



MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2011

<p>Saturday 25th June (10.30 am)</p>	<p>St Bees Head</p> <p>Maps: OS Landranger 89, OS Explorer 303</p> <p>Meet at car park at Tarnflat Hall GR NX948145, up the narrow road to the west of Sandwith. (Not much parking space so share transport if possible.)</p> <p>It's some time (1995) since we explored this headland with its red sandstone cliffs, abundant birdlife and wildflowers so it will be good to see how the ferns are coping with life in the 21st Century. The speciality is <i>Dryopteris aemula</i> growing unexpectedly on an open grassy slope high above the sea and, at sea level, there are good numbers of <i>Asplenium marinum</i>. Other more common ferns are frequent along the lanes and tracks of the headland. The distance is about 4 miles with some moderate gradients and rough sections.</p> <p>Packed lunch required Leader - Mike Porter</p>
<p>Saturday 9th July (10.30 am)</p>	<p>Around Arnside, including Gaitbarrows NNR</p> <p>Maps: Explorer OL7 (1:25,000) Landranger 97 (1:50,000)</p> <p>We start at Gaitbarrows NNR and hope to find some old records amongst the limestone pavements as well as other interesting flora. Hazards: Uneven and possibly slippery limestone pavement. Watch out for ticks. Wear long trousers tucked into socks. Getting lost!</p> <p>Then we move on to one of the few Cumbrian locations for <i>Thelypteris palustris</i> (Marsh Fern), before visiting other sites. Wellies may be useful.</p> <p>Initial parking: We have been given permission to park by the barn on Gaitbarrows. Enter the reserve from the road at 34/482.778. The metal barrier should be open. A rough track, depicted rather faintly on the map, goes south and leads eventually to the barn. (Please note that this is not the usual access which is further west.)</p> <p>Packed lunch Leader - Frances Haigh</p>

<p>Saturday 13th Aug. 10.00 am</p>	<p>The Witherslack Valley</p> <p>Meet at Witherslack Hall entrance. G.R. 436858 (OS Explorer OL7)</p> <p>Just over 5 miles on gentle lanes and footpaths exploring the wooded valley of Witherslack where many exciting varieties were found in years gone by. Highlights include a superb ferny grotto, a magnificent stand of <i>Polystichum setiferum</i> and a self-service cafe.</p> <p>Packed lunch required. Leader: Alec Greening</p>
<p>18th – 21st August</p>	<p>The Southport Flower Show</p>
<p>Saturday 10th Sept 10am</p>	<p>Ness Gardens and visit to Hilbre Island</p> <p>Meet in the Car Park at Ness Gardens 10 am. Ness, Neston, South Wirral, CH64 4AY admission charge of £6:50 (over 50s £5:50) at Ness.</p> <p>For Hilbre: We need to leave the jetty at West Kirby 2 p.m. sharp to follow the ebbing tide. It takes about 1 hour of gentle walking across the wet sands (with an occasional paddle) to reach the main island. 2 hours on the Island would be plenty. (Please notify Michael Hayward if you wish to come additional information and directions will be sent to you)</p> <p>Packed lunch or the good Café at Ness gardens. Leader: Michael Hayward</p>
<p>Saturday 15th October</p>	<p>Annual General Meeting at Holehird Gardens, Windermere</p> <p>The usual fare of frond stretching talks and stimulating company.</p> <p>There will be plant sales, displays and competitions for ferns in pots and for the best photographs.</p> <p>(Packed lunch) Further details will be sent out in September.</p>

Names and phone numbers in case you need to get in touch at the last minute:

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See the web site for all the Society meetings www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/bps/index.htm