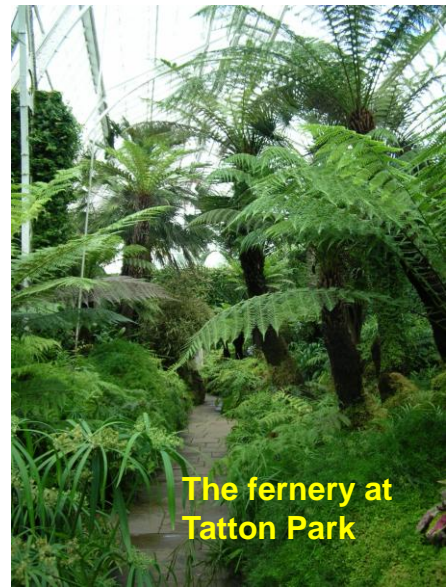


Tatton Park Flower Show 22-26 July, 2009

The BPS at the show – setting up.



The BPS made an appearance at the RHS Tatton Park Flower Show for the first time in 2009. We took a van load of ferns from our gardens and some that Yvonne has been looking after at The Firs. Roland Ennos drove the large Luton van and the stand was set up by Roger Golding, Yvonne Golding and Michael Hayward. Roger spent several hours producing our very attractive hand-written labels and Michael spent many hours making up spore packets and printing leaflets. Roland had an interesting time being hauled out of the mud on the showground and cooking us many sustaining meals. Throughout the week we had a team of 20 BPS members who each took a turn of manning the stand and talking to the public. The stand was a simple arrangement of ferns in pots enhanced by a couple of fern chairs and plant stands, the whole effect being that of a Victorian conservatory.



Tatton Park Flower Show 22-26 July, 2009

The BPS at the show – our stand.



The judges liked our stand and gave us a Silver Flora Medal. The aim was to show the public the huge range of ferns which can be grown in pots in different situations. We attracted 15 new members and were able to share our enthusiasm about ferns with a lot of visitors. Many learnt how to grow ferns from spore and took away over 100 packets of spores to try for themselves. A good range of merchandise was sold together with around 100 *Pteridologists*.



In all we exhibited around 60 ferns which were a mixture of British natives:



Cryptogramma crispera; *Cystopteris fragilis* and *Gymnocarpium dryopteris* with two pretty horsetails *Equisetum pratense* and *Equisetum x mildeanum* (challenging to distinguish!), together with a range of British hardy cultivars, foreign hardy species and cultivars and greenhouse species and cultivars. Many were admired but maybe the stars of the show were Yvonne's *Platycerium*s and tiny *Ophioglossum petiolatum*; Michael's *Polystichum setiferum* 'Green Lace' and an especially fine *Dryopteris erythrosora* and Roger's *Adiantum reniforme*.



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Fern growers at the show.



We formed good relationships with the main fern sellers at the show. We bought so many ferns from Bentley Plants (incl. very fine specimens of *Blechnum tabulare*) that the owner John Wilson joined our Society! BPS member Angela Tandy from Fibrex Nurseries revealed ferns in interesting places! As usual they had a good range of ferns on display including *Davallia* (formerly *Humata*) *tyermanii* and *Dryopteris crassirhizoma*. Ken Green from The Walled Garden, Hornby joined our Society at Southport Flower Show last year. They displayed some nice ferns in amongst the flowers and hostas including *Osmunda japonica* and a central *Cyathea cooperi*. The main fern attraction (apart from our BPS stand of course) was once again that put on by Gold Medal winner's Fernatix. The specimens were beautifully spaced so as to see the full form of the plants. My favourites were *Polystichum vestitum*, a very fine multi-trunked *Blechnum gibbum* and that fantasy tree fern *Cyathea tomentosissima*. Kerry and Steven from Fernatix, who are very talented fern-growers and exhibitors, have yet to re-join our Society but we are still working on it!

