

Warwickshire Flora Group

Newsletter No. 11 March 2016.

FIELD MEETINGS

The Spring Field Meetings programme (attached to this e mail) will take you up to the first of July. As the deadline for the BSBI Atlas 2020 is fast approaching, the emphasis for field meetings will be to visit poorly recorded tetrads rather than flagship reserves.

New features this year include:

- a Spring Daffodil Walk in March, visiting a small wood near Shawbury bursting with Wild Daffodils
- a workshop at Brandon Marsh where you will have an opportunity to improve your identification of plants without flowers using John Poland's book
- a chance to visit some of the grassland at Coombe Abbey Country Park that is not accessible to the public
- a visit to villages on the limestone in South Warwickshire where anything could turn up

Plans for the second part of the year include an out-of-county visit to Brian Laney's own county, Northamptonshire and a trip to the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's new reserve at Bubbenhall Wood and Meadows. There will be a joint meeting with the Birmingham and Black Country Recording Group to Winterbourne Botanic Gardens (again in VC38) which has its own nature reserve attached. We will visit allotments in Leamington and Kenilworth and two Staffordshire Wildlife Trust wetland reserves near Tamworth.

FLORA GROUP INDOOR MEETING 2016

This year's indoor meeting will be held on Sunday 4 April in the Barn, Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve, CV3 3GW.

The main speaker will be John Roberts who will talk about the Cape Floral Kingdom of South Africa.

There will be further contributions from Katharina Dehnen-Schmutz, John and Monika Walton and Brian Laney

Meet at 10 a.m. for tea and biscuits, talks to start at 10.20 a.m.

We will aim to finish by 1 p.m.

Admission is free.

MORE BOTANICAL NEWS

The **WINTER WILDFLOWER CHALLENGE** on Monday 4 January in Kenilworth was well attended. It had been postponed from the previous day, because of the atrocious weather that was forecast, but unfortunately two people did not receive the email telling them of the change. If you are planning to come to a meeting and the weather looks bad, please e mail us your phone number or ring us and we can keep you posted. We managed to identify 159 species and saw **38 SPECIES IN FLOWER**.

Also attached to this e mail is the latest **TETRAD COVERAGE MAP** for the county. This shows the number of species seen in each tetrad since the year 2000. The darker the squares, the more species are known from it. If you fancy taking on one of the lighter shaded squares, with say less than 50 species, please let us know.

STOP PRESS! FERNS GALORE!



Cyrtomium fortunei ssp. *fortunei*



Pteris vittata. Photo by M. Poulton.

Saturday 27 February was a red letter day for Warwickshire Ferns. Graham Thompson handed us a strange fern at the Warwickshire Recorders Conference in Warwick that he had collected from a sheltered bank near Edge Hill. A photo was sent to referee Dr. Fred Rumsey at the Natural History Museum, who identified it as *Cyrtomium fortunei* ssp. *fortunei* (Fortune's Ladder Brake) an alien usually grown in conservatories rather than in gardens. It is known from only 40 hectads in the British Isles. Also on that Saturday, the Birmingham and Black Country Recording Group were holding their AGM at Winterbourne Botanic Gardens in Birmingham. A seedling of an even rarer, alien fern, *Pteris vittata* (Ladder Brake) was found growing on the outside wall of the heated Orchid House. Both are new county records.