



**Yorkshire Fern Group
Meetings Programme 2009**

<p>Saturday 21st Feb 10.30am</p>	<p>Hardcastle Crag, near Hebden Bridge</p> <p>Meeting Place - The National Trust Visitor Pay and Display Car Park (£4) at Grid Ref. 34(SD) 989291 Landranger 103 or Explorer OL21. This is at the end of Midgehole Road, off the A 6033 Keighley Road out of Hebden Bridge (the best approach).</p> <p>Food - Packed lunch. Going - Moderate to possibly severe (see below). Footwear - Boots.</p> <p>Additional Information:- Permission has been obtained to access/explore Hebden Wood. This is the woodland on the steep north facing valley side near the entrance to the Crag, and is outside the NT boundary. It looks to have a lot of potential!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Leader – Brian Byrne</p>
<p>Saturday May 30th 10.30 am plus 16, 23 May & 6 June</p>	<p>Moonwort surveys</p> <p>Meeting Place - Bridge Inn Car Park, Grinton Near Reeth (SE (44) 046 984) or lat/lon 54.381521 -1.929198 (for Sat Navvers). Landranger 98 OL30</p> <p>Food - Pub grub (Bridge Inn?) or pack-up Going - easy on roadsides but a bit hilly in places and exposed (warm clothes and waterproofs) Footwear - Anything comfy</p> <p>The plan this year is to look at the same stretches on different occasions to see how numbers change and also to intensively look at fixed quadrats to accurately count the numbers of spikes at a fine scale to try and work out why we have not been getting similar locations over the last two years when we have revisited sites in the NYMNP. Ring to offer help on any of the non-bold dates.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Leader - Barry Wright</p>

<p>Saturday 20th June 10.30am</p>	<p>Grimwith Reservoir</p> <p>Meeting place - Reservoir car-park, SE063640</p> <p>Food - Packed lunch Going - Moderate. Footwear – Boots</p> <p>We will explore the path round the reservoir taking in the large Equisetum x litorale colony and counting the Ophioglossum spikes. We can also look out for Botrychium. There is a record for Asplenium trichomanes ssp. trichomanes up Gateup Gill if we have time to look for it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Leader - Bruce Brown</p>
<p>Saturday 11th July 10.30am</p>	<p>Askham Bog, York Cemetery, and Strensall Common</p> <p>Meeting place: From the A64 going eastbound, take the A1036 slip-road exit towards York, and turn left into the car parking area for the Askham Bog Nature Reserve. SE575481.</p> <p>Food: Packed lunch or pub grub Going: Moderate Footwear: Boots</p> <p>Askham Bog has huge Osmundas and colonies of marsh fern, and we can look for Dryopteris x deweveri. Then we move on to York Cemetery SE610508. The Victorian part has largely been left to nature and is interesting to explore. A substantial fernery was created along a banking by Jack Bouckley and James Merryweather and is in need of some tidying up (i.e. removal of overgrown angiosperms), so come prepared with trowels, forks, gloves, etc. for a little gardening. Finally we can move on to Strensall Common (approx SE6561) to look for Pillwort. Firing on the MOD range ceases at 3.30pm and should be clear for public access by 4pm.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Leader – Bruce Brown</p>
<p>22nd - 26th July</p>	<p>Tatton Park Flower Show</p> <p>Help required to man the BPS stand, organised by Yvonne Golding. She has already had a good response to her request for volunteers, but may still have some vacant ‘slots’ for helpers. She can be contacted at: yvonne@buxtonhouse.free-online.co.uk</p>

<p>Saturday 1st August 10.30 am</p>	<p>Castle Howard</p> <p>Meeting place: Castle Howard is signposted from the A64. Park in the large visitor's car-park SE 712700 and meet under the Archway. We will be met by Joyce Kingman, who will organise entry tickets (fee payable if our party is more than 10) and take us to Ray Wood.</p> <p>Food: Packed lunch or cafe Going: Easy to moderate. Paths can be muddy and slippery if wet so walking boots suggested.</p> <p>Ray Wood is quite a dense woodland full of trees and flowering shrubs from all over the world growing in a completely natural setting - an absolute paradise! Our task is to compile a list of the native and foreign ferns including some cultivars that are naturalised there (and not all easy to spot). For those who wish there is plenty of opportunity to explore the grounds, lakes and gardens around Castle Howard house.</p> <p>Note: Road-works on the A64 York bypass at the A1036/ A1237 roundabout may cause severe delays, so plan accordingly.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Leader – Bruce Brown.</p>
<p>Saturday 15th August 10.30 am</p>	<p>Ingleborough</p> <p>Meeting place: Roadside parking in lay-by (rather limited) above the Hill Inn, Chapel-le-Dale, SD745778. Food: Packed lunch Going: Moderate to rough hill-walking. Footwear: Boots.</p> <p>A second attempt to get up Ingleborough, weather permitting, to around 650-700m altitude. One plant of <i>Dryopteris x ambrosiae</i> has been confirmed but we still need to find <i>Dryopteris expansa</i>. <i>Huperzia selago</i> also occurs here. The limestone band below it is quite steep but also of interest.</p> <p>On the way up and down we'll cross Southerscales N.R. with extensive limestone pavement rich in pteridophytes and other calcicoles, so if the weather is really poor we can console ourselves with an exploration of this area.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Leader – Bruce Brown</p>
<p>Saturday 12th September 10.30 am</p>	<p>Brodsworth</p> <p>Meeting place: Car-park of Brodsworth House, 5 miles NW of Doncaster, off the A635 Barnsley Road, post code DN5 7XJ. The Head Gardener at Brodsworth, Mr. Dan Boots, will be there to meet us at around 10.30am. The main purpose of the visit will be to complete the identification of the ferns in the fern dell, and also to see the progress of this recently planted fernery.</p>

	<p>Lunch: Both Brodsworth and Cusworth Hall have cafes providing cooked food and sandwiches.</p> <p>After we have finished at Brodsworth we will drive a short distance over to Cusworth Hall where a ferny surprise awaits. There is a small car parking charge at Cusworth Hall, which is 2 miles N of Doncaster off the A638, post-code DN5 7TU.</p> <p>As a contrast to garden viewing I thought perhaps a walk on the wildside, or in this case semi-wildside, would be in order, therefore, I propose we spend the remaining time we have left of the day by visiting some of the local woodland – information about this on the day.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Leader – Paul Ruston</p>
<p>Saturday 10th October from 10.00am</p> <p>AGM 2.00pm</p>	<p>Annual General Meeting</p> <p>10.00 Classroom open to set up plant sales, and discuss topics of interest over a cup of coffee.</p> <p>11.00 ‘Aspleniums’ talk by Dr Fred Rumsey, Natural History Museum</p> <p>12.30 Lunch, Harrogate Arms. To celebrate 25 years of the Yorkshire Group, the meal will be subsidised from group funds.</p> <p>14.00 AGM</p> <p>15.30 Tea, plant sales</p> <p>AGM meeting place - Field Classroom at the RHS Gardens, Harlow Carr, Harrogate.</p>

General notes about meetings

Meetings are open to all members and their guests. We ask that all attending meetings sign the declaration regarding safety and conduct at meetings. Copies of the articles will be available at meetings. Members and guests should not be put in danger, but are expected to be responsible for their own safety and to respect the countryside.

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. If you do miss us, try my mobile 0770 333 7861, or try phoning 01282 843070, or leave a message on the same number.

Plants can be taken to any meeting to be sold to other members on the usual 50-50 basis of half the sale price going to the grower and half to group finances.

Meeting leaders' contact details:

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Brian Byrne 01274 582797 Briankbyrne@aol.com
Bruce Brown 01943 467519 brucebrown@ukonline.co.uk
Paul Ruston 0114 258 0935 paulruston1@hotmail.com

Annual membership fee £2.00 per address.

Payable at the AGM to the Secretary/Treasurer (please make cheques payable to the 'Yorkshire Fern Group'). New members are always welcome, so 'spread the word' and get them to contact Bruce Brown.

**Secretary/Treasurer - Bruce Brown 4 Bank Parade, OTLEY LS21 3DY 01943
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