

**The Devonshire Association  
for the Advancement of Science Literature and the Arts  
BOTANY SECTION PROGRAMME 2022**

Meetings are from 11.00 a.m. to approximately 4.00 p.m., unless otherwise stated. **NON-MEMBERS WELCOME.** Bring packed lunch, appropriate footwear and clothing, as well as sufficient water, sun-block, insect repellent or other essentials required for a day outdoors. **Please contact the leader if you wish to attend** – meeting details can sometimes change at short notice and if the weather forecast looks poor the meeting may have to be cancelled. You should also check with the leader if you wish to bring your dog.

Please note: Neither the Association nor its officers can be held responsible for personal injury to any person or for damage to any property

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 10:30. Hope's Nose, Torquay. Note earlier start time.** A look at the special flora of the roadsides above Hope's Nose, hoping to see *Valerianella eriocarpa*, *Geranium purpureum*, *Salvia verbenaca* etc. Meet on Ilsham Marine Drive at SX94456358. Note that this may have to be a slightly shorter meeting than normal, but if so Roger can point out other good places to visit nearby. Leader: Roger Smith (01626 368577, [r.smith192@btinternet.com](mailto:r.smith192@btinternet.com)).

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm. Weare Giffard.** A walk to look at a typical woodland flora with lots of Bastard Balm (*Melittis melissophyllum*). Meet at 2pm at SS47308.22153 / EX39 4QS where there is plenty of roadside parking. **Note later start time.** Leader: Mary Breeds (mobile: 07835097780, landline: 01271 817349, [mary\\_breeds@hotmail.com](mailto:mary_breeds@hotmail.com)).

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 10:00: Dartington's ancient woodland – part two.** A rather belated follow up to a very successful DA field meeting in 2017! Last time we explored North Wood and Chacegrove Wood, in the mediaeval deerpark of the north and northeast of the core Dartington estate. This time we will be exploring a range of habitats on the south and south-western side of the core estate. The meeting will focus on a number of small woods which follow the steep bank of the Bidwell Brook: Foxhole Copse, Symons Tree Wood, Buckham Park Copse, Dartington Hill Copse and Dartington Hill Plantation. These are a mixture of semi-natural ancient woods, recent secondary woods and plantations. We also hope to be able to visit a few small species-rich grassland sites.

We should see a very wide range of both common and scarce plant species, including a good number of 'ancient woodland indicator' plants and some scarce grassland species. Some of the less common species previously recorded from these sites include Small-leaved Lime *Tilia cordata*, Small Scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*, and Quaking-grass *Briza media*. There are also interesting historic features along the way, including woodbanks, quarries, limekilns and an early 20th Century water-powered tweed mill.

This field meeting is being hosted by Richard Lewis and Sam Wernham from Dartington Wild Monastery, a new initiative developing from the River Dart Wild Church [www.riverdartwildchurch.com](http://www.riverdartwildchurch.com)

Practicalities:

Meet by the Bridge (outside the toy shop) at the Cider Press Centre at 10am. **Note earlier start time.** Ample paid parking is available and the centre is easily accessible by bus (Stagecoach GOL) from Totnes, Torquay or Plymouth. If arriving by train, the 9.47 bus from Totnes Rail Station should get you there in time. The meeting should finish by 4pm.

Wear clothing appropriate for the weather and terrain which is likely to be muddy in places. We'll have a picnic lunch so bring a packed lunch or leave time to buy sandwiches at one of the cafes at the Cider Press Centre. Leader: Richard Lewis ([basketrichard@aol.com](mailto:basketrichard@aol.com))

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 11:00: South Combe Farm, Salcombe Regis.** South Combe is a National Trust tenanted farm held by the Westgate family who have begun working with local environmental and nature organisations to improve and restore the habitats to increase biodiversity. The area was botanically diverse in Victorian times although landscape changes have been extensive since then. Meet at the car park by the church (SY147887, EX10 0JN takes you 100m past it). Parking is a little limited, so car sharing is encouraged. The best spot is the car park immediately to the south of the parish church, where we will be meeting. There is small National Trust car park on Salcombe Hill (SY138881), but this fills up quite early. There is some extra on road parking by the church and at the war memorial 200m back up the hill. Leader: Ed Dolphin (preferred contact method - email at [derbydolphin@yahoo.com](mailto:derbydolphin@yahoo.com), alternatively nearer the date - mobile 07769747308)

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 11:00: Pebble Bed Heaths.** A look at species typical of both dry heathland and wet mire, with an accent on carnivory. We shall hunt again for Heath Fragrant Orchid and Early Marsh Orchid in mire with Black Bog-rush and talk about mechanisms of insect trapping in Sundews, Butterworts and Pitcher Plants on Colaton Raleigh Common. A meeting suitable for the less experienced botanist too! Meet at Woodbury Castle car park, on the East side of the road at SY033873. Leader David Allen (01404. 861394; email: [leo@leoallen.plus.com](mailto:leo@leoallen.plus.com)).

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July. Dartington's ancient woodland – part two.** Richard Lewis hopes to repeat the May event for those unable to attend, or who'd like to revisit the location in high summer. Contact him if you'd like to come along (details as above).

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July: Thorne and Veilstone Moor.** A Culm grassland site with plentiful *Carum verticillatum*. Leader: Mary Breeds (mobile: 07835097780, landline: 01271 817349, [mary\\_breeds@hotmail.com](mailto:mary_breeds@hotmail.com)).

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August at 11:00: Braunton Burrows, Saunton.** Braunton Burrows have been famed for their exceptional flora for over three hundred years, and the site well-known amongst Devon botanists. This trip will focus on conservation works since 2014 undertaken by Plantlife in partnership with the Christie Estate, most recently as part of the wider Dynamic Dunescapes programme. Working up from the southernmost part of the site, the excursion will visit dune slacks that were mechanically turf stripped in 2014 and now boasting a rich flora, before viewing the larger, newly created 'scrapes' in this southern third of the site. Many local and rare plants have responded dramatically, including *Matthiola sinuata*, *Scirpoides holoschoenus*, *Teucrium scordium*, *Viola canina* and *V. tricolor* ssp.

*curtisii*. The walk will cover roughly 5 km of uneven ground with little shade – bring the usual stout footwear, waterproof clothing, sunscreen and a packed lunch/refreshments.

Meet at the Broadsands car-park at SS468328 (accessed by a toll road – toll c. £2.00).  
Leader: Andy Byfield (preferred contact method - email at [andybyfield@outlook.com](mailto:andybyfield@outlook.com), alternatively nearer the date – mobile 07816 945650).

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023: Annual Members' Day at 11:00.** Whiddon Down Village Hall (SX691925). Whiddon Down is just off the A30, 7 miles east of Okehampton. A day of talks and other activities celebrating Devon's flora and the activities of the Section over the last year. The main speaker will be Phil Sansum of the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre. A short amount of Section administrative business will be included in the day. The hall will be open from 10:30. Contact Secretary Tim Purches (01752 795256, [botany@devonassoc.org.uk](mailto:botany@devonassoc.org.uk)) for further information.