



BSBI FIELD MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2009

SUNDAY 15th MARCH ***CONIFER IDENTIFICATION , CYRIL HART ARBORETUM** **THE FOREST OF DEAN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE (v.c.34)** **Leaders: Clare Kitchen and Tony Titchen**

Meet 10:30am at the small car park for the Arboretum just east of The Speech House Hotel on the south side of the road at SO623123.

The morning will be spent in the arboretum which is named after a local historian and forestry expert, Dr Cyril Hart. The collection started in 1910 and contains over 400 trees many with identification labels which will give an opportunity to learn the salient features for the identification of many commonly planted conifer trees.

In the afternoon we will visit Shakemantle Quarry which contains at least five species of conifer which are establishing themselves.

Booking to Clare Kitchen, The Cottage, Bevington, Berkeley, Gloucestershire. GL13 9RB. 01453 810958. E-mail markarkitchen@yahoo.co.uk

SATURDAY 9th & SUNDAY 10th MAY **BERWICK-UPON-TWEED (v.c. 68)** **SPRING CONFERENCE and 2009 AGM: Alien Trees and Shrubs**

The spring conference next year will be held on the Scottish border at Berwick and will focus on the alien trees and shrubs that are so much part of the British landscape today and how BSBI records them. The Saturday will be indoors in the fine Guild Hall in the centre of this historic town and there will be excursions on the Sunday. We are planning a questionnaire on the extent to which alien trees and shrubs naturalise and we will report on that. There will also be talks and exhibits on relevant topics. Please consider taking part by mounting an exhibit or giving a talk. Contact the President, Mr. Michael Braithwaite to discuss this.

The outings will include a visit to a state-of-the-art commercial nursery growing an astonishing range of species and a visit to Kyoie woods which has some remarkable stands of over-mature conifers with abundant regeneration. There will be an opportunity to walk the ancient walls of the town, to learn their botanical history as well as their military history and to take in the sea air. If there is a demand there may be an excursion to St Abbs Head NNR on the Monday with super sea birds and coastal plants.

Berwick-upon-Tweed is easy to reach by road or rail and there is plenty of accommodation in and around the town.

**WEDNESDAY 13th to WEDNESDAY 20th MAY
PÁRAMOS OF NORTHERN CASTILE**

Leaders: Teresa Farino & Jon Cox

A one-week field meeting to the high limestone plateaux of northern Castile. The area comprises a rich mosaic of low-intensity cereal cultivations rich in colourful arable weeds, limestone outcrops and precipitous river gorges. The group will be accommodated in the restored convent of Santa Maria de Mave, from where excursions will be made to explore the surrounding tablelands. The area is rich in local and Iberian endemics, orchids and *Narcissus* as well as a host of birds and butterflies. There should also be an opportunity to visit some of the fabulous 11th & 12th century Romanesque churches.

This meeting has been previously advertised (see *News* No.109, September 2008) but there may be a few places remaining.

Bookings to: Teresa Farino, Apartado de Correos 59, 39570 Potes, Cantabria, Spain.
Tel: 00 34 942 735154; teresa@iberianwildlife.com

**SATURDAY 16th MAY
CHILTERN HILLS OF MID-BUCKS (v.c.24)**

Leaders: Roy Maycock and others

A morning visit to two adjacent Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) reserves which have been created in worked-out chalk pits. One is large with a variety of habitats and, of particular interest, the Arable Weed Project where cornfield weeds grow in fields cultivated in an old-fashioned way. The other is a small, calcareous fen. Easy walking.

The afternoon will be on hills of chalk grassland, including Ivinghoe Beacon. Specialities should include *Pulsatilla vulgaris* (Pasque-flower), *Tephrosia integrifolia* (Field Fleawort) and *Gentianella anglica* (Early Gentian). Generally easy walking but some short, steeper slopes.

Meet in the College Lake Reserve car park (SP935139), which is 2 miles north of Tring station, at 10.00am for 10.30 start. Drinks and facilities are available but please bring your own food. We shall lunch here before moving about 3 miles to Ivinghoe (no facilities!).

Further details and booking please with Roy Maycock, 17 Osborne Street, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK2 2LU. Telephone 01908 378900

SATURDAY 16th & SUNDAY 17th MAY
LOUGH CARRA, Co. MAYO (v.c. H 26)
Leader: Gerry Sharkey

We will be hunting for orchids and recording generally in the Moore Hall and Kilkeeran areas. Lough Carra is a very strongly calcicole lake with a marl bed and its shores are justifiably renowned for their orchid flora.

On Saturday, meet on the eastern shore of Lough Carra, in the car park at Moore Hall (Discovery sheet 38, M 190740) at 10:30 am. The coniferous, deciduous and mixed woodland, and marly lakeshore with birch/willow scrub should still be showing some spring flora.

On Sunday, meet outside the public house in Partry (Discovery sheet 38, M 156729) on the eastern side of the Castlebar - Ballinrobe Road at 10:30 am.

Please let Gerry know to expect you by e-mail to gsharkey@patodonnell.com, or mobile: (RoI) 087 6202550.

SUNDAY 17th MAY 2009
***GAILES MARSH & SHEWALTON SANDPIT, AYRSHIRE (v.c.75)**
Leaders: Dave Lang, Gill Smart & Jim McIntosh

Shewalton Sandpit near Irvine, is a mosaic of dune grassland, woodland, heathland and open water habitats with a great diversity of species. Characteristic species include Creeping Willow (*Salix repens*), Fir Clubmoss (*Huperzia selago*) and Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*). The nearby Gailes Marsh is an area of wet grassland and heath on the Ayrshire coastal plain. Plants found here include Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*), Bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*) and Shepherds's Cress (*Teesdalia nudicaulis*). Scottish Wildlife Trust manage both sites and have kindly agreed to give a short introductory talk about their site conservation work and help lead our visit.

The emphasis of this field meeting will be on learning and we would particularly welcome beginners and anyone who has not been on a BSBI field meeting before - particularly locals, as this will be an opportunity to meet your Vice-county Recorders.

For further information and to book, please write to Gill Smart, SWT Reserve Manager South West, Unit 6 Kyle Business Park, Cunninghame Road, Irvine KA12 8JJ, telephone 01294 279376 or e-mail Gill at gsmart@swt.org.uk

SATURDAY 23rd MAY
CRAIG BREIDDEN, WELSHPOOL, MONTGOMERYSHIRE (v.c.47)
Leader: Andy Jones.

On this meeting, we will visit the seasonally droughted scrub margin and rock-heath communities of the south and west crags of Breidden Hill. Species should include *Veronica spicata* (Spiked speedwell), Shaggy Mouse-eared Hawkweed and *Lychnis viscaria* (Sticky catchfly). We will also search for late spring flowering annuals. Bring lunch and stout footwear. Numbers will be strictly limited to 10 so early booking is advised. Further details will be provided on receipt of booking. Bookings with SAE please to: Mr. R.A.Jones, CCW, Plas Gogerddan, Bow Street, Aberystwyth, SY23 3EE. Tel. 01970 821119.

SATURDAY 23rd & SUNDAY 24th MAY
WATERFORD COAST (v.c. H 06)
Leader: Paul Green

On the first day, our aim will be to see if *Rumex acetosa* ssp. *hibernicus* can be re-found on the dunes at Bunmahon where it was last reported in 1964. Should be easy walking. Meet at 11 am in large car on edge of dunes (X433988). The second day will be spent at Ferry Point. This will be an easy walk on a shingle/sand spit to survey several of the rare plants of the Co. Waterford coast including *Trifolium scabrum* (Rough Clover) and *Crambe maritima* (Sea-kale) at their only extant sites. We will also look at other spring coastal species. Meet at 11 am, parking on roadside by the sea near road junction at X115780. Contact: tel (RoI) 051 445541; mobile 087 7782496; e-mail paulnewross@eircom.net

SUNDAY 31st MAY 2009
***ARTHUR'S SEAT, MIDLOTHIAN (v.c. 83)**
Leader: Jim McIntosh

Holyrood Park's dramatic hills and crags give Edinburgh its distinctive skyline. They also provide grassland habitats for a remarkably diverse and interesting flora. We hope to see species such as Adder's-tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*), Spring Sandwort (*Minuartia verna*), Spring Cinquefoil (*Potentilla tabernaemontani*) amongst many others. Historic Scotland manages the park and we hope that one of their rangers will give a short talk about its conservation management. The emphasis of this field meeting will be on learning to identify and record and we would particularly welcome beginners and anyone who has not been on a BSBI field meeting before. If you were one of the many who didn't manage to get a place on last year's fieldmeeting at Arthur's Seat – book early to avoid disappointment.

Rail & bus stations within reasonably short walking distance. Places will be limited. For further information and to book, please write to Mrs Jane Jones, BSBI Admin Assistant, Cuilvona Cottage, Aberfoyle, Stirling, FK8 3TQ, or e-mail Jane at janebsbi@live.co.uk

SATURDAY 6th JUNE
***EAST NORFOLK & EAST SUFFOLK v.c.25, 27)**
Grass Identification Day
Leader: Arthur Copping

Up to three sites will be visited in the Diss area to study in particular *Anisantha*, *Bromus*, *Festuca* and *Vulpia*. Additional material of taxa which cannot be examined in the field on the day will be provided.

Number of participants strictly limited to 15. Because he is otherwise committed the leader will be unable to run an overflow meeting on a different day, as was the case with the *Agrostis* workshop of 2007, so early booking is advised. Bookings to: Arthur Copping, The Nook, Swamp Lane, Roydon, Diss IP22 5FY Tel: 01379 642109

SATURDAY 6th JUNE
CORS ERDDEINIOG NNR, ANGLESEY (v.c.52)
Leader: Les Colley.

An opportunity to visit one of the Anglesey fen National Nature Reserves and be guided by the CCW warden. Habitats include grassland, heath, open water and woodland as well as fenland. To include updating records for the Anglesey CRPR.

Meet at 10.30am in the lay-by beside the minor road at SH475.806, near the entrance to Bodgynda (just off the B5110 Brynteg to Llangefni road). Wellingtons advised, bring lunch, waterproofs, and GPS if you have one. Finish about 4.00pm. Numbers limited to 20. Bookings with SAE please to: Mrs. W. McCarthy, 5, Ty'n y Coed, Great Orme, Llandudno LL30 2QA. Tel. 01492 877451. wendorme@aol.com

SUNDAY 7th JUNE 2009
***WHITEHILLS, BANFFSHIRE (v.c. 94)**
Leaders: Andy Amphlett and Ian Green

This meeting will have a particular emphasis on helping new and less experienced members learn to identify wild plants. We will explore the coastline to the west of Whitehills, which has a very diverse flora including *Astragalus danicus* (Purple Milk-vetch), *Blysmus rufus* (Saltmarsh Flat-sedge), *Carex distans* (Distant Sedge), *Carex extensa* (Long-bracted Sedge), *Juncus maritimus* (Sea Rush), *Ligusticum scoticum* (Scots Lovage).

Bookings with SAE to Andy Amphlett, 72 Strathspey Drive, Grantown on Spey, Morayshire, PH26 3EY. E-mail Amphlett@grantownonspey.freeserve.co.uk

**WEDNESDAY 10th JUNE to SATURDAY 20th JUNE
TRANSYLVANIA**

Leaders; John Akeroyd and Owen Mountford

The excursion will take in mountain National Parks and protected areas such as Piatru Craiului and Retezat, together with the unspoilt wooded hills and glens of the Saxon Villages region, famous for medieval churches, strongly fortified against Turk and Tartar, and astonishing wildflower meadows, probably the best to survive in lowland Europe. Bears and wolves (in the woods), many different songbirds, shrikes and corncrakes, numerous amphibians and clouds of butterflies complement a rich flora. There is a wealth of old buildings and fascinating village life. This meeting has been previously advertised (See *News* No.108 April 2008) so is now fully booked..

SATURDAY 13th JUNE 2009

***WHITLAW MOSSES NNR, ROXBURGHSHIRE (v.c. 80)**

Leaders: Jim McIntosh & Robin Payne

Whitlaw Mosses is an extremely rich and diverse series of basin mires. A number of notable species occur on the sites including Holy Grass (*Hierochloe odorata*), Cowbane (*Cicuta virosa*) and Round-leaved wintergreen (*Pyrola rotundifolia*). The emphasis of this field meeting will be on learning to identify and record and we would particularly welcome beginners and anyone who has not been on a BSBI field meeting before. We should also like to undertake a thorough search for Coralroot (*Corallorrhiza trifida*) which was not found during Site Condition Monitoring work in 2008, but which is undoubtedly present.

For further information and to book, please write to Mrs Jane Jones, BSBI Admin Assistant, Cuilvona Cottage, Aberfoyle, Stirling, FK8 3TQ, or e-mail Jane at janebsbi@live.co.uk. For more general information about Whitlaw Mosses NNR see www.nnr-scotland.org.uk

**SATURDAY 13th & SUNDAY 14th JUNE
IRISH NORTH COAST (v.c. H 39 & 40)**

Leader: Paul Hackney

It has been suggested that the *Dactylorhiza purpurella* populations in the NE of Ireland are referable to ssp. *cambrensis*. There is also some disputed suggestion that *D. occidentalis* may be present in this area. On this weekend meeting, we will examine populations at sites in the NE Antrim/N Londonderry area.

Meet at 10.30 am on Saturday 13th at the National Trust car park at Whitepark Bay (GR D012437). This is at the west end of the bay, well signposted by the National Trust, just off to the seaward side of the A2 coast road about half way between Ballycastle and Bushmills.

Meet 10am Sunday morning at Benone Tourist Information Centre. The Benone Tourist Complex is at C717362; – turn off A2 Coleraine to Limavady coast road (not the main inland route!) to the right about 1.5 km beyond (west of) the Umbra level crossing. The complex is signposted from the A2 turnoff. After turning off the A2, keep straight on the main roadway for about half a kilometre (don't turn off a side road to the right) until you reach the large car park adjacent to the tourist information building at the end of this road.

Contact: tel 028 9338 2239

**SATURDAY 20th JUNE
CAE BLAEN DYFFRYN PLANTLIFE RESERVE, LAMPETER,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (v.c.44)**

Leader: Trevor Dines

Join in the annual vegetation survey of this small but wonderful neutral grassland reserve. As well as recording changes in the vegetation, we'll survey the meadow for both *Platanthera chlorantha* and *P. bifolia*, (Greater & lesser butterfly orchids) and look for hybrids between the two. We'll also monitor *Botrychium lunaria* (Moonwort) and *Viola lutea* (Mountain pansy) as well as enjoying the wealth of sedges and hybrid *Dactylorhiza*. Meet at 11.00am on the road verge car park at SN605.442 (on the inside of the tight corner). Bring lunch.

Bookings with SAE please to: Trevor Dines, Plantlife Wales, c/o CCW, Maes y Ffynnon, Ffordd Penrhos, Bangor, Gwynedd LL55 2LQ. Tel. 01248 387396.

ATURDAY 20th & SUNDAY 21st JUNE 2009
FEARN PENINSULA, EASTER ROSS (v.c. 106)
Leaders: Brian & Barbara Ballinger

This meeting will be based on the Fearn peninsula by Tain and will explore a variety of local habitats. We hope to visit the Morrish More area and possibly the Kyle of Sutherland looking for coastal, saltmarsh and dune plants. Species that may be seen include *Equisetum variegatum*, *Centaurium littorale*, *Astragalus danicus* and *Oxytropis halleri*. We aim to fill gaps in the Atlas updating and our Rare Plants Register. For details and to make bookings please contact Barbara Ballinger : 5, Shaftesbury Park, Dundee DD2 1LB : barbara@garrickwood.org.uk : tel 01382 669727

SATURDAY 20th JUNE
CAVEHILL, BELFAST (v.c. H 39)
Leader: David McNeill

There is a variety of good habitats on the slopes of Cavehill and Collinward, including woodland, mountain slopes, flushes, base of cliffs and old quarries. Target species include *Pyrola minor*, *Pyrola media* and *Pseudorchis albida*. It will be a long walk with some steep sections and good stout footwear is required. Picnic lunch is to be carried. Meet at Belfast Zoo car park (end furthest from zoo) J325811 at 10.30 am. Contact: tel 028 90942341, or e-mail dw.mcneill@ntlworld.com

FRIDAY 26th to SUNDAY 28th JUNE
BUILTH
WELSH AGM

The accommodation will be on the Royal Welsh Showground together with hotels in Builth for anyone who wants more luxurious quarters. The theme will be 'Grasslands' to fit in with the new Grasslands Handbook (which will hopefully have been published by then) and a talk by Tim Blackstock. A flier with further details will be sent out with BSBI *News*. The Showground accommodation details area at: <http://www.rwas.co.uk/en/facilities/accommodation>

SATURDAY 27th JUNE
DRY SANDFORD PIT AND COTHILL FEN, OXFORDSHIRE (v.c. 22)
Leaders: John Killick & John Edgington

In a small region around Cothill, near Abingdon in Watsonian Berkshire, layers of sandy, friable Jurassic limestone overlain by quaternary deposits of peat have been exposed by quarrying, resulting in a cluster of calcareous fens and more acidic valley-head mires. A National Nature Reserve and three SSSIs support a remarkable range of fen and bog plants. Among those we hope to see are *Epipactis palustris*, *Potamogeton coloratus* and *Schoenus nigricans*. The calcareous mires are rich in pteridophytes, including *Equisetum variegatum*, and in various stoneworts.

Meet at 10.30 am in the car park at the entrance to Dry Sandford Pit, a BBOWT Reserve in Cothill village, SU 465996. The car park is small, and the reserves are fragile, so numbers may need to be limited and car-sharing is advisable. In the afternoon we shall walk a short distance to Parsonage Moor, another BBOWT Reserve, and Natural England's Ruskin Reserve. "Dry" as in Dry Sandford is a misnomer – bring Wellingtons, especially if the early summer has been rainy!

To book, and to arrange car-sharing if possible, contact John Edgington by email (ugap136@aol.com) or in writing to 19 Mecklenburgh Square, London WC1N 2AD.

SATURDAY 27th JUNE
ANCASTER & RAUCEBY WARREN N.R. SOUTH LINCS. (v.c.53)
Leaders: Malcolm Pool and Paul Kirby

An excursion to explore this little-known area of South Lincolnshire.

The morning will be spent visiting Ancaster Cemetery and Moor Closes Nature Reserve to search for *Armeria maritima ssp. elongata*, Long-stemmed Thrift.

Meet and park outside Ancaster Church SK9829343533 at 10.00. Bring a picnic lunch and footwear suitable for wet conditions.

In the afternoon the group will move on to Rauceby Warren Nature Reserve where the parking place will be at the south western edge of the Reserve at TF0249343460 on the A153 and where there is access to the reserve. This part of the excursion will begin at 14.00 and the speciality of the afternoon, *Herniaria glabra*, Smooth Rupturewort, will hopefully be found.

Bookings with s.a.e to: Malcolm Pool. 11 Bridge End Rd., Grantham, Lincs, NG31 6JN
e-mail: malcolmdavidpool@aol.com

SATURDAY 27th JUNE
CAEAU TAN Y BWLCH PLANTLIFE RESERVE, CLYNNOGFAWR,
CAERNARVONSHIRE (v.c.49)
Leader: Trevor Dines.

Join in the annual vegetation survey of this famous neutral grassland reserve. As well as recording changes in the vegetation, we'll survey the meadows for *Platanthera chlorantha* (Greater butterfly orchid). We'll also search for *Ophioglossum vulgatum* (Adder's tongue) and have a look at the various *Euphrasia* taxa found here. If we have time, the stunning views are great too! Meet at 11am at the car park beside the reserve at SH431.488. Bring lunch. Bookings with SAE please to: Trevor Dines, Plantlife Wales, c/o CCW, Maes y Ffynnon, Ffordd Penrhos, Bangor, Gwynedd LL55 2LQ. Tel. 01248 387396.

SATURDAY 4th & SUNDAY 5th JULY
NIDDERDALE (v.c.64) AND WENSLEYDALE (v.c.65)
Leaders: Phyl Abbott, Linda Robinson & Kevin Walker

A joint v.c.64 and 65 recording weekend. On the Saturday we will visit Greenhow Hill to look at the limestone and metalophyte flora on the old lead mines (e.g. *Thlaspi caerulescens*, *Minuartia verna*). If there is time we may also visit a hay meadow in Wharfedale where *Crepis mollis* should be in flower. On Sunday we will visit the small Ballowfield Local Nature Reserve below Haw Bank in Wensleydale where there is an interesting metalophyte flora and a small population of *Orobancha alba* on the slopes above. The rest of the day will be spent recording tetrads around Locker Tarn which has an interesting calcareous flora.

On Saturday meet in the lay-by in front of Duck Street Quarry, SE114639 at 10.30 am. On Sunday meet at 10.30 am in the car park of the Ballowfield reserve on the N side of the road between Carperby to Askrigg, SD986898. Please bring lunch, waterproofs and a GPS (if you have one) on both days. Numbers are limited to 14 so early booking is advisable. Booking (with sae) to Phyl Abbot, Cedar Croft, 73 Ridgeway, Leeds, LS8 4DD. Email: phyl.a@virgin.net.

SATURDAY 4th JULY & SUNDAY 5th JULY 2009
YETHOLM, ROXBURGHSHIRE (v.c. 80)

Leader: Rod Corner

The object of the meeting is to tetrad-record around the Yetholm area. One day will be spent ascending the Cheviot Burn up to the plateau of The Cheviot dependant on the weather conditions. It is hoped to update records of montane species such as *Saxifraga stellaris* and *Epilobium alsinifolium* unknown elsewhere in the vice-county and assess their status. Other species known to occur are *Sedum villosum*, *Saxifraga hypnoides* and high altitude *Saxifraga granulata*. Those opting out for a less strenuous day will have a good choice of varying habitats to botanise in the lower ground where *Dianthus deltoides* should be seen. The other day will also be spent recording on the lower ground along the Bowmont Water and elsewhere. Participants should be equipped for hill walking and bring their own lunch.

Meeting point at Town Yetholm, 10.00am both days.

Bookings with sae please from Rod Corner at Hawthorn Hill, 36 Wordsworth Street, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7QZ. Tel. 01768 863660, email rod @hawthornhill.net

SATURDAY 4th & SUNDAY 5th JULY
SLIEVE ANIERIN AREA, Co. LEITRIM (v.c. H 29)

Leader: Robert Northridge

Our aim will be to “bash” an under-recorded area around Slieve Anierin – the “Iron Mountain”. Our route will depend on weather conditions, but there is wide range of altitudes, geology and habitats on and to the east on the mountain. Accommodation is available in the nearby “waterway” towns of Ballinamore and Carrick-on-Shannon.

Meet both days at 10.30 am at St John’s Lough (H090112) on the R208 about 6km west of Ballinamore, bringing packed lunch and stout footwear.

Contact: tel 028 6632 4502 or robhannort@aol.com

SATURDAY 11th TO SATURDAY 18th JULY
GLYNHIR MANSION, LLANDYBIE, CARMARTHENSHIRE, (v.c.44)

Leaders: Kath and Richard Pryce.

The annual Carmarthenshire Recording and Monitoring Meeting will include visits to well-botanised sites as well as areas in need of additional recording within the county. It is hoped that there will be the opportunity to spend a day with Forestry Commission staff at the arboretum near Abergorlech in Brechfa Forest. The meeting will cater for both experienced and inexperienced botanists and will provide an opportunity for the informal development of identification skills.

Glynhir Mansion is located about 2km east of Llandybie on the western flank of the Black Mountain at SN640151. From the A483 between Ammanford and Llandybie, on the southern outskirts of Llandybie, take the unclassified road (Glynhir Road) eastwards (marked with brown signs to golf club and b&b). Follow this road for about 2km and Glynhir Mansion is on the right. If coming from the station by taxi make sure you ask for Glynhir Mansion (not Glynhir Golf Club or Glynhir Mill).

The River Loughor runs through the estate and at one point plunges over a 10m waterfall into a rocky gorge where *Dryopteris aemula*, *Hymenophyllum tunbrigense* and *Asplenium trichomanes* ssp. *trichomanes* are included among the ferns growing on the cliffs. There will be ample opportunity in the timetable to visit the site. Large parkland trees provide the setting to the mansion, including *Tilia cordata*, and there remains much scope for further discoveries to be made in the vicinity.

The mansion is run by the Jenkins family providing first class facilities including a large common room for the evening. The cost of the week from lunchtime Sat 19th to breakfast on Sat 26th, including full board and packed lunches, will be approximately £400.00 but will be limited to about 20 participants. Accommodation for part of the week will be charged *pro rata*.

Please make initial bookings with the leaders as soon as possible. A 25% deposit will be required by Glynhir followed by full payment six weeks prior to the meeting. Bookings to Mr & Mrs R.D. Pryce, Trevethin, School Road, Pwll, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, SA15 4AL. Tel:/ Fax: 01554 775847; PryceEco@aol.com.

SATURDAY 11th & SUNDAY 12th JULY

Co. CLARE (v.c. H 09)

Leaders: Stephen Ward & Sharon Parr

On Saturday, we will go to Rinecaha to Muckanagh Loch Tetrad M36.92 which is on 1:50.000 sheet 52. This will offer us habitats varying from open water, fen, and limestone pavement to calcareous grassland. The area lies in a maze of country lanes. Rendezvous: The Gallery Cafe, The Square, GORT at 10.30 am; excellent coffee, cakes, loo etc! For those staying overnight, B&Bs in the vicinity of Gort, Corofin or Ennis would be nearby.

On Sunday, the venue will be the Dromore NNR. Meet 10.30 am at the car-park at M 353 863 which is on 1:50,000 sheet 58. This site offers woodland, limestone woodland and fen.

Contact tel (RoI): home 065 7083967; mobile 0868 237745.

SUNDAY 12th JULY

BEN LUI NNR, MID-PERTHS (v.c. 88)

Leaders: Jim McIntosh

A one day meeting to explore the rich and diverse montane habitats of Ben Lui and to help find several species that botanists have previously failed to find whilst Site Condition Monitoring. Some of the interesting species that we would hope to see include Bartsia (*Bartsia alpina*), Mountain avens (*Dryas octopetala*) and Round-leaved wintergreen (*Pyrola rotundifolia*).

The site is managed by SNH and they have kindly offered to drive us up Glen Cononish in to the foot of the mountain using two long-wheel base landrovers, avoiding a long walk. Consequently numbers will be very strictly limited to 15. Those booking must be competent botanists and fit hillwalkers.

For further information and to book, please write to Mrs Jane Jones, BSBI Admin Assistant, Cuilvona Cottage, Aberfoyle, Stirling, FK8 3TQ, or e-mail Jane at janebsbi@live.co.uk. For more general information about Ben Lui NNR see www.nnr-scotland.org.uk

TUESDAY 14th JULY - MONDAY 20th JULY
ISLE OF TIREE, MID EBUDES (v.c. 103)
Leaders: Lynne Farrell & John Bowler

The meeting will be based at the Alan Stevenson House, Hynish, Tiree, which has already been booked for our group. (Accommodation is in shared rooms, some 2- bedded and some 3-bedded). All meals and accommodation are provided for the daily rate of about £31 (to be confirmed later). Car-sharing from the mainland and whilst on the island is preferred, as this would save on costs and problems with parking.

We would enjoy the botanical delights of the island, visiting the different habitats, both wet and dry. Recording populations of some of the rarer species, and possibly some for the Threatened Plants project also would be one of the aims. Consideration is being given as to whether starting work on a tetrad flora (following on from Preston and Pearman's excellent Flora of Tiree, Gunna and Coll 2000) would be worthwhile.

Tiree is essentially a flat island but there is one hill. Walking is not strenuous, but can be adventurous, particularly along the coast and in the dunes. Numbers are limited to no more than 20 people at the Alan Stevenson House. People who have already registered interest will need to confirm, please, by May 1st 2009 at the latest. Bookings to Lynne Farrell, farrell104@btinternet.com, or 41 High St, Heminford Grey, Cambs. PE28 9BJ.

SATURDAY 18th & SUNDAY 19th JULY
WETLANDS IN Co. MONAGHAN (v.c. H 32)
Leader: Ian McNeill

On the first day, we will be recording in the vicinity of the Ballybay Wetland Centre at Derryvalley Farm, Clones Road, Ballybay (H 703201). Meet 10.30 am at the Centre.

On the second day, we will go to Kilrooskey Lough – locally known as the Horseshoe Lake – on the Fermanagh border NNW of Clones. One of the marl lakes of the Finn-Lackey catchment, the flora includes a large population of *Epipactis helleborine* and the scarce *Pyrola rotundifolia* among other specialities. Meet 10.30 am at the roadside on the S edge of the lake at H493272.

Contact: tel Ian McNeill 028 86762939 or e-mail to John Faulkner jsf@globalnet.co.uk.

SATURDAY 25th JULY
***WAREHAM, DORSET (v.c.9)**
Leader: Edward Pratt

We will visit some of East Holme Meadows, private grazed pasture south of the River Frome. This is the only current British locality away from Windermere for the introduced Lake Loosestrife (*Lysimachia terrestris*), which should grace us with a few flowers. The rich and colourful ditches also have Tasteless Water-pepper (*Persicaria mitis*), Flowering-rush (*Butomus umbellatus*), Great Burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*) and Pedunculate Water-starwort (*Callitriche brutia*) amongst others. Wild Pear with thorns (*Pyrus pyraster*), Fragrant Agrimony (*Agrimonia procera*), Yellow Bartsia (*Parentucellia viscosa*) and Pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*) should be among other species seen.

Meet at a lay-by on Holme Lane at SY912854 and bring Wellingtons and a picnic lunch. There are no toilets. Numbers are limited to 18.

Bookings to Edward Pratt, 7 Bay Close, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 1RE (please enclose SAE) or Tel. 01929 427229 if you have an answerphone service. He will put you in touch with anyone else coming from your direction, or arrange for a lift from Wareham railway station if needed. If there are unavoidable cancellations on the day, or delays in travel, ring 07946 542502.

SATURDAY 25th JULY
SUTTON & LOUND GRAVEL PIT S.S.S.I (v.c. 56)
Leader: David Wood

Sutton and Lound Gravel Pit is a fairly under-recorded area due its vast size and being in the far north of the county just north of Retford. It is primarily an ornithological site but is excellent for plants, much of it being excavated on former peatland in the Idle Valley.

Meet at 10.00am at SK691851 on Lound Low Road where a track leaves the tarmac road. Bring a picnic lunch. Waterproofs and stout footwear advised.

Booking please with s.a.e. to: David Wood, 39A George Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG6 7QG.

SATURDAY 25th JULY
ALYN WATERS COUNTRY PARK, NEAR WREXHAM,
DENBIGHSHIRE (v.c. 50)
Leaders: Delyth Williams & Jean Green.

A visit to a large local authority nature reserve, some of which is on reclaimed land, based around the River Alyn. There will be a wide variety of habitats and it should be especially good for weedy species. Meet at 10.30am in the visitors' car park at SH316.547, the entrance to the park is off the A541 from Wrexham. Café and toilets are available. The going will be mostly flat. Please bring lunch. Bookings, preferably by email, to delyth718@btinternet.com or with SAE please to Mrs. D. Williams, Graigfechan, Ruthin LL15 2HA.

SATURDAY 25th & SUNDAY 26th JULY
CHAROPHYTES IN Co. CLARE (v.c. H 09)
Leader: Cilian Roden

Charophytes are very under recorded in Ireland and with so many lakes they are very abundant. This field trip will be an opportunity examine charophytes and other aquatics in the little known cluster of lakes in south-east Clare and in the better known but very distinctive limestone lakes of the Burren. Bring wellingtons at least, but chest waders and even a snorkel would be useful! Grapnels and hand lens are also very useful.

Meet at RC church in Tulla at 10 am Saturday and at the Heritage Centre Corofin at 10.30 am Sunday.

Contact: tel (RoI) 091 637621 or e-mail croden@iol.ie

SATURDAY 1st AUGUST
ARNSIDE KNOTT, CUMBERLAND (v.c. 70)
Leader: Nigel Blackstock

Set in the beautiful Arnside and Silverdale AONB and overlooking Morecambe Bay and the Lake District, Arnside Knott remains a surprisingly little discovered Cumbrian jewel. The initial slope is quite steep but will hopefully be festooned with the nationally rare High Brown Fritillary (*Argynnis adippe*) and at it's most southern, and only one of two English, locations, Scotch Argus (*Erebia aethiops*) butterflies. Sudden, albeit temporary, conversions from botanist to lepidopterists should afford ample excuses to take the climb slowly. The Knott itself is a Carboniferous limestone reef and both the Knott and Heathwaite areas are designated SSSIs. They sit upon an interesting transition between the more southerly elements of the northern flora and northern extremities of the southern flora. This creates an interesting and varied flora for both the beginner and experts to enjoy. For the more experienced botanists there will be the opportunity to spend time on their hands and knees trying to locate the elusive Teesdale violet (*Viola rupestris*) and rare Spring sedge (*Carex ericetorum*). Hopefully the Spiked speedwell (*Veronica spicata*) will be easier to spot and a rariety of orchids.

Meet 1030 in the National Trusts Arnside Knott carpark. Parking may be limited and may require some to park in the village of Arnside. Contact Nigel Blackstock (01704) 231847 email: blackstock8@aol.com

SATURDAY 8th & SUNDAY 9th AUGUST
TYRRELLSPASS, Co. WESTMEATH (v.c. H 23)
Leader: Con Breen

The aim of the meeting will be to record various habitats in the south of the county in connection with the continuing Flora of Westmeath project. On both days, meet in the car park 0.5 km west of Tyrrellspass at 10.30 am.

Further details from Con Breen, 101 Bettyglen, Dublin 5; tel (RoI) 018 313573, mobile 086 3539295.

SATURDAY 15th AUGUST
TYWYN, MERIONETH (v.c. 48)
Leader: Peter Benoit.

A meeting to explore the flora of the extensive sand dunes and saltmarsh at Tywyn. Meet at 10.30am in the car park at the main railway station (not the miniature railway station nearby) at SH583.007. Please bring lunch. Bookings with SAE please to: Mr. P.M.Benoit, Pencarreg, Barmouth, Gwynedd LL42 1BL.

SATURDAY 22nd AUGUST
***KENSINGTON GARDENS & HYDE PARK, LONDON (v.c.21)**

Leader: Roy Vickery & Alan Harrington
“Sharing our enthusiasm”

A workshop meeting for people who lead ‘wildflower walks’ for the general public.
How can we do these better and get more people to share our enthusiasm?

There will be three walks:

Roy Vickery will be concentrating on uses and folklore of native plants

Alan Harrington will concentrate on trees

A third leader yet to be arranged.

After each walk we will discuss what went well and what might have gone better.

Meet at Lancaster Gate tube station at 11.00a.m.

Bookings to, further information from: Roy Vickery, 9 Terrapin Court, Terrapin Rd., London SW17 8QW. E-mail: vickery330@btinternet.com

SATURDAY 29th AUGUST
KILMICHAEL, Co. WEXFORD (v.c. H12)
Leader: Paul Green

The aim of the walk will be to see if Autumn Lady’s-tresses *Spiranthes spiralis* can be found at the site. There are other rare plants that will be searched for that have not been reported for a while here. It is a large area of dunes with a few slacks. Should be easy walking, but you will need to carry lunch. Meet at 11.00 am at end of road (T255665). Contact: tel (RoI) 051 445541; mobile 087 7782496; e-mail paulnewross@eircom.net.

SATURDAY 5th SEPTEMBER
BRITHDIR, NEAR CHURCHSTOKE, MONTGOMERYSHIRE (v.c. 47)

Leader: Andy Jones.

A meeting to explore this mosaic of unimproved meadows and hedgebanks with dry acidic, neutral and damp, and base-rich grassland types. Species should include *Silvaum silaus* (Pepper saxifrage) here at the edge of its range, and the rare *Campanula patula* (Spreading bellflower). We will then go on to a series of neighbouring field boundaries and lanes where *Campanula patula* has also recently been found. This meeting is paired with the field meeting next day (September 6th) at Great Malvern Chase, Worcestershire, to encourage a better understanding of this rare species. Meet at 10.30am in the farmyard at Brithdir, near Roundton Hill, Churchstoke. Further details will be given on receipt of booking.

Bookings with SAE please to: Mr.R.A.Jones, CCW, Plas Gogerddan, Bow Street, Aberystwyth, SY23 3EE. Tel. 01970 821119.

SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER
***Campanula patula* IN THE GREAT MALVERN CHASE, WORCESTERSHIRE**
(v.c. 37)

Leaders: John Day & Kevin Walker.

Campanula patula occurs in a variety of ancient habitats within the Chase. The purpose of this day will be to survey a number of known sites as well as former or likely sites in the immediate area. Meet at 10.30am in the old ferry car park at Clevelode SO845.468.

SATURDAY 12th & SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER
NORTH CORNWAL (v.c.2)

Leader: Pat Acock

JOINT MEETING WITH THE BRITISH PTERIDOLOGICAL SOCIETY

We shall be having a joint meeting with the BSBI and the Fern Society to look at the *Dryopteris affinis* complex in North Cornwall.

We should be able to examine and determine the three main species, *Dryopteris affinis*, *D. borrieri* and *D. cambrensis* as well as at least two of the hybrids and *D. x critica*. For those with a good eye various morphotypes will no doubt be discussed. We should have the services of Ken Trewen and Dr Fred Rumsey from the Natural History Museum as well as our expert on the ground Matt Stribley.

The weekend could be very well attended so we may have to restrict numbers to 10-15 per society so please register an interest to Pat Acock at your earliest possible date and he will keep you informed of details. The usual field gear will be required. Some of the paths on the North Cornwall coast can be steep so good footwear is important. We hope to arrange a centre soon but in the meantime contact the leader Pat Acock at pat.acock@btinternet.com.