



British Pteridological Society

MEETINGS PROGRAMME FOR 2016

This year's meeting programme is outlined below, and as it is BPS's 125th Anniversary, we have themed much of the programme in celebration of this achievement. There will be a lot going on! I urge you to show your appreciation to those people who have so willingly and kindly offered to lead meetings by giving them your support. Could you please ensure that you notify me of your intentions on the Meetings Reply Form provided before 1st February 2016 or as early as possible. This allows meeting leaders to send information to you early and allows you to book in if necessary. After 1st February 2016, please contact the leader of the meeting directly. **Please be sure to include an SAE for each meeting** where you require the information in hard copy – an SAE is not necessary where you indicate that you are willing to receive the information by e-mail. Should you at a later date be unable to attend, then please let the leader know so that starting times can be adhered to. Please be patient however because although I collect details early from you, some leaders may not have the full meeting details until later in the year.

For the 2015 Meetings Programme, we trialled a new system whereby members could fill out the form on the BPS website. We hope to continue this system for the 2016 Meetings Programme.

The information below is as up to date as possible, and additional details are given in the "EXTRA DETAIL" note. In all instances the leaders or contact points should be able to provide more information, but please do remember that they are willing volunteers, and at this stage some of the meetings are still being planned. Any changes will be notified in the Bulletin mailing and, of course, to those who fill in the reply form.

Both the Safety Code and the Code of Conduct are important documents; please be sure to sign to say that you have read and understood them on the Meetings Return Form. This helps BPS to show that it is taking all reasonable care with your safety and also taking a responsible attitude to conservation.

Please note that the AGM will be on Saturday 16 April 2016 at the Natural History Museum, London. All members will receive further details with the Bulletin Mailing in the Spring – there is no need to request further details

Location	Leader	Date
Annual General Meeting – Natural History Museum, London. In addition to the main AGM business, the meeting will be themed around 'Figures and Events in BPS's History' as a start to our 125 th celebrations. There will be several talks, and our own fern photographic competition.	Bryan Smith	16 April 2016
RHS Chelsea Flower Show – its been 25 years since BPS 'did' Chelsea (and then for our 100 th Anniversary). Ann Robbins has great plans for our stand, and has already started looking for volunteers to help out. But all depends on our application to attend being accepted!	Ann Robbins	24-28 May 2016

North Somerset – based around the Cheddar area, we will visit Shapwick Fen and Priddy Mineries, both classic BPS sites. We also hope to visit Burrington Combe, interesting for its geology as well as its ferns.	Paul Ripley	4-5 June 2016
Plant Societies Weekend, RHS Wisley – BPS will again have a stand at this event, promoting BPS, along with other plant societies. Please contact me if you would like to help.	Peter Blake	17-19 June 2016
Cumbria – this will be our main week-long celebrations of our 125 th Anniversary. Alec Greening has organised a fantastic week of field and garden visits (mainly in the South Lakes area), and some evening talks back at the base (the Crooklands Hotel). We will hold our celebration dinner at the hotel on the Friday night.	Alec Greening	3-9 July 2016
Chromosome Workshop, RBG Edinburgh – if you’ve ever wanted to learn how to count fern chromosomes, this is your chance under Mary Gibby’s expert guidance. The 1-day course will be held at RBGE and numbers will be limited.	Mary Gibby	10 July 2016
BPS 125th Anniversary Display, RHS Wisley – we have been invited by RHS to have a weekend-long display at Wisley to celebrate our 125 th Anniversary and promote BPS. We will have 3 indoor stands, and RHS will be inaugurating their new fern beds. Please contact me if you would like to help.	Julian Reed	30-31 July 2016
Cultivar Day, RHS Wisley – during this 1-day meeting, the Cultivar Group has arranged for us to view the fern cultivars in the garden. In particular though, there will be an opportunity to see the fern herbarium collection to which Graham Ackers devoted a considerable amount of time and energy.	Julian Reed	6 August 2016
Southport Flower Show, Southport – this is a chance for you to help at the show, enthuse to the public about ferns and/or display your ferns to try and win in various display categories. Please contact me if you would like to help.	Michael Hayward	18-21 August 2016
North Wales – again as part of the 125 th celebrations, this will be at different locations to the 2015 meeting, but again over 4 full days.	David Hill	9-12 September 2016
Ferns & Fossils, World Museum, Liverpool – our popular ‘roadshow’ will be here this weekend. Please contact me if you would like to help.	Alison Evans	16-18 September 2016
Autumn Indoor Meeting, RHS Harlow Carr – as a finale to our 125 th celebrations, there will be a number of talks on the theme “The Future of Pteridology”. We hope to include, for example, scientific developments, cultivation and cultivar developments, “what’s new” generally, and the future of BPS.	Roger Golding	5 November 2016



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EXTRA DETAIL FOR MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2016

RHS Chelsea Flower Show, 24-28 May 2016

BPS is applying to have a stand as a Discovery Exhibit at the show. If successful, we will have a week-long display of ferns and BPS material to encourage people to appreciate and successfully grow ferns and, hopefully, join BPS.

Leader: Ann Robbins.

North Somerset, Saturday 4 - Sunday 5 June 2016

The meeting will visit both wetland and limestone sites near Cheddar. We will see some magnificent specimens of *Osmunda* and hopefully *Thelypteris palustris* at Shapwick Fen, and we will be visiting Priddy Mineries. Both these are classic BPS sites. We are also hoping to do some exploring in and around Burrington Combe (of "Rock of Ages" fame), where there is a lot of interesting geology and, according to the Institute of Geological Sciences, "many ferns, mosses and liverworts flourish in the humid sheltered East and West Twin valleys".

Leader: Paul Ripley.

Plant Societies Weekend, RHS Wisley, Friday 17 – Sunday 19 June 2016

BPS will again have a stand at this event which showcases a variety of plant societies. We will be promoting the appreciation of ferns, fern growing and of course, the benefits of being a member of BPS. Please contact me if you would like to help.

Leader: Peter Blake.

Cumbria Week, Sunday 3 July – Saturday 9 July 2016

This will be our main celebration of our 125th Anniversary, and located in the area where it all began. Alec Greening has organised a fantastic week-long meeting, based in the birth place of the Society, which will include a variety of field excursions to see ferns in their natural environment, and visits to prominent gardens to see cultivated ferns and National Collections of ferns. We can expect to see some rare natural ferns and cultivars during the week. In addition, there will be some evening talks and a celebratory dinner on the final evening. Alec sent round a flier with the Pteridologist mailing earlier in the year with details of our base – the Crooklands Hotel and a discounted room rate. A copy of the flier and further details of the week (3 pages!) and a map of locations can be found on the BPS website.

Leader: Alec Greening.

Chromosome Workshop, , Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh - Sunday 10 July 2016

To be held in the teaching laboratory, RBGE, between 10.00 - 15.30, the aim of the workshop will be to introduce participants to the traditional method of making chromosome counts on ferns first described by Irene Manton in her 1950 book, 'Cytology and Evolution in the Pteridophyta'. The workshop will include an introduction to cell division and meiosis, then practical work on the "squash technique" using fresh and fixed sporangial material. We will be using binocular and compound microscopes. Numbers will be limited.

Leader: Mary Gibby.

Southport Flower Show, Thursday 18 – Sunday 21 August 2016

BPS will have a stand in the “Societies Tent” promoting the Society, demonstrating spore propagation and answering questions from visitors. There are also a number of fern display categories in which you could win prizes for your ferns. Please contact me if you would like to help.
Leader: Michael Hayward.

North Wales, Friday 9 – Monday 12 September 2016

Continuing the 125th anniversary theme, this meeting will be in North Wales for a long weekend of exploring and recording. We will be re-visiting well known sites such as Cwm Idwal, and new venues, with mountain flora high on the agenda. As mountain weather is unpredictable, we’ll have a good and poor weather programme, but either way expect to get wet! We will be based close to Betws-y-Coed on the A5, providing access to Snowdonia and the Gwydyr Forest, and more further afield the Llŷn and Anglesey, or Conwy and the Great Orme if mountain weather is very poor. These also provide alternative venues for activities not including ferns (apparently such things do occur).

Possibilities include a steep trek up into the extremely wet and exposed site of **Llyn Cwmffynnon**, home to Wales’ largest population of *Lycopodiella inundata*, and other mountain flora. Also, a long day in **Cwm Idwal** with varied geology and stunning scenery. Another day will be on lower ground, exploring parts of **Anglesey**, including coastal rarities or inland marshes. We will round off with the Gwydyr forest and Conwy Valley lead mines, Aberconwy Nursery and afternoon tea at Pensychnant.
Leader: David Hill.

Ferns and Fossils, World Museum, Liverpool, Friday 16 – Sunday 18 September 2016

This popular BPS ‘roadshow’ will once again display a wide variety of ferns and their fossil ancestors to the public, only this time it will be at the home of the BPS Archive. There will be hands-on activities for all ages, and we will need volunteers to promote ferns and the BPS. Please contact me if you would like to help.

Leader: Alison Evans.

FORWARD PLANNER FOR 2017

We have a couple of ideas for meetings in 2017 and these include:

Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire - a new area for us to explore.

Northumbria

Scotland

Jersey

Northern Ireland

However, if there are any places you would like us to include in future programmes, or better still if you would like to lead a meeting (with plenty of support from a Meetings Sub-committee member!), please let me know.

Bryan Smith
Meetings Secretary
Meetings@eBPS.org.uk
October 2015



British Pteridological Society

MEETINGS PROGRAMME REPLY FORM 2016

The Meetings Organisers will send you more information on the meetings you wish to attend. Apart from the AGM (for which you will automatically receive information in the Bulletin mailing), this can be sent by post or by e-mail. If by post, **an SAE is required for each meeting**, but if by e-mail, include your e-mail address in the address box. For the meetings you would like more information on, please write either “SAE” or “e-mail” in the final column. Leave blank where you do not require further information.

Meeting	Comments	More Information State “SAE”, or “e-mail” or leave blank
AGM & Spring Indoor Meeting, NHM, London, 16 April 2016	Information to be sent out with the Bulletin mailing	
RHS Chelsea Flower Show, 24-28 May 2016	Hard copy or e-mail documentation	
North Somerset, 4-5 June 2016	Hard copy or e-mail documentation	
Plant Societies Weekend, RHS Wisley, 17-19 June 2016	Hard copy or e-mail documentation	
Cumbria, 3-9 July 2016	Hard copy or e-mail documentation	
Chromosome Workshop, RBG Edinburgh, 10 July 2016	Hard copy or e-mail documentation	
BPS 125th Anniversary Display, RHS Wisley, 30-31 July 2016	Hard copy or e-mail documentation	
Cultivar Day, RHS Wisley, 6 August 2016	Hard copy or e-mail documentation	
Southport Flower Show, 18-21 August 2016	Hard copy or e-mail documentation	
North Wales, 9-12 September 2016	Hard copy or e-mail documentation	
Ferns & Fossils, World Museum, Liverpool, 16-18 September 2016	Hard copy or e-mail documentation	
Autumn Indoor Meeting, RHS Harlow Carr, 5 November 2016	Hard copy or e-mail documentation	

Name and address (plus e-mail address if appropriate)

NB IF YOU HAVE COMPLETED ANY OF THE BOXES ABOVE, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM ON PAGE 13

MEETING ATTENDEE'S DECLARATIONS FOR 2016

Important: The first two annual declarations must be signed before attending meetings. Both documents referred to were printed in the Bulletin, Volume 7, Number 5 (2012), and are available on the BPS website (<http://ebps.org.uk/bps/meetings/>). However, if you do not have access to either or both of the documents, you can request hard copies (please send an SAE with your request). You will then be sent copies and asked to sign and return the declaration(s). If you are under 18, the third annual declaration must also be signed before attending meetings.

I wish to attend one or more field meeting(s) of the British Pteridological Society during 2015 notwithstanding that this may involve visiting terrain which is rough and potentially hazardous. I understand that it is a condition of my attending a field meeting that I will be responsible at all times for my own safety and conduct, and that I will not jeopardise the safety of the other members of the field meeting. I have recently read and I agree to abide by the "BPS Safety Code".

Signed _____

Alternatively, please supply a copy of the BPS Safety Code

I have recently read and understood the "Code of Conduct for the Conservation and Enjoyment of Wild Plants" and I agree to abide by its provisions.

Signed _____

Alternatively, please supply a copy of the Code of Conduct for the Conservation and Enjoyment of Wild Plants

I am under 18 and will be accompanied either by my parent(s), my Legal Guardian(s) or a BPS member acting *in loco parentis*.

Signed _____ Date of birth ____/____/____

Please return completed form to Bryan Smith by 1 February 2016 at the latest, together with the appropriate number of SAEs. Please mark the SAEs for meetings with the meeting venue. After this date, copies of this form and SAEs will not be forwarded to the meeting leaders, so please then contact them directly.

Bryan Smith, Rookwood, 1 Prospect Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, NR32 3PT