

# Glamorgan Botany Group

## 2018 Excursions

Welcome to the 2018 excursion listing for the Glamorgan Botany Group, and a selection of visits planned to help fill in a few more of the gaps in the coverage of the eastern half of vice-county 41. As well as some intensive recording, we'll be continuing to help out with identifying all sorts of plants – so whatever your skill level, please come along!

Excursions are free, and there is no need to book in advance, 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.
- 🍃 If you require (or can offer) a lift, contact David and he'll let you know if anyone can help.

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

*David Barden, Karen Wilkinson and Julian Woodman*

### **Sunday 15 April**

#### **Coity**

Meeting place: Entrance to Coity Castle, off Heol Spencer, Coity (SS922.815, CF35 6AU).  
*Parking at the castle is very limited, but there is roadside parking on nearby streets, e.g. Castle Meadows (SS922.814, CF35 6DA).*

On this excursion we'll explore the village of Coity and the nearby hamlets of Pen-yr-heol, Pant-y-pyllau and Byeastwood. Points of interest will be Coity Castle and its grounds, green lanes and fragments of woodland.

### **Sunday 20 May**

#### **Llanbradach**

Meeting place: To be decided – messages will be circulated nearer the time by email and on our facebook page.

Limited public access to the area between Llanbradach and Ystrad Mynach has meant that this area has rather few recent records. We'll aim to rectify that on this visit, and will see if we can get permission to visit any of the woods and pastures in this area.

### **Saturday 16 June**

#### **Ferndale**

Meeting place: Lime Street car-park, Ferndale (SS997.969, CF43 4HH). *If driving northwards on the A4233 through Ferndale, turn left onto High Street at the northern end of the long row of shops. Take the second left onto Wood Street, then first left onto Lime Street. The car-park is at the end of this road (and it should be free).*

After a look around Llyn y Forwyn in Darran Park, we'll head up to investigate the crags, screes and quarries of Tarren Maerdy. If time allows, we will complete a circular route via Maerdy itself, returning along the valley bottom, where the cycleway should provide its own interest. There is a fairly steep climb onto the hillside, but after that it should be possible to walk on relatively flat ground above the crags, for those who prefer to.

**Saturday 21 July**

**Lisvane**

Meeting place: Layby on Rudry Road, Lisvane, 200 metres north of the M4 and just north of the junction with Graig Llwyn Road (ST193.839, CF14 0SN). If we run out of space here there is also a bit of room at the junction.

On this visit we'll be trying to get to the various footpaths, roadsides, fields and woods in this under-recorded area north of Cardiff. There are some old records nearby of species including *Calamagrostis canescens* (Purple Reed-grass) and a more recent record of *Parentucellia viscosa* (Yellow Bartsia) from Cefn Mably woods.

**Sunday 12 August**

**Garw Forest**

Meeting place: Entrance to Garw Fechan Woodland Park, Bridgend Road, Pontycymer (SS904.904, CF32 8EH)

The large and sparsely-recorded area of forestry in the valley of the Garw Fechan will be the target on this excursion, which includes cliffs, waterfalls and some areas recently cleared of trees.

**Saturday 15 September**    **Blaenrhondda**

Meeting place: Hendre'r Mynydd car-park, A0461 (Rhigos Road) from Treherbert to Hirwaun (SN922.020)

On this visit, we'll be covering an area with very few records at the head of the Rhondda Fawr. As well as the usual mix of forestry, streams, heathland and scree slopes, points of interest will be the Iron Age settlement of Garreg Lwyd, and the somewhat more imposing Pen y Cymoedd wind farm!

**Saturday 1 December**    **Michaelston-le-Pit**

Meeting place: The Woodland Trust car park on the road to Michaelston-le-Pit (ST157.727, CF64 4HE)

*Arum italicum* subsp. *neglectum* (Rare Lords-and-ladies) is known near Dinas Powys in two very small populations, but there could be a lot more in places we haven't looked. The aim of this out-of-season excursion is to look for leaves before the commoner *A. maculatum* (Lords-and-ladies) comes up to confuse us! We will start at Cwm George with known plants and then search adjacent woodlands for more.

**Any enquiries about these excursions to:**

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