

Lanarkshire Botany

Summer update, September 2017



2017 is proving to be a good year for field botany in Lanarkshire.

Read on to gain a flavour of what's been happening - and there are adventures yet to come before the end of the season!

Some facts and figures

- There are now 56 people in the 'Team 77' network
- 27 individuals have been active in the field this year - an impressive level of commitment!
- There have been 18 full-day weekend outings and 14 weekday evening outings so far
- Significant progress has been made towards fulfilling Lanarkshire's input into Atlas 2020
- Areas surveyed include sectors of Glasgow as well as more remote countryside
- One recent outing at Camps Reservoir employed bicycles to reach the survey zone
- Over 650 separate species have been found, a total which is still rising steadily
- 5 species have been recorded for the first time in Lanarkshire
- Well over 10,000 Lanarkshire records have been added to the national database so far in 2017

Programme

Our outings on weekday evenings have now been completed: there just isn't enough daylight left to do much useful recording. We recently had to resort to use of a head-torch!

However, the full-day outings at weekends are still going strong (normally 10am - 4pm). Here is a handy guide to the remaining outings for 2017:

- Saturday 9th September** Cambuslang (please note a change: originally planned for Sunday 10th)
- Saturday 16th September** Thankerton, near Biggar
- Sunday 24th September** Auchendaff Hill (south of Glespin)
- Saturday 30th September** Greengairs
- Sunday 8th October** Flemington & south Cambuslang

Please see our previously published programme for full details: if you would like to join us, please email at least 24 hours in advance:

Michael Philip botany@opus44.co.uk

Peter Wiggins pswiggins@gmail.com

Annual Review of the Season

We are delighted to announce a get-together to celebrate the completion of the 2017 season, to review what has been accomplished, and to look ahead to some of the plans and challenges for next year.

NB Both the date and the venue have had to be changed since the most recent programme was published. Here are the new details:

Date: Sunday 29th October 3.00 - 5.00pm (arrive from 2.30pm)

Venue: St. Mary's For All, Auchingramont Road, Hamilton (entrance is via the lane)
Postcode: ML3 6JT
Grid ref: NS722556

Some parking is available around St. Mary's Church, and there is a council carpark (payment) nearby.

Public transport is convenient: both Hamilton Central rail station and Hamilton Bus Station are within a few minutes' walk.

Join us for an afternoon of friendly chat, information and celebration.
There will even be some home baking!



300m

Rarities

We have been fortunate enough to find some genuinely exciting species this year.



Chenopodium vulvaria (Stinking Goosefoot)

This grows as a pavement weed a block away from the Kelvingrove Art Galleries.

Unlike most plants of this type, it has untoothed leaves and it was this feature which initially caught the eye.

(Don't touch it though: it really stinks!)

This had only been recorded once before in Lanarkshire, and that was nearly 50 years ago!

It just goes to show that pavement weeds in urban areas are well worth checking out!



Filago minima (Small Cudweed)

This cropped up on waste ground in the village of Forth.

It's not particularly striking: bluish-grey, and less than a foot tall.

The flowerheads have a pointed appearance - a bit like hand-sharpened pencil points.

At the moment it was found, it was only the 4th record ever for this species in Lanarkshire, and the first for 50 years.

(However it has since been found again!)

Some more highlights of 2017



Senecio sylvaticus
(Heath Grousel)



Dactylorhiza x venusta
(Hybrid Orchid)



Allium vineale
(Wild Onion)



Ranunculus sceleratus
(Celery-leaved Buttercup)



Impatiens parviflora
(Small Balsam)



Stachys arvensis
(Field Woundwort)

'Home Monad' project

Some of you undertook to keep a list of the botanical species present in the map square where you live. Please send your lists in as soon as you reckon there's nothing more to add this season.

Photo Project

Peter Wiggins is assembling a fabulous gallery of photographs of Lanarkshire's wild plants, soon to be the basis of an instructional website to aid everyone in botanical identification.

We would be delighted to receive any photos you can contribute. Pictures should be of really good quality, and include a note of the date taken and the map square of the location.

Peter will outline more about this in due course, but in the meantime you may wish to gather some of your very best botanical photos and check their date and location details.

Looking ahead

We're already beginning to set out plans for recording plants next year. By all means let us know of locations you would recommend, near or far.

One project in the pipeline is a very detailed survey of the Glasgow Botanic Gardens site - because the last full list was compiled in 1998.

Keep in touch

I'm always glad to receive your emails on matters botanical. I may not be able to answer everything myself, but this is a network so there will be an answer!

Also, if you know anyone who would be interested in receiving the programme of events and occasional newsletters, please ask them to get in touch.

And don't forget to mark the date for our 'end-of-term' get-together: the similar event last year created a real buzz of enthusiasm! Ideas and resources will be available to help us all improve our skills, and it would be an ideal occasion to welcome new faces who might like to know more about field botany in Lanarkshire and Glasgow.

Sunday 29th October
3pm - 5pm
St. Mary's For All, Auchingramont Road, Hamilton