

MEETINGS PROGRAMME FOR 2010

This years meeting programme is outlined below. We urge you to support 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 January 2010 or as early as possible. This allows us to send information to you early and allows you to book in if necessary. After 1st January 2010 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 we collect details early from you, some leaders may not have the details until later in the year.

The information here is as up to date as possible; 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 late winter 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 the Safety Code, Bulletin Vol 5 pt 5 p.275 (and on web site) and conservation Code of Conduct, Bulletin Vol 5 pt 4 p.199 (and on web site) on the Meetings Return Form or request these documents. This helps us to show that we are taking all reasonable care with your safety and also taking a responsible attitude to conservation.

Please note that our AGM will be on the 10 April 2010 at the Natural History Museum.

Location	Leader	Date
Reminder for 2009 meeting: Indoor meeting, University of Reading. Hymenophyllum workshop	Paul Ripley (Dr Stephen Jury is hosting)	31 October 2009
Nice, France We hope to move along the coast and look at Mediterranean Asplenium which will be at their best at this time. We will hire cars but 8 to 12 people will probably be the best number to move through the crowded streets in this area. The dates we propose are provisional. We will be able to firm these up as soon as we have a receive the replies and have confirmed details with our colleague Sebastian. Fuller details of the five days which include flying will follow but we will probably fly Easyjet from Gatwick.	Sebastien Sant	Feb 2-6 2010
Annual General Meeting- Natural History Museum. This meeting will include a talk on Pteridomania by Sarah Whittingham, as well as the Presidential Address	Pat Acock (Alison Paul is hosting)	10 April
Ireland This is planned to be a mix of garden and site visits	Jim Dennison	10-17 July

in SW Ireland		
Scotland –Argyll gardens, possibly including Ascog, Benmore and Arduaine (provisional)	Frank McGavigan	24,25,26 July
West Wales – North Ceredigion field visits (watch out for <i>Dryopteris affinis</i> !)	Anthony Pigott	13,14,15 August
South Yorkshire – mostly gardens, possibly including Wentworth Castle, and Brodsworth and Wortley Halls	Paul Ruston	4,5,6 September
Northern Lake District A long weekend meeting which will include one day of exploration in a relatively unknown area as well as some strenuous outings. We also hope to visit unfamiliar sites for <i>Asplenium septentrionale</i> and for <i>Lycopodium annotinum</i> .	Mike Porter & Peter Campion	Sept 24-26 (3 full days in the field)
Provisional - Autumn Indoor meeting – details to be confirmed, but likely to be Cambridge based	Sylvia Martinelli	6th November

REGIONAL MEETINGS

I can fully endorse all our regional groups. If you are new and fortunate to have a group near you, it is a wonderful way of getting started and meeting fellow members of the Society. Many of our members travel miles and attend many of the local groups. For details of additional meetings in the following areas, please contact the regional organisers, enclosing a SAE. If you have no group near you, you can always start one. The Meetings' Secretary and other regional leaders will always be willing to give advice.

Yorkshire Fern Group: Bruce Brown, 4 Bank Parade, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 3DY

Yorkshire@eBPS.org.uk

South East: Paul Ripley, 2 Station Villas, Station Road, Appledore, Kent TN26 2DF. 01233 758410

SouthEast@eBPS.org.uk

East Anglia: Tim Pyner, 182 Southchurch Boulevard, Southend on Sea, Essex SS2 4UX. 01702 580402 e-mail EastAnglia@eBPS.org.uk

North West England: Peter Campion, Lake View, Castle Hill, Bassenthwaite, Keswick CA12 4RG. 017687 76272. peter@petercampion.com or NorthWest@eBPS.org.uk

Cornwall: Matt Stribley, 8 St Georges Road, Truro, Cornwall TR1 3JE e-mail Cornwall@eBPS.org.uk

Scotland: Frank McGavigan, 12 Glenbank Avenue, Lenzie, Glasgow G66 5AA

Frank@mcgavigan2.demon.co.uk

S. Wales & Borders: Brian Dockerill, 19 Westfield Road, Glyncoch, Pontypridd, Mid-Glam., CF37 3AG; e-mail: SouthWalesBorders@eBPS.org.uk

Please note, if you are travelling or holidaying in one of the above regions you would be welcome to join in any of the above region's meetings. Contact the leader for a list of meetings.

Although not part of a national or regional meetings programme, Nick Hards (Nickjhards@aol.com) would like to invite people to contact him by email if they are interested in spending a day or two in 2010 looking for ferns either around **Savernake Forest or around Bradford Upon Avon**? He can't set up a sort of south central England group but would be interested in having company if anyone else is local enough, and keen. He's just started investigating whether there is the potential for a society meeting in Wiltshire following on from a suggestion at the last meetings sub committee. He doesn't know if anything unusual might be found so the trips will be exploratory rather than formally organised meetings.

FURTHER FERN MEETINGS OF INTEREST.

Botanic Cornwall Group

The Botanic Cornwall Group have many meetings a year with a few having a definite fern input. Please contact Matt Stribley, address under Cornwall above.

The Field Studies Council

The Field Studies Council have a few fern specific courses. Course fees include tuition, use of library and other centre facilities. Centre-organised transport and board and lodging are in simple but comfortable accommodation. In some cases course members may be non-resident if they wish. Contact Preston Montfort Field Centre tel: 01743 850380 for a catalogue or information on all the field stations on the mainland.

NOTES FOR MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS

Please Read These Notes Carefully

If you are attending a meeting send the reply slip to Rob Cooke before 1/01/10. After this time contact the leader direct. The Leader should make you aware of the Society's Safety Code and Conservation Code of Practise. You should read or have read these carefully. Copies are in the Bulletins of 2000 and 2001 which can be obtained from the Meetings Secretary, or will be sent if you so request one on the Meetings Reply Form. Early booking of accommodation is advisable. Members should make their own arrangements unless it is stated it is provided but in case of difficulty, the leader may be able to help.

Weekend and longer meetings normally begin with those attending having a get together at the centre hotel on the evening proceeding the meeting proper but it may not always be possible for leaders to be present so try to make yourself known to other members.

Private cars are normally used during a field meeting. Arrangements may be possible to put people in need of lifts in touch with drivers with spaces.

Plants should only be collected with permission of the leader of the meeting. All collecting must be within the relevant conservation laws and the Society's Code of Conduct.

Members attending meetings should be prepared for poor weather and muddy or rough conditions underfoot. Meetings will normally go ahead regardless of the conditions. Walking boots or Wellingtons plus waterproof clothing are often essential. Leaders will advise participants of any known unusually severe conditions that may be encountered.

Lunch is usually taken at a convenient pub. The leader should advise if it is necessary to take a packed lunch, but it does no harm to check in case everyone else thinks that you know!

Remember that the BPS meetings are arranged for your benefit, make the most of them. In particular, if you are a relatively new member, don't be afraid to ask questions. The leader and other members will be very happy to explain things.

Meetings Secretary and Information: Rob Cooke

Important note for Minors

We are required to exercise caution in including unaccompanied minors on field trips, so when you contact Rob Cooke on the Meetings' Reply Form, please indicate if you are a minor so that he can provide you with the correct form.