

BSBI SCOTTISH FIELD MEETINGS 2009.

SUNDAY 17 MAY 2009

GAILES MARSH & SHEWALTON SANDPIT, AYRSHIRE (v.c.75)

Leaders: Gill Smart, Dave Lang & Jim McIntosh

Shewalton Sandpit near Irvine, is a mosaic of dune grassland, woodland, heathland and open water habitats with a great diversity of species. Characteristic species include Creeping Willow (*Salix repens*), Fir Clubmoss (*Huperzia selago*) and Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*). The nearby Gailes Marsh is an area of wet grassland and heath on the Ayrshire coastal plain. Plants found here include Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*), Bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*) and Shepherds's Cress (*Teesdalia nudicaulis*). Scottish Wildlife Trust manage both sites and have kindly agreed to give a short introductory talk about their site conservation work and help lead our visit.

The emphasis of this field meeting will be on learning and we would particularly welcome beginners and anyone who has not been on a BSBI field meeting before – particularly locals, as this will be an opportunity to meet your Vice-county Recorders.

For further information and to book, please write to Gill Smart, SWT Reserve Manager South West, Unit 6 Kyle Business Park, Cunninghame Road, Irvine KA12 8JJ, telephone 01294 279376 or e-mail Gill at gsmart@swt.org.uk

SUNDAY 31st MAY 2009

ARTHUR'S SEAT, MIDLOTHIAN (v.c. 83)

Leader: Jim McIntosh

Holyrood Park's dramatic hills and crags give Edinburgh its distinctive skyline. They also provide grassland habitats for a remarkably diverse and interesting flora. We hope to see species such as Adder's-tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*), Spring Sandwort (*Minuartia verna*), Spring Cinquefoil (*Potentilla tabernaemontani*) amongst many others. Historic Scotland manages the park and we hope that one of their rangers will give a short talk about its conservation management. The emphasis of this field meeting will be on learning to identify and record and we would particularly welcome beginners and anyone who has not been on a BSBI field meeting before. Priority will be given to those who didn't manage to get a place on last year's fieldmeeting at Arthur's Seat. If this is you, please mention that in your booking and *book before April*.

Rail & bus stations within reasonably short walking distance. Places will be limited. For further information and to book, please write to Mrs Jane Jones, BSBI Admin Assistant, Cuilvona Cottage, Aberfoyle, Stirling, FK8 3TQ, or e-mail Jane at janebsbi@live.co.uk

SUNDAY 7th JUNE 2009
WHITEHILLS, BANFFSHIRE (v.c. 94)
Leaders: Andy Amphlett and Ian Green

This meeting will have a particular emphasis on helping new and less experienced members learn to identify wild plants. We will explore the coastline to the west of Whitehills, which has a very diverse flora including *Astragalus danicus* (Purple Milk-vetch), *Blysmus rufus* (Saltmarsh Flat-sedge), *Carex distans* (Distant Sedge), *Carex extensa* (Long-bracted Sedge), *Juncus maritimus* (Sea Rush), *Ligusticum scoticum* (Scots Lovage).

Bookings with SAE to Andy Amphlett, 72 Strathspey Drive, Grantown on Spey, Morayshire, PH26 3EY. E-mail Amphlett@grantownonspey.freeserve.co.uk

SATURDAY 13th JUNE 2009
WHITLAW MOSSES NNR, ROXBURGHSHIRE (v.c. 80)
Leaders: Jim McIntosh & Robin Payne

Whitlaw Mosses is an extremely rich and diverse series of basin mires. A number of notable species occur on the sites including Holy Grass (*Hierochloa odorata*), Cowbane (*Cicuta virosa*) and Round-leaved wintergreen (*Pyrola rotundifolia*). The emphasis of this field meeting will be on learning to identify and record and we would particularly welcome beginners and anyone who has not been on a BSBI field meeting before. We should also like to undertake a thorough search for Coralroot (*Corallorrhiza trifida*) which was not found during Site Condition Monitoring work in 2008, but which is undoubtedly present.

For further information and to book, please write to Mrs Jane Jones, BSBI Admin Assistant, Cuilvona Cottage, Aberfoyle, Stirling, FK8 3TQ, or e-mail Jane at janebsbi@live.co.uk. For more general information about Whitlaw Mosses NNR see www.nnr-scotland.org.uk

SATURDAY 20th & SUNDAY 21st JUNE 2009
FEARN PENINSULA, EASTER ROSS (v.c. 106)
Leaders: Brian & Barbara Ballinger

This meeting will be based on the Fearn peninsula by Tain and will explore a variety of local habitats. We hope to visit the Morrich More area as well as other coastal sites and possibly the Kyle of Sutherland looking for coastal, saltmarsh and dune plants. Species that may be seen include Variegated Horsetail (*Equisetum variegatum*), Seaside Century (*Centaurium littorale*), Purple Milk-vetch (*Astragalus danicus*) and Purple Oxytropis (*Oxytropis halleri*). We aim to fill gaps in the Atlas updating and the Rare Plants Register.

For details and to make bookings please contact Barbara Ballinger : 5, Shaftesbury Park, Dundee DD2 1LB : barbara@garrickwood.org.uk : tel 01382 669727

SATURDAY 4th JULY & SUNDAY 5th JULY 2009
YETHOLM, ROXBURGHSHIRE (v.c. 80)
Leader: Rod Corner

The object of the meeting is to tetrad-record around the Yetholm area. One day will be spent ascending the Cheviot Burn up to the plateau of The Cheviot dependant on the weather conditions. It is hoped to update records of montane species such as *Saxifraga stellaris* and *Epilobium alsinifolium* unknown elsewhere in the vice-county and assess their status. Other species known to occur are *Sedum villosum*, *Saxifraga hypnoides* and high altitude *Saxifraga granulata*. Those opting out for a less strenuous day will have a good choice of varying habitats to botanise in the lower ground where *Dianthus deltoides* should be seen. The other day will also be spent recording on the lower ground along the Bowmont Water and elsewhere. Participants should be equipped for hill walking and bring their own lunch.

Meeting point at Town Yetholm, 10.00am both days.

Bookings with sae please from Rod Corner at Hawthorn Hill, 36 Wordsworth Street, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7QZ. Tel. 01768 863660, email rod @hawthornhill.net

SUNDAY 12th JULY 2009
BEN LUI NNR, MID-PERTHS (v.c. 88)
Leaders: Jim McIntosh

A one day meeting to explore the rich and diverse montane habitats of Ben Lui and to help find several species that botanists have previously failed to find whilst Site Condition Monitoring. Some of the interesting species that we would hope to see include *Bartsia (Bartsia alpina)*, Mountain avens (*Dryas octopetala*) and Round-leaved wintergreen (*Pyrola rotundifolia*).

The site is managed by SNH and they have kindly offered to drive us up Glen Cononish in to the foot of the mountain using two long-wheel base landrovers, avoiding a long walk. Consequently numbers will be very strictly limited to 15. Those booking must be competent botanists and fit hillwalkers.

For further information and to book, please write to Mrs Jane Jones, BSBI Admin Assistant, Cuilvona Cottage, Aberfoyle, Stirling, FK8 3TQ, or e-mail Jane at janebsbi@live.co.uk. For more general information about Ben Lui NNR see www.nnr-scotland.org.uk

TUESDAY 14th JULY - MONDAY 20th JULY 2009
ISLE OF TIREE, MID EBUDES (v.c. 103)
Leaders: Lynne Farrell & John Bowler

The meeting will be based at the Alan Stevenson House, Hynish, Tiree, which has already been booked for our group. (Accommodation is in shared rooms, some 2-

bedded and some 3-bedded). All meals and accommodation are provided for the daily rate of about £31 (to be confirmed later). Car-sharing from the mainland and whilst on the island is preferred, as this would save on costs and problems with parking.

We would enjoy the botanical delights of the island, visiting the different habitats, both wet and dry. Recording populations of some of the rarer species, and possibly some for the Threatened Plants project also would be one of the aims. Consideration is being given as to whether starting work on a tetrad flora (following on from Preston and Pearman's excellent Flora of Tiree, Gunna and Coll 2000) would be worthwhile.

Tiree is essentially a flat island but there is one hill. Walking is not strenuous, but can be adventurous, particularly along the coast and in the dunes. Numbers are limited to no more than 20 people at the Alan Stevenson House. People who have already registered interest will need to confirm, please, by May 1st 2009 at the latest. Bookings to Lynne Farrell, farrell104@btinternet.com, or 41 High St, Heminford Grey, Cambs. PE28 9BJ.