



# Bridget Ozanne

## 1953– 2007

Bridget was born Bridget Elliott and had two brothers and two sisters. Her passionate interest in natural history started when she was 4 when her father told her the names of two plants from the garden, one correctly – one incorrectly. When she was 10 she decided to make a collection of all the plants of Guernsey; this still exists and is a remarkably precocious work. At her mother's suggestion she sent some of the plants she could not name to the Natural History Museum and they forwarded them to David McClintock who became her mentor for many years. Bridget did much work for David's *The Wildflowers of Guernsey* and he acknowledged her as '*Bridget Elliott of the sharp eyes*', which she certainly had.

When she was 19, David told her about a job as a technician working on mosses in the Natural History Museum and Bridget moved to London. She was joined there by Terry Ozanne whom she married in 1974. Two years later they moved back to Guernsey and started a family. Visiting botanists were amazed when Joseph, her youngest child, could name common lichens when he was still in a push chair. Incredibly, while raising her three children Nerine, Tom (TJ) and Joe, she found time to do an Open University Botany degree,

teach, run a pack of brownies, pick freesias, take up diving and follow all her other interests, including gardening and writing.

In 1991 Bridget became Botany Secretary of La Société Guernesaise and her enthusiasm kept the Section very active. Her main interest was for the 'lower plants', particularly mosses, fungi, lichens and seaweeds. Bridget was the BSBI and British Lichen Society recorder for the island.

In 1993 she started digitizing the Société Botany Section card index of local plant records. This work culminated in 2003 when the Guernsey Biological Records Centre was started and Bridget became Joint Manager.

Bridget did a remarkable amount in her life and she was appreciated both on and off the island. She had a multitude of plans for the future, including writing a new Flora of the island which would have included bryophytes; it is very sad that none of these will now be carried out by her. Those who knew her will remember her as a very enthusiastic, happy and unassuming person, with great strength of will. She is very sadly missed.

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