



SOUTH WALES AND THE BORDERS GROUP

OUTLINE PROGRAMME FOR 2017 – December 2016

<p>Monday 19th June.</p>	<p>National Museum of Wales Herbarium and a garden visit. Leaders: Brian and Sue Dockerill</p> <p>We have arranged with Sally Whyman, the Botany Curator at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, to visit the herbarium at the museum. She will have available international, and especially Welsh, herbarium specimens and we will have the opportunity to seek out material of particular interest to members of the group. She will also show us the Museum's botanical library.</p> <p>As this visit will be in the afternoon, starting at 1.30pm., we would like to invite you to visit our garden which is about 40 minutes north of Cardiff in the morning.</p> <p>Meeting here (19, Westfield Road, Glyncoch, Pontypridd, Mid-Glam., CF37 3AG) any time after 10.00am and at the museum at 1.30pm. We expect to be able to arrange free parking at the museum, details will be given nearer the date. You are welcome to bring a picnic lunch to eat here, in the garden or indoors depending on the weather.</p>
<p>Thursday 27th July.</p>	<p>Downton Gorge National Nature Reserve, and Mary Knoll Valley, near Ludlow Shropshire. Leaders: Brian and Sue Dockerill</p> <p>For our July meeting we will visit the Downton Gorge National Nature Reserve. The reserve is managed by Natural England on a private estate, and not normally open to the public, but we have arranged with the Senior Reserve Manger to have a tour. We'll follow this with a walk in the nearby Mary Knoll valley.</p> <p>We have been advised that "It is a bit of a walk in and folk need to be reasonably steady on their feet, as the going is uneven and on narrow paths". Safety advice has been provided and stout footwear and suitable protection from sun or rain as appropriate are advised. Please bring a packed lunch to allow for flexibility on the day.</p> <p>As car parking is limited we will meet at 10.00am in the car park of the Ludlow Food Centre (Bromfield, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 2JR) two miles north of Ludlow on the A49. This will allow us to car share to the reserve if necessary.</p>

<p>Thursday 31st August.</p>	<p>Pilwort survey in Powys. Leaders: Brian and Sue Dockerill</p> <p>You may have seen the article by Fred Rumsey “A new national Pillwort Survey” in the 2015 edition of The Pteridologist Vol 6 Part 2 p161. He was encouraging Regional Groups to survey the species in their areas and, as we knew that parts of Wales were hot-spots for the species, we contacted him and received a list of sites. We also joined a Pillwort hunting weekend in the New Forest and “got our eyes in”. Since then we’ve visited several locations in an area roughly described as being between Hay-on-Wye and Builth Wells and in some cases found huge quantities of Pillwort – indeed hot-spots to rival the New Forest!</p> <p>It is our intention to visit further sites in 2017 and we will select one of the best areas for our August meeting. We will not expect to see a great range of other ferns but as a bonus the scenery is great in this relatively remote and rarely walked area.</p> <p>Final arrangements will await some of next year’s visits but, for the moment, please put this date in your diary for the meeting which will be held in this general area. Assume a full day with a packed lunch. Obviously if you would like to join us on any of our preliminary recognisances please just get in touch and we will let you know when we plan any outings.</p>
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For more information on any of the trips or to express an interest please contact:

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