

# The Wild Gladiolus (*Gladiolus illyricus*) in Britain Past, Present and Future

## A one-day conference on its biology and status

**Brockenhurst Village Hall, New Forest, Hampshire  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

The Wild Gladiolus (*Gladiolus illyricus* Koch) is one of the most prized and emblematic wild plants of the New Forest. Yet knowledge of its existence in Britain goes back little more than 150 years; its taxonomy and status have often been called into question; and now its fortunes seem to be in decline.

This one-day conference will bring together many of the people who have studied the plant in recent decades, with the hope of consolidating knowledge, encouraging further study and supporting conservation efforts. The day will be organised as a series of formal presentations, each followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion.

The conference will be chaired by Clive Chatters, Chairman of the New Forest National Park Authority. Clive is well-known for his botanical writing and his work over many years to conserve Hampshire wildlife and safeguard traditional land management.

Formal speakers include:

**Anthony Hamilton** (British Gladiolus Society, author of *Gladiolus* in *Flora Europaea*): Taxonomy and genetics

**Jonathan Stokes** (Tree Council, former researcher on New Forest *Gladiolus*): Biology and ecology

**Geoff Toone** (Botanical Society of the British Isles): The early recording history

**Martin Rand** (South Hampshire Recorder, Botanical Society of the British Isles): Recording and populations in the last 60 years

**Adrian Newton and Sarah North** (University of Bournemouth): Mapping the habitat of *Gladiolus*

**Richard Reeves** (Christopher Tower Library, New Forest Museum): *Gladiolus* and historic land management

**Simon Weymouth** (Chief Ecologist, Forestry Commission, New Forest): Current initiatives to conserve *Gladiolus*

The day will end with a discussion session chaired by Clive Chatters, bringing together the strands of the day and eliciting suggestions for future work. Many other individuals and members of institutions with a keen interest in Forest ecology have already shown their interest in attending, so a lively discussion is guaranteed!

The conference fee will be £5 per head, to include refreshments during the day. An optional buffet lunch can also be booked at a modest extra cost.

A full brochure and booking form can be downloaded from the following Web site:

<http://hantsplants.org.uk/gladconf.php>

or obtained from:

**Natalie Rogers, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Beechcroft House,  
Vicarage Lane, Curdrige, Hampshire SO32 2DP Email: [NatalieR@hwt.org.uk](mailto:NatalieR@hwt.org.uk)**

For further information about the day's content, contact:

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