

# Glamorgan Botany Group

## 2022 Excursions

Welcome to our 2022 excursion listing! We have a novelty this year, in the shape of a visit to Port Talbot in the *west* of the vice-county, having previously eschewed this half of Glamorgan in favour of the historically less well-recorded east. We hope you enjoy it, and we'll use it to judge if there's enthusiasm for doing more visits out that way in subsequent years.

Of course, we don't always find what we set out to see, but we invariably come across something interesting. Naturally, we'll be sharing identification tips too, so if you want to hone your skills at identifying the plants of Glamorgan, then this is the place to be!

As always, excursions are free and open to all interested, but please note the following:

- 🍃 All excursions will start promptly at **10am**, and will end in the late afternoon (although on most excursions there is opportunity to head back earlier if you want to).
- 🍃 Please bring a packed lunch, hand-lens, field-guide(s), and a GPS if you have one.
- 🍃 Excursions may be cancelled 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.

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

*David Barden, Karen Wilkinson and Julian Woodman*

### Sunday 10 April

#### Ogmore-by-Sea

Meeting place: By the slipway, Ogmore Beach car-park (SS861.755, CF32 0PD). *Note that there is a £6.00 charge for all-day parking.*

The area around Ogmore-by-Sea has a variety of habitat types, including saltmarsh alongside the River Ogmore, coastal grassland with typical calcicoles, limestone heath, and small areas of sandy ground. On this excursion we hope to cover all of these, and should see *Vicia lathyroides* (Spring Vetch), *Moenchia erecta* (Upright Chickweed) and some annual *Trifolium* species (Clovers). If the spring season proves to be well-advanced, we may also see early signs of *Marrubium vulgare* (White Horehound), *Asperula cynanchica* (Squinancywort), *Hypochaeris glabra* (Smooth Cat's-ear), *Botrychium lunaria* (Moonwort) and *Asplenium maritimum* (Sea Spleenwort).

### Saturday 7 May

#### Cwm Cothi (*to be confirmed*)

Meeting place: Car-park for Taff Bargoed Community Park, Treharris (ST102.976, CF46 6AP).

The largely wooded valley of Cwm Cothi is a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation, but has been little-visited by botanists since an extensive list was made by George Tordoff in 2007. There are some areas of marshy grassland too, and if landowner permission is granted, here we expect to find typical species including *Cirsium dissectum* (Meadow Thistle), *Anagallis tenella* (Bog Pimpernel) and *Genista anglica* (Petty Whin), as well as a selection of sedges.

## **Saturday 18 June**

### **Port Talbot Docks**

Meeting place: Dead-end road at N end of West End, Port Talbot (SS770.890, nearest postcode SA13 1LA). *Do not try to approach this road from Port Talbot town. Instead, from J38 of the M4, take the A48 then the A4241 (Harbour Way) northwards towards Port Talbot. At the third roundabout you come to, double-back to turn south along the same road, and after 300m turn left onto the dead-end road.*

The remarkable discovery of a small population of *Orobanche picridis* (Oxtongue Broomrape) last year at Port Talbot Docks led to further searches which resulted in 200–300 flowering plants being counted over an area of 2.2 km<sup>2</sup>. This was not only a new species for the vice-county, but only the third area where it can be found in Britain (the others being the western end of the Isle of Wight, and the coast N of Dover). We'll aim to relocate these plants, and take a look at the wide range of other species to be found on this diverse area of post-industrial land and coastal dunes. *This excursion will involve a fairly lengthy walk there-and-back to reach the site (likely to be 3 miles in total).*

## **Sunday 10 July**

### **Cosmeston & Lavernock**

Meeting place: Car-park for Cosmeston Lakes Country Park, Lavernock Road, Penarth (ST178.692, CF64 5UY). *Note that there is a £4.00 charge for all-day parking.*

Formerly limestone quarries and for a time used as a landfill site, Cosmeston Lakes Country Park is now restored with plenty of botanical interest – and in the morning we'll be targeting pond species, particularly *Potamogeton* (Pondweeds). In the afternoon we'll walk down to the coast at Lavernock, where there is lots to see in the nature reserve, plus the potential for arable weeds along the coast path on our way back to the cars.

## **Sunday 21 August**

### **Bryn y Garn**

Meeting place: N end of lane running NW across Bryn y Garn Common, N of Pencoed (SS963.835, CF35 6NE). *Take the B4280 from the Penprisk roundabout (on the A473), and after 1 mile turn right (signposted Rockwool). Turn right after 350m, and keep an eye out for one of the group, who will show you where best to park.*

Bryn y Garn Common, and the small hedged fields in the vicinity, are known to have a number of species of damp and heathy grassland, and we'll be looking out for these on this visit, subject to landowner permission. A particular species on the target list will be *Carum verticillatum* (Whorled Caraway), last seen in this area in 2010.

## **Saturday 17 September**

### **Nantyffyllon**

Meeting place: Cycleway, Coegnant Road, Nantyffyllon, Maesteg (SS854.934, CF34 0TW). *There is plenty of parking on nearby roads, especially if you follow Coegnant Road round, so you end up at the back of the fire station.*

The partly-forested, partly-open hilltop of Mynydd Pwll-yr-lwrch N of Maesteg has been something of a *terra incognita* for the botanists of v.c.41 in recent years, but we hope to rectify that on this excursion. As well as areas of coal spoil on the way up, a possible point of interest is the rocky N-facing slope of Darren y Bannau, from where *Huperzia selago* (Fir Clubmoss) was reported in 2011. *We expect the going to be somewhat rough, so please come prepared.*

### **Any enquiries about these excursions to:**

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