

Warwickshire Flora Group

SPRING AND SUMMER FIELD MEETINGS 2024

All botanical meetings will start at 10 a.m. and finish at about 3.30 p.m. or when everybody has had enough. Please bring sandwiches and drinks. Walking will be limited to a couple of miles. You do not need to be member of the BSBI or anything else to come along. You can be a beginner or an expert, or just interested in identifying and finding plants. Please bring field guides and a lens if you have one. If you want any more information ring us on 01827-712455 or e mail jomowalton@gmail.com. If you are late or cannot find the site, my mobile number is 075426 57773.

Wednesday 10 April FENNY COMPTON and AVON DASSETT

Start the year with a couple of churchyards and a potter around a couple of the villages in the south of the county on the limestone. Meet outside the pub, the Merrie Lion, Fenny Compton on the corner of Brook Street and High Street (SP417523, CV47 2YH) having parked carefully in the surrounding roads. We will pass the village hall made famous by the Post Office Scandal. We will aim to do Avon Dassett after lunch. Park near St. Joseph Catholic Church, near the Yew Tree pub and the Post Office at CV472AR, SP410499.

Sunday 21 April SHERBOURNE VALLEY PROJECT, Charterhouse, Coventry

Alex Jones from the Wildlife Trust, who is in charge of this project, will show us round the area that we visited eight years ago. This visit will be part of the global City Nature Challenge and will start at the Charterhouse. Park in the new Charterhouse car park just off of the southbound carriageway of the A4114, London Road, at the end of the houses SP342781, where you will have to pay for parking on RingGo (3 hours £3.20). There are no ticket machines and you cannot pay by card or cash. I believe you can buy parking online without an account or an app., but you cannot buy parking in advance. In the afternoon we will move to either Whitley Common or Leaf Lane Local Wildlife Site hopefully without having to pay for parking. There are toilets in ASDA which is a few minutes drive south from the car park.

Wednesday 8 May CORLEY MOOR and ELKIN WOOD

This is a new site for the Flora Group although as recorders we went there about 10 years ago. The Wildlife Trust has been managing the site recently and it is an interesting mixture of woodland, scrub, wet grassland and marsh. Parking is easy and free. Park on or around the triangle near the Red Lion pub in Corley Moor, CV7 8AP, SP279849, by the junction of Wall Hill Road and Common Lane. After lunch, we will walk south down Watery Lane for about ¾ mile to Elkin Wood (Woodland Trust) to look for *Ceratocarpus claviculata* Climbing Corydalis and other spring woodland flowers.

Sunday 26 May OAKLEY WOOD NATURE RESERVE

Chris Wood from the Trust is holding a Bioblitz at Oakley on 2 June, we are not available on that date so have decided to go a week early. A lot of conservation work has taken place recently with the removal of conifers and widening of rides in the hope of improving the flora. Our most recent survey there was in 2020 just after COVID, so let's hope the Wood is not just a big jumble of Bramble by now. It would be good to locate the *Lathraea squamaria* Toothwort again as it hasn't been seen for a long time. Park carefully, as it can be crowded, near the entrance to the Crematorium on the B4087, south of Leamington Spa, SP30175953 postcode CV33 9QP.

Monday 17 June COUGHTON PARK Date fixed

Sam Macvie from the Heart of England Forest has asked us to look at this area of acid woodland near Alcester. Plants seen there in the past include *Vaccinium myrtillus* Bilberry, *Calluna vulgaris* Heather, *Isolepis setacea* Bristle Club-rush and a variety of sedges. The entrance is on the south side of Sambourne Lane, which is off of the A435 opposite Coughton Court NT. SP065610. Sam or Tasha should be there to open the gate.

Friday 7 June

**RADWAY MEADOWS, WESTCOTE MANOR FARM and
ST. MARY'S CHURCHYARD, MIDDLE TYSOE.**

In the morning Rosemary Collier will take us around this Wildlife Trust reserve and the two adjacent meadows in Westcote Manor Farm. Radway Meadow, on the north side of the Edge Hill escarpment) has a varied selection of plants including Betony *Betonica officinalis* and Dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, and the wet areas should hold good sedges and grasses. There is parking on the verge in King John's Lane, Radway SP366475 CV350BT. In the afternoon we will visit Middle Tysoe churchyard which is a short distance away.

Friday 28 June

KILSBY LANE MEADOWS, RUGBY

Steve Wright who has been involved in the management of this site has suggested this as a field meeting visit. We will park in the Rugby Gymnastics Club car park (free). Leaving the town centre, drive east through Hillmorton on the A428 Crick road and Kilsby Lane will be on your right. After a short distance, turn right down a track on your right which is clearly signposted rugby Gymnastics Club at SP538730, CV21 4PN. After lunch we may investigate some of the undeveloped areas of the new huge housing estate to the north.

Wednesday 10 July

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON joint meeting with Wild Flower Society

We will spend the morning walking around the town, along the canal, through an industrial estate and by Shakespeare's church, the RSC and the location for Shakespeare and Hathaway. In the afternoon we will drive about a mile and a half to Welcombe Hills Nature Reserve to the north-east of the town.

During the last few years Stratford has produced some nice aliens including two species of Cyrtomium ferns growing under drain covers, Large Speedwell *Veronica austriaca*, Rusty Foxglove *Digitalis ferruginea* and the only Four-leaved Allseed *Polycarpon tetraphyllum* in the county. Welcombe Hills is Warwickshire's only site for Fiddle dock, *Rumex pulcher*, and there is a large area of Danewort *Sambucus ebulus* with some uncommon grasses in a nearby meadow.

We will meet at 10.30. Park in the Recreation Ground Car Park on the south side of the River in Swan's Nest Lane, CV37 7LS, SP204546 which can only be accessed from the northbound side of A3400, the road over the bridge. If you are coming from the north cross the river on the A3400 turn back on yourself at the roundabout and Swan's Nest Lane will be on your left.

There is a car parking fee for three hours of £3.90, or £5.50 if you are early, that is payable by card only. You may have to park a distance from the road. If so, walk back and we will meet by the first car park pay machine. There are public toilets at various places on our route. In the afternoon we will drive to the end of Maidenhead Road, turn left into Blackthorn Road where we can park for free (SP204562) with no restrictions.

If you are interested you will have to book this meeting as we already have a number of Wild Flower Society members on the list. Email jomowalton@gmail.com.

Monday 19 August

LITTLE BRACEBRIDGE POOL, SUTTON PARK

Join us for an Autumn walk around the Little Bracebridge Pool area of Sutton Park. Our target species will be Round-leaved Whitebeam, *Sorbus eminens* that was the subject of a recent paper by Tim Rich. It comes into fruit in August so as long as the trees are not too tall (has anybody got a pet monkey?), we should be able to key it out in the Sorbus book. There will be plenty of other plant species to be seen in the park at this time of year and unless the summer has been very dry, fungi should be starting to appear. Enter the park by the Streetly Gate and follow the main road until you reach a wide track on the left where the trees stop. Continue to the end and park just before the gate into the trees. SP095979.

Saturday 12 October

OLD RYTON GARDENS SITE at Coventry University CAWR.

A joint meeting with the Warwickshire Bryology Group.

Park at the Coventry University Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience which is where we parked when we visited Wolston Fields and Five Acre Farm two years ago. Last month, whilst attending a conference at the University, we had a quick tour of the extensive old Ryton Gardens site next to the farm, which is still being tended and I considered it would be worth a visit for arable weeds later in the year. This is also a good time for arable bryophytes which can both be tiny and fascinating which explains the link up with the Warwickshire Bryology Group.