

## 2023 Programme of meetings

Most events are on Thursday and start at 10.30am. Some events are morning or afternoon only and others all-day (bring lunch), but there is usually a chance to join for just the morning or afternoon session if preferred. A few events this year have been planned exceptionally for Saturday.

Monday January 2     **New Years Day Flower Walk** (BSBI project). Morning only, an hour's walk to find which species are in bloom. Meet at Holy Trinity Church car-park, Prestwood, off Wycombe Road.

February 2     **Green Hellebore** *Helleborus viridis*. One of our earliest flowerers. We have recently established that the colony in Gomms Wood is thriving, but there is little information on the extent of the other main local colonies in Cross Coppice and Piggotts Wood. Meet at car-park on Rignall Road opposite entrance to Coach Hedgerow at SP844032 for walk to the first of these sites. In the afternoon, those who wish may move on to Piggotts to explore the second, much larger, site (where the plants are harder to find).

March 2     **Early Spring Flowers** - snowdrops and others. Meet at car-park by Great Missenden Church of St Peter & St Paul. Morning only.

Saturday April 8     **Dandelions Introduction**. Visit by Jon Holt and Andy McVeigh. Meet in centre of Speen outside the shop and post office, Chapel Hill (opposite junction with the road to Hampden) SU842998, HP27 0SL. Park in street. All day meeting.

Afternoon only, meet 2pm April 13     **Prestwood Picnic Site**. Search for spring flowers and trees recorded there but not recently seen. Meet at reserve car-park. A list of target species will be provided.

Afternoon only, meet 2pm April 27     **Kingstreet Lane**. Ancient green lane from Holmer Green to Little Missenden. A chance to update old records and particularly find Toothwort *Lathraea squamaria* at its only local site. Meet near church and recreation ground by Beech Tree Road, Holmer Green HP15 6XG, SU903972. Park in road. Nearly 2km downhill (and a longer 2km coming back up!).

Afternoon only, meet 2pm May 4     **Monkton Wood**, Great Hampden. This is a unique local site that is under-recorded with several rare plants known to have survived, plus others recorded in the 1980s, to search for. Meet at SP83532 01914, side of Peters Lane near junction with Pink Road.

May 18     **Langley Wood**. Walk along an old green lane to the wood to see the colony of Herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia*. Meet near church and recreation ground by Beech Tree Road, Holmer Green HP15 6XG, SU903972. Park in road.

June 1     **Cock Marsh**, near Cookham, Berkshire. Rare marsh and chalk grassland flowers. The prime target will be Water Violet. Meet at Winter Hill National Trust car-park SU871861, SL6 9TW (free). Bring packed lunch. Offer of tea at the end if time permits. Length of walk will depend on how much progress we make at the main site, but other interesting areas are within reach.

June 8     **Frogmore Meadows Nature Reserve**, Little Chalfont, beside River Chess. Good riverside and meadow plants. A chance to compare Heath Spotted Orchid with our familiar Common Spotted Orchid, also Southern Marsh Orchid. Possible water vole. Meet at ... **tbd**.

June 22     **Literary flower treasure hunt**: in this event participants will start at an easily-reached local site (revealed at the last minute to avoid cheating) to find a list of six flowers all from one relevant quotation (some easy, some not so easy). Participants left to their own devices, without guidance. The quotation will be read when we meet.

July 6     **Walled Garden, Great Missenden**. On behalf of a management plan for those running this space, we shall be surveying the plants in the orchard and meadow areas. No rarities are to be expected at this much-disturbed site, except on the old walls, although we may see some interesting alien casuals. Meet at car-park by Great Missenden Church of St Peter & St Paul. (This involves a fair walk, but parking elsewhere in GM is very difficult and the car-parking at the garden itself involves providing all car-registrations in advance. The walk itself is in any case not without its botanical interest.)

July 20     **Monkton Wood**, Great Hampden. See May 4 for details, but may be morning and afternoon.

- August 3      **St John's-worts** *Hypericum spp.* Visit to a site which supports five different species to compare their ID features (Rook Wood) - *hirsutum*, *maculatum*, *perforatum*, *tetrapterum* and the hybrid *x desetangsii*. Meet at car-park by Great Missenden Church of St Peter & St Paul. Morning only.
- August 17      **Prestwood Picnic Site.** Search for late flowers recorded there but not recently seen. Meet at reserve car-park. A list of target species will be provided.
- August 31      **Fringed gentian** (postponed from last year). Meet at Coombe Hill National Trust car-park SP851062. Morning only.
- Sept 14      **Galls of Oak-trees.** Little Hampden Common. Park at end of road through Little Hampden SP857040. Many old oaks here to explore. There are 112 possible galls on oak in our region. 46 have so far been recorded. Can we add to the list?