (Hemlock) on an SBS meeting at Weybridge alongside Broadwater Lake, June 2019.

John Edward Dicker, 26 January 1937 - 1 May 2021 **Bill Stanworth and Ann Sankey**

Very sadly John died at the age of 84 after suffering from a stroke in late January, from which he never recovered. John's earliest interest in wildlife came from seeing and studying swifts flying outside the window of his home, and he always remained a keen ornithologist. John's early days were spent at Cranleigh School before joining the Westminster Bank at Cobham. He then moved and worked in several banks in London where he ended up becoming Branch Manager at the National Westminster Bank in Oxford Street until he retired in 1993.

John also developed a strong interest in botany. Being a retired Bank Manager, he had an eye for detail and accuracy, which is very beneficial when it comes to looking for and identifying plants. The first plant record we have from him is *Aubrieta deltoidea* (Aubretia) in 1991 when he was recording with Ken Page at Elstead. One has to start somewhere! At this time John and his family were already living in Great Bookham. John joined the Surrey Flora Committee (SFC) in the early 1990s and from 1996 he started submitting records in earnest. It was at this time that recording was taking place for BSBI's *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora 2002*. This was hectad based and John recorded in TQ15. Thus, a considerable number of his records came from the Bookham area as well as Norbury Park, Box Hill, and other nearby sites. For many of these recording sessions he was joined by Ken Page who lived nearby in Fetcham.