

Lanarkshire Botany

June update, 2017



STOP PRESS

**** The outing on Sunday 11th June (Ravenscraig) has been changed. ****

The venue for that day is now Cambuslang and Carmyle, in a joint outing with BSS (The Botanical Society of Scotland) who are sending a team of five from Edinburgh. Join us if you can!

It is hoped that a recording visit to Ravenscraig will find a place in our programme in the future. (The full programme for June and July is being sent out along with this newsletter.)

Team 77 news

I'm delighted to report that 54 people are now networked in 'Team 77'. 21 botanists of all ages and levels of experience have already taken part in our programme this season, either by participation in person or by submitting records.

If you have not yet found the moment to join us on one of our outings, please consider doing so!

Viola riviniana



(Common Dog-violet)

Learning opportunities

One of the great things about field botany is the active learning involved. There is so much to know, and this knowledge comes steadily and gradually with experience. On any outing, there will be people present who know things you don't know, or who describe things in a way you haven't heard before, or who question some assumptions you have made and prompt you to check!

In the field, everyone learns! This is the best way to improve your knowledge of wild plants, but our extended team can help you in other ways too:

- we can suggest books to assist you
- we can help identify plants from photos you have taken
- we can arrange an outing in your local area
- we can suggest local Societies you could consider joining
- we can provide information on courses to attend, if you want to improve in a specialist area (such as grasses, sedges, ferns or willows)

In addition to our ongoing programme, we have recently done 'plant hunts' in Primary and Secondary schools and joined with the Clyde & Avon Valley Landscape Partnership in organising a 'Wildflower Wander'.

No-one is too young to learn about plants, and no-one is too old.

vc77 Photo project

Work is being done to create a brand new botanical photo gallery for our vice-county. This project is being co-ordinated by Peter Wiggins and its aim is to gather the very best photos and present them in a way which everyone can refer to and enjoy.

Peter says:

“We are looking for your photographs of the wild plants of vc77. They must be taken in the vice-county of Lanarkshire. They should be well-taken pictures which may show the whole plant, or close-ups of the flowers or any other part, especially showing characteristics useful in identification.

They do not need to be taken with expensive equipment as modern smart phones can take great photographs.

Preferably we need them in JPG format and in the highest resolution. Please name them with the plant's name and let us know the date taken and where, ideally the monad – a four figure OS map reference.”

Please send your photos to Peter Wiggins pswiggins@gmail.com. If you use DropBox and wish to send a number of photos, please contact Peter for a link to upload them.

The best way to label photos is to give them a filename showing (a) the scientific name of the plant; (b) the date taken; (c) the location map square; (d) the photographer's initials.

Here's an example, with its filename:



Early Purple Orchid, taken on 9th May, 2017 at Gillbank (near Strathaven) by Michael Philip

Filename: Orchis mascula 9May2017 NS7042 MP

(Note that spaces are OK in such filenames, but the date element has no spaces.)

Glasgow city centre

In the last update, we mentioned our strategy for recording in Glasgow City Centre. Rather than organising formal outings here, we are inviting everyone in the Team to jot down whatever they find in central Glasgow and send in mini-lists.

So, whenever you're in town and have a few minutes to spare, walk round a block and make a wee list. Remember the lanes in between streets too! Note on your list both what you found and where you found it (street names will do).

The area in question runs from Blythswood Square to Glasgow Cross (Sauchiehall Street to the Clyde). It may at first seem an unpromising habitat for plants, but the opposite is true: there is a big list of species that need to be re-found. As the season progresses, we'll publish a 'wanted' list of species yet to be spotted in the city centre.

Don't worry if you're not sure what something is: just miss it out, or send us a photo, or tell us where to go and look. Better still, someone else from the team might be able to return with you to have another look.

A big thank-you to those who have already contributed: "mony a mickle maks a muckle"!



Geum x intermedium (Hybrid Avens)

Keep in touch

Your feedback, questions, ideas, suggestions and requests are always welcome.

You are welcome to send in photos of anything special you find - or indeed of things you can't identify with certainty.

If you would like to 'host' one of our weekday evening walks, get in touch. Your local knowledge, with or without botanical expertise, could be very helpful.

Do try to join us soon on one of the outings in the programme. The updated programme you'll receive along with this newsletter now shows all our dates up to the end of July. Please remember to let us know in advance that you'll be attending.

See you soon,

Michael Philip (BSBI recorder, vc77)

email: botany@opus44.co.uk