

Douglas H. Kent Memorial Issue of *Watsonia*

This issue of *Watsonia* is dedicated to the memory of D. H. Kent (1920–1998). It is fitting that the journal of the Botanical Society of the British Isles should commemorate his life and work, for Duggie served the society with dedication for a period of 50 years.

Many of the papers in this issue are directly related to Duggie's botanical interests, including his life-long studies of the flora of Middlesex, his detailed accounts of the spread of *Senecio squalidus* in Britain and Ireland and the important reference works he prepared. The latter include *British herbaria* (1957), which was later replaced by *British and Irish herbaria* by D. H. Kent & D. E. Allen (1984), the B.S.B.I. Handbook covering the Polygonaceae, *Docks and knotweeds of the British Isles*, written with J. E. Lousley (1981) and the *List of the vascular plants of the British Isles* (1992). We hope that this wide range of papers will be a fitting tribute to the memory of Duggie Kent. It demonstrates that the subjects he studied are still engaging the attention of British and Irish botanists, who find that his work provides a firm foundation on which they can build. It is also encouraging to see how new lines of evidence such as those provided by molecular techniques are now throwing new light on the subjects he investigated. We are grateful to Professor C. A. Stace for originally suggesting that we produce this memorial issue, and to the authors who have contributed to it. The fact that so many were willing and indeed anxious to contribute papers at relatively short notice says much for the esteem in which Duggie Kent was held by the botanical community.

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