



Scotland Meetings Programme 2017

ALL WELCOME!

<p>Saturday April 1 11 am</p>	<p><i>Asplenium septentrionale</i> monitoring</p> <p>Fatlips Castle, in Roxburghshire, in the Scottish Borders at the top of Minto Craggs. <i>(NB: despite the date, this is not a joke!)</i></p> <p>Meeting point is the car park beneath Fatlips Castle, which is accessed via a dirt track road from the single track road leading from Ancrum to Denholm (NT 585 207).</p> <p>Please bring a packed lunch and drinks as there are no shops or cafes nearby.</p> <p>From the car park we will follow a path that leads to the castle. The track can be slippery when wet and is relatively steep in places. The known <i>Asplenium septentrionale</i> site is near the castle and accessible directly from the track. I have managed to get from the car to the ferns and back in 30 minutes, but we will take a more leisurely approach.</p> <p>There are a couple of additional areas that I would like to explore while we are there, because there are two south facing crags that I have not been to and it would be good to check if we can find anymore <i>A. septentrionale</i> plants there. Current records are for only two plants, which I have seen on a couple of occasions, but there are historic records of over a hundred plants and I am wondering if there is another site at this location where the other plants are. It may be advisable to bring binoculars in case we cannot get close to the other crags, so that we can at least check out the site from a distance.</p> <p>Leader: Frank Katzer (frank.katzer@more.dun.ac.uk)</p>
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<p>Tuesday May 2 10.00 am</p>	<p>Ascog Fernery workday</p> <p>Meet at the ferry terminal at Wemyss Bay, for the 10.15 ferry. I expect to return by the 4 pm ferry. We will car pool, to take as few cars across as possible. Ascog Fernery is now owned by Karin and Michael Burke. The plan is to assist in keeping the ferns in good condition, and to enjoy the collection and the gardens. Any donation of ferns is welcome!</p> <p>Food – bring a packed lunch. Tea/coffee will be provided by the Burkes. Bring - secateurs, knives or scraper, trowel, knee pads, trugs, gloves – you might prefer surgical gloves.</p> <p>Leader: Bridget Laue (bridgetlaue@blueyonder.co.uk)</p>
<p>Saturday June 17 10.30am</p>	<p>NTS Arduaine Garden, Arduaine, Oban, Argyll. PA34 4XQ</p> <p>Arduaine Graden (NM 798 105) has a large collection of exotic ferns growing outside, and quite a few natives too. There is also a conservatory with several tender ferns and tree ferns.</p> <p>There is a charge for non-members of NTS: £6.00 (£5.00 for seniors). BYO packed lunch or eat lunch at the Chartroom 2 Bistro at Loch Melfort Hotel</p> <p>Leader: Maurice Wilkins (01631 567188, or maurice@arduaine.plus.com)</p>
<p>Monday July 17 10.00am</p>	<p>Glenshee area, Cairngorms</p> <p>Meet at lay-by south of Devil's Elbow on east side of the road (NO 133 753).</p> <p>Steep, rough walk up to screes for <i>Polystichum lonchitis</i> and other limestone ferns. On to the ski buildings at the Cairnwell to see large population of <i>Botrychium</i> and four species of clubmoss. If there is time, return by Drummore Loch with good populations of <i>Dryopteris affinis</i> agg.</p> <p>Please bring food and drink as required. Be prepared for Scottish mountain conditions.</p> <p>Leader: Heather McHaffie (heathermchaffie@hotmail.com)</p>

<p>Saturday August 5 10 am</p>	<p>Mountain ferns, Ben Vrackie, Pitlochry</p> <p>A return trip to this rich site for alpine flora, including some interesting ferns and even more interesting fern allies. Last year we got waylaid by clubmosses, moonwort and various other delights, and never made it as far as the summit and beyond, where mountain bladder fern and holly fern are reputed to be found. Straight to the top this time!</p> <p>Interesting ferns are at various locations as much as 1km or more from the main path. We may also divert off the main path on the way down, in the hope of seeing variegated horsetail.</p> <p>Meet at 10am in the large car park at the tourist information centre on N side of the main Atholl Road (A924), grid ref. NN 9415 5805. We can then combine into fewer cars and drive up to the car park beyond Moulin (NN 9435 5952). From here there is a path to the top of Ben Vrackie (NN 951 632), a distance of about 4.5km. Further info on the route is available at: http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/perthshire/ben-vrackie.shtml</p> <p>Allowing for ferny meanderings, we can expect a total round trip of up to 15km (9miles). We should be back to the car park by 6pm at the latest.</p> <p>The path will be steep in places and the terrain generally difficult, especially as we leave the path to search crags. Be prepared for potentially typical Scottish mountain conditions, i.e. wet, windy and cold, even in August! In other words, good hiking boots, waterproofs and warm clothing are essential and hat and gloves are advised. Also sun cream, because miracles do happen. Bring a packed lunch and flask. Binoculars are very useful for inspecting crags without risking life and limb. Various scarce non-ferny plants are also known from this site, so don't ignore the flowers.</p> <p>Leader: Andy McGregor (andymacgregor@ymail.com)</p>
<p>Saturday October 7 from 10.30am</p>	<p>Annual Indoor Meeting, 50 Liberton Brae, Edinburgh EH16 6AF</p> <p>Tour of the garden, coffee/tea and lunch provided! Including plant sales, book sales, fern presentations and planning for 2018.</p> <p>Leader: Bridget Laue (bridgetlaue@blueyonder.co.uk)</p>

BSBI members are very welcome. If you would like to attend any of the BPS outings, please contact me, Bridget Laue, a few weeks before the date of the meeting, when further details should be available.

All meetings will go ahead despite inclement weather, so please dress appropriately. Some of the walking can be strenuous. Please bring any drinks and snacks you require with you. If possible please let the meeting leader know a few days in advance if you will attend so that they know to wait for you if you are a little late.

Contact details: Bridget Laue (bridgetlaue@blueyonder.co.uk)

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For up to date information check the website:

www.ebps.org.uk/events/category/meetings/regional/scotland