

# Warwickshire Flora Group

## Newsletter No. 5 March 2013.

### FIELD MEETINGS 2013

You will have received a list of the Spring and Summer Field meetings with this Newsletter. This year we have teamed up with The Stour Valley Wildlife Group, the newly formed Friends of Hay Wood and we will also be visiting Polesworth Abbey where Father Phillip, an enthusiastic conservationist, is developing a wildlife area.

During the year there will be a few changes to the format of some of the meetings:

- At Polesworth we will try a “tetrad bash” to maximize recording
- Our first WFG workshop on Grasses will be held at Brandon Marsh in June
- In the Autumn Jon Bowley will lead an evening walk that will terminate at a canal-side hostelry.

Please note that the Snitterfield Meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup> has already been advertised as a national meeting with the BSBI and priority will be given to BSBI members whether from Warwickshire or not. We are limiting the meeting to 20, but if there are any free places available a few days before the meeting they will be offered to non BSBI members.

### WFG INDOOR MEETING

This year's indoor meeting will be held on  
Sunday 7 April in the Barn, Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve, CV3 3GW.

The provisional programme for the afternoon is:

Ian Trueman: The Birmingham and Black Country Flora Project

Karl Curtis: Reserves Manager from the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

John Walton: The 4Ws of Recording and Resources to Help You

Monika Walton: What is a Warwickshire Rare Plant?

John Roberts: A Review of 2012.

Meet at 1.30 p.m. for tea and biscuits, talks to start at 2 p.m.

and finish about 3.45 p.m

Admission is free.

### WARWICK HERBARIUM VISIT

In November about a dozen botanists turned up to have a look around the Herbarium at Warwick Museum. Jane O'Dell organized guided tours of the exhibits and had botanical specimens on show for us. We were introduced to the museum's director John Radley who spoke briefly about plans to move the herbarium in the summer. Barbara Davies and Ray Langdon who have been helping to catalogue and mount plant specimens for many years were also on hand, and as they were stepping down at Christmas from this role, they were thanked for all of their excellent work over the years.

### NEW SPECIES TO THE COUNTY

Sixteen new plants were added to the official county list in 2012, most were casuals or garden escapes. A full list of these and other interesting finds will be published in the Botanical Report 2012 available soon.

## THREATENED PLANTS PROJECT 2013

This year we will be playing catch-up with the BSBI Threatened Plants Project by surveying the plants for 2008 and 2009 that we did not cover when we joined the scheme in 2010.

The species to be covered are:

<i>Blysmus compressus</i>	Flat-sedge
<i>Campanula patula</i>	Spreading Bellflower
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Helleborine
<i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i>	Heath Cudweed
<i>Hypopitys monotropa</i>	Yellow Bird's-nest
<i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>	Tubular Water-dropwort
<i>Scleranthus annuus</i>	Annual Knawel
<i>Stellaria palustris</i>	Marsh Stitchwort

A full list of sites will be available in paper form at the indoor meeting and will also be sent later electronically.

Survey forms and details of how to fill them in are available from the BSBI website [www.bsbi.org.uk/tpp](http://www.bsbi.org.uk/tpp) or from us. It isn't that difficult. The website also has full details of the aims and coverage of the whole project.

### WARWICKSHIRE WINTER WILD FLOWERS CHALLENGE

A report of 63 wild plants in flower on New Year's Day 2012 in Cardiff, led a small band of WFG members to see what we could do in Leamington town centre on December 30<sup>th</sup> 2012.

A total of twenty species were seen in flower including Angelica, Ivy-leaved Toadflax and Shaggy Soldier.

Two exotic naturalized ferns were also seen flourishing in cellars by the pavement.

Ribbon Fern (*Pteris cretica*) and Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum raddianum*).

John Roberts suggested to one owner that having an interesting fern growing in your basement could increase the value of the property!

Is Leamington the only Warwickshire town that has houses that have basements that open out on to the pavement?

### NEW WINTER TWIGS KEY

Rupert Simms from the University of Leicester is currently piloting a new FSC key on Trees in Winter and would like as many botanists as possible to try it out before the leaves burst forth in the spring. If you receive this Newsletter by e mail you will have this key as an attachment. If you have any comments to make about it please send them directly to Rupert at [rms21@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:rms21@leicester.ac.uk) and not to us.

**If you are not already on our e mail list, or if you would like any more information about the Warwickshire Flora Group or would like to discuss things botanical, please e mail us at [johnwalton46@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:johnwalton46@tiscali.co.uk) or ring us on 01827 712455. You do not have to be a member of the BSBI or anything else to join in our activities.**

**John and Monika Walton (BSBI Plant Recorders for Warwickshire/Vice-county 38).**