

# Glamorgan Botany Group

## 2017 Excursions

Welcome to the 2017 excursion listing for the Glamorgan Botany Group. This year, with the December 2019 deadline for records for the next Flora looming, we've picked our excursions to focus on 1km squares with one thing in common – namely, they have no records! At least, not in the BSBI's Big Database from 2000 onwards. So join us in our search to find plants – indeed, any plants – in some less well-explored parts of vice-county 41.

As well as recording, a major aspect of our excursions is learning how to identify some of the more difficult plants, and on last year's excursions we demonstrated distinguishing features of all the common ferns of Glamorgan (some growing *in situ*; others specially collected the day before). Comparing fresh material side-by-side in this way is one of the best ways of learning differences between species, so in 2017 we'll be repeating this exercise for two sometimes difficult groups – horsetails (June) and docks (September). We'll be collecting a range of species for comparison, so if you'd like to bring along any plants that are puzzling you, then we'll see if we can put a name to them!

Excursions are free, and there is no need to book in advance, but please note the following:

- 🌿 All excursions will start promptly at **10am**, and will end in the late afternoon.
- 🌿 Please bring a packed lunch, hand-lens, field-guide(s), and a GPS if you have one.
- 🌿 Excursions will be cancelled only if heavy rain is forecast to last all day – please check with David if in doubt.
- 🌿 Be aware that some sites may be wet, rocky, or overgrown – we've indicated below if we expect the going to be particularly tough, but please come appropriately attired.
- 🌿 If you require (or can offer) a lift, contact David and he'll let you know if anyone can help.

We look forward to seeing you on one or more of our excursions this year!

*David Barden, Karen Wilkinson and Julian Woodman*

### **Saturday 22 April**

#### **Barry**

Meeting place: S entrance to Victoria Park, Cadoxton (ST130.690, CF63 2JS).  
*Please park responsibly on the side of Victoria Park Road. The meeting place is 200 metres NW of Cadoxton train station.*

The parks and open spaces of Barry will be our focus on this excursion, as we investigate the formerly separate villages of Cadoxton and Merthyr Dyfan, now surrounded by suburbs. Old lanes, some fragments of rough grassland and woodland are apparent on aerial photos, and even mown amenity grassland and kerbsides can turn up surprises!

### **Saturday 20 May**

#### **Cwm Cwic, Brynna**

Meeting place: St Peter's Church, Brynna (SS985.833, CF72 9QP). *There is a free car-park next to the church.*

We'll head N from Brynna to focus on streamside woodland by the Nant Cwic, before moving up to the remote farmsteads of Ty'n-y-Cwm and Maendy. On the way up, we should be able to check a population of *Carum verticillatum* (Whorled Caraway), one of the very few in the S half of the vice-county.

**Sunday 25 June****Treherbert to Treorchy**

Meeting place: Treorchy railway station (SS959.964, CF42 6UE), from where we will catch the 10:04 to Treherbert (don't be late!). *Parking is available at the station, and also nearby at the library and superstore. If you're travelling from the Cardiff direction, you may want to take the 09:06 from Cardiff Central and meet the rest of the group when we get on the train.*

This excursion will follow the W side of the Rhondda Fawr S from Treherbert, largely along forestry tracks. Points of interest include spoil heaps, waterfalls, the Rhiw Ogofau (Hill of Caves), and 'Gelli-goch', which aerial photographs show comprises largely deciduous trees rather than conifers. Species focus: *Equisetum* (Horsetails).

**Saturday 15 July****Pontycymer**

Meeting place: Grassed amenity area, Church Street, Pontycymer (SS906.911, CF32 8LB). *From the main road through Pontycymer, turn up Richard Street, and Church Street is fourth on the right. There is plenty of space to park on this and nearby roads.*

We'll investigate the E side of the Garw valley on this excursion, which should include a look at the valley of the Nant Fforch-wen, the W slopes of Mynydd Llangeinwyr, and parts of Pontycymer town itself.

**Saturday 19 August****Ynysybwl**

Meeting place: Car-park for Clydach Park, Ynysybwl (ST057.948, CF37 3LX). *Follow the B4273 through Ynysybwl, past the shops; the car-park is on the NE side of the road at the end of the wooded section that runs alongside the Nant Clydach.*

The woods, fields and lanes at the Buarth Capel end of Ynysybwl will be our focus on this trip, and will include a look at the former colliery workings if we have time.

**Sunday 24 September****Gelligaer**

Meeting place: Small car-park on Heol Adam, near Ty'r Mynydd, Gelligaer (ST120.988, CF82 8FU).

A reprise of the rained-off excursion in 2015, this time we're hoping for better weather to explore the pastures, moorland and footpaths N and W of Gelligaer, on the high ground between the Taff and Rhymney valleys. Species focus: *Rumex* (Docks).

**Any enquiries about these excursions to:**

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