

Lanarkshire Botany

Summer 2023



Latest update

The 2023 season is in full swing!

One interesting development is that, across our three networks, there has been a marked upsurge of people wanting to be involved. This may be evidence of growing environmental concern in the population at large, with people wanting to do something practical to make a difference.



Bonnington Linn in full spate: a thunderous maelstrom after a period of heavy rain.

Our partnership with the Scottish Wildlife Trust to make a fresh record of the flora of the Falls of Clyde Reserve is an ongoing effort.

The key to positive action is of course learning - and there is no better way to learn than taking part in our field outings. The programme for the second half of the season is being circulated now, so please join us whenever you can. We get to great places and find wonderful things in the company of wonderful people!

The programme also includes information about BSBI Field Meetings and Workshops. One that may be of interest locally is the "Ferns for Complete and Utter Beginners" workshop, to be held in the classroom at the Falls of Clyde Reserve, New Lanark on Saturday 2nd September. Here's your chance to make a start on learning to identify some fern species! As this is an official event in the BSBI calendar, there is a booking process and a fee. However it will be staffed by people from within our Lanarkshire network.

For details, go to: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/botanicalsocietyofbritainireland/867094?>

Recent Lanarkshire finds



Ranunculus bulbosus (Bulbous Buttercup)
Note the completely reflexed sepals



Neottia nidus-avis (Bird's-nest Orchid)
A large population was found near Ravenscraig



Hottonia palustris (Water-violet)



Young plant of *Campanula latifolia* (Giant Bellflower)

Partnership with South Lanarkshire Council



We are working in partnership with Countryside Rangers in South Lanarkshire to gather plant records at a variety of sites.

Pictured here is an outing with Melanie Craig (above, centre) who has responsibility for Hamilton Low Parks, a lovely piece of prime habitat within shouting distance of the M74.

Hawkweeds visit

On Monday afternoon, 19th June (sorry for the short notice!) at the Glasgow Museums Resource Centre at 2pm, Keith Watson will be hosting a visit by Brian Burrow, the BSBI referee for Hawkweeds.

Hawkweeds (*Hieracium*) are a notoriously difficult plant genus, so we will be examining fresh specimens both to gain some valuable, expertly-determined records and to learn some identification skills.

If you would like to join us you'll be most welcome - especially if you bring some Hawkweed specimens! For full details, please contact Michael:

botany@opus44.co.uk

Zoom Study Groups

Over the winter 2021-22, Peter Wiggins pioneered a series of Winter Study Groups. As reported in our Newsletter, these were very popular and there has been a clamour for more such training.

So a new five-session, monthly Summer Study Group is already underway, offering basic training in plant identification, and there will be a brand new series over the coming winter to challenge the more experienced learner.

Although the Summer Study Group has now formed, there's plenty of time to opt into the Winter series. To register your interest, or for more information, please contact Peter:

pswiggins@gmail.com

BSBI

The Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland exists to advance the study and understanding of our wild plants and support their conservation across Britain and Ireland.

It is also home to the national plant distribution database, to which we contribute all our plant records. This nationwide volunteer effort is continuous, providing a detailed picture of the constantly changing distribution of wild plants: most recently and impressively captured in the BSBI publication 'Plant Atlas 2020'.

Many of our readers are already members of the Society: but for those who are not, membership is definitely something to consider. You will be supporting the study and conservation of our flora as well as enjoying many opportunities to get involved personally. And through special rates for various BSBI courses and workshops (and a discount on purchases from Summerfield Books) your subscription can quickly pay for itself!

Through the portal of its busy website, BSBI offers a marvellous array of:

- publications
- photo galleries
- social media groups
- courses
- study grants
- workshops
- field meetings (single day or whole week)
- conferences
- expert advice
- plant identification aids
- a dedicated YouTube channel, full of helpful videos
- local botanical activities
- searchable plant distribution maps
- handbooks on specific plant groups
- the national plant distribution database
- the Field Identification Skills Certificate (FISC)
- the Identiplant course
- a nationwide network of local Vice-County Recorders
- reports and consultations
- Plant Atlas 2020 (through a dedicated website)

As in our local experience, there has been a recent surge in membership as people realise it's time to learn about plants and do whatever can be done in their local area to protect plant biodiversity.

Please visit the BSBI website and click your way around to get a flavour of the Society's activity:

<https://bsbi.org/>

Plant Atlas 2020 website: <https://plantatlas2020.org/atlas>

'Live' zoomable species distribution map: <https://bsbi.org/maps>





View from Bizzyberry Hill - we get to some great places!

Keep in touch

We appreciate your emails on all sorts of botanical matters - keep them coming!

You can also keep in touch via the Lanarkshire page on the BSBI website, which is updated regularly: that's the place to read past issues of this Newsletter, and our Outings Programme.

Michael Philip (BSBI Joint Recorder, vc77)

email: botany@opus44.co.uk

Peter Wiggins (BSBI Joint Recorder, vc77)

email: pswiggins@gmail.com

Photo credits*:

Bonnington Linn	Michael Philip, Falls of Clyde, 12th April 2023
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Michael Philip, Hamilton, 20th May 2023
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Hamshya Rajkumar, Ravenscraig, 17th May 2023
<i>Hottonia palustris</i>	Peter Wiggins, Hamilton, 20th May 2023
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Peter Wiggins, Hamilton, 20th May 2023
Melanie Craig with group	Peter Wiggins, Hamilton, 20th May 2023
Group by pond	Melanie Craig, Hamilton, 20th May 2023
Bizzyberry Hill	Peter Wiggins, near Biggar, 28th May 2023

* Remember you're always welcome to send in photos, either for potential inclusion in the Newsletter or the webpage, or to request help in identifying a plant. Photos of 'people doing botany' are especially wanted!