

Somerset Rare Plants Group: Meetings Programme 2017

Please email or ring the leader before each meeting to say you are coming. This helps with planning and can be useful if there are changes to the programme. Parking is sometimes limited so **please lift share where possible.** Please bring your GPS / Mobile Phone, if you have one. **NOTE: Meetings usually start at 11am, but note that there are several that start at different times – Brean Down, Exmoor, Stogumber & Docks Workshop**

Saturday 1st April Dandelion Workshop

Following on from last year's workshop to help members with id of this difficult apomictic group. **This is now fully booked**, but contact Liz McDonnell lizmcdonnell2005@gmail.com for any cancellations. Mendip Scout Base, Wedmore ST439478 (BS28 4DY) 10.30 – 4pm

Leaders: Jeanne Webb & Simon Leach

Saturday 8th April Sandford Wood (VC6)

Ancient woodland on steep Mendip slopes, with Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*) and Twayblade (*Neottia ovata*). Search for Toothwort (*Lathraea squamaria*) and Alpine Penny-cress (*Noccaea caerulescens*).

Meet at 11am. Roadside parking at junction of Somerville Road & Hill Road ST4212 5949 (BS25 5RP) to walk up lane to the woodland. We may split into two groups.

Leaders: Liz McDonnell lizmcdonnell2005@gmail.com & Helena Crouch

Sunday 23rd April Swell Wood & West Sedgemoor (VC5)

For woodland plants including Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) and Herb Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*) and to monitor Mousetail (*Myosurus minimus*) populations along droves of West Sedgemoor.

Meet 11am Park in RSPB Swell Wood car park ST3606 2389 (TA3 6PX)

Leaders: Steve Parker stephenjparker1710@gmail.com & Simon Leach

Saturday 6th May Brean Down (VC6)

Joint meeting with SANHS to see limestone grassland and several rare plants including White Rock-rose (*Helianthemum apeninum*), Dwarf Sedge (*Carex humilis*) & Somerset Hair-grass (*Koeleria vallesiana*). Search for Dwarf Mouse-ear (*Cerastium pumilum*), Soft Shield-fern (*Polystichum setiferum*) and rosettes of Autumn Lady's-tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*). There will undoubtedly be some Dandelion collection on this species-rich grassland.

Meet at 10.30am at Cove Café ST2964 5856 (TA8 2RS)

Leaders: David Reid & Simon Leach Simonleach@phonecoop.coop

Sunday 21st May Chard Reservoir and Chaffcombe Lane (old railway) (VC5)

General site recording at Chard Reservoir Local Nature Reserve

Meet at 11am. Park at small car park at ST3369 0928 or roadside (TA20 1HU)

Leaders: Steve Parker stephenjparker1710@gmail.com & Ian Salmon

Sunday 4th June Hambridge & Westport Canal (VC5)

General recording in Hambridge village in an under-recorded area, and along the Westport Canal and searching for Tasteless Water-pepper (*Persicaria mitis*). The group may split into two groups to cover more ground. Meet at 11am at Hambridge Village Hall ST3938 2122 (TA10 0AZ), where we have permission to park

Leaders: Steve Parker stephenjparker1710@gmail.com & John Poingdestre

Saturday 17th June Dolebury Warren, Churchill (VC6)

Recording in species-rich limestone grassland & heath. Searching for Knotted Pearlwort (*Sagina nodosa*), Sea Stork's-bill (*Erodium maritimum*), Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), Meadow Saffron (*Colchicum autumnale*), & Slender Bedstraw (*Galium pumilum*).

Meet at 11am in car park at end of track below the hill at ST4500 5870 (BS25 1QL)

Leaders: Helena Crouch helenacrouch@sky.com & Margaret Webster

Weekend 24th & 25th June Exmoor (VC5) Joint WFS & SRPG meeting

Day one, Saturday 24th meet at 10.00 at Bossington National Trust Car Park (SS89794799) for walk over Bossington Saltmarsh and to Hurlstone Point. We should see Wild Leek (*Allium ampeloprasum* var. *babingtonii*), Sea Kale (*Crambe maritima*), Yellow Horned-poppy (*Glaucium flavum*) and Rock Sea-spurrey (*Spergularia rupicola*).

Day two, Sunday 25th meet at Robbers Bridge Car Park (SS8216 4647) at 10.00. This is a traditional moorland edge of stream site and we should see Few flowered Spike rush (*Eleocharis quinqueflora*), Alternate Water Milfoil (*Myriophyllum alterniflorum*), Large flowered Butterwort (*Pinguicula grandiflora*), Cornish Moneywort (*Sibthorpia*

europaea) and Ivy-leaved Bellflower (*Wahlenbergia hederacea*).

Leaders: Graham Lavender & Ro FitzGerald. Please email Graham at grahamlavender@hotmail.com.

Sunday 9th July Hellenge Hill, nr Weston-super-Mare (VC6)

General recording at this AWT Nature Reserve and to search for Somerset Hair-grass (*Koeleria vallesiana*), Spring Cinquefoil (*Potentilla tabernaemontani*), French Oat-grass (*Gaudinia fragilis*), Knapweed Broomrape (*Orobancha elatior*), Squinancywort (*Asperula cynanchica*) & rosettes of Autumn Lady's-tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*).

Meet 11am at the public car park in Bleadon ST3407 5686 (BS24 0PG) to car share to Roman Road entrance.

Leaders: Liz McDonnell lizmcdonnell2005@gmail.com & Clive Lovatt

Saturday 22nd July Stogumber & Monksilver (VC5)

The morning recording is in under-recorded monads and searching for Purple Ramping-fumitory (*Fumaria purpurea*). Lunchtime transfer to Coombecross Farm, to eat sandwiches in garden by invitation of Mr & Mrs Sellick for the afternoon viewing of the remarkable fields where arable weeds are grown as a decorative crop. He will explain how he farms and manages these plantings. We will then be free to wander.

Meet at 10.30 Stogumber, near Church & White Horse Inn ST0981 3732 (TA4 3TA)

Leaders: Leaders: Ro FitzGerald ro@lilstock.eclipse.co.uk & Graham Lavender

Sunday 6th August Lollover Hill (VC6)

Record along green lanes to the species-rich limestone grassland on Lollover Hill searching for Yellow Vetchling (*Lathyrus aphaca*), Bithynian Vetch (*Vicia bithynica*) and Nit-grass (*Gastridium ventricosum*).

Meet 11am at Dundon Church ST4792 3251 (TA11 6TE)

Leaders: John Poingdestre & Helena Crouch helenacrouch@sky.com

Saturday 19th August Docks & Knotweeds Workshop

Want to know how to distinguish Clustered Dock from Wood Dock and Equal-leaved Knotgrass from Common Knotgrass? Then come to this summer's SRPG workshop at the Avalon Marshes Centre, Westhay ST4258 4146 (BA6 9TT). Bring ID books – especially the BSBI Docks & Knotweeds Handbook if you have it.

Meet 10.30 for coffee for 11am start.

Leaders: Steve Parker & Liz McDonnell lizmcdonnell2005@gmail.com

Saturday 2nd September Cheddar Gorge (VC6)

A walk up above the gorge on the south side cliffs to see Cheddar Pink (not flowering), Cheddar Bedstraw (*Galium pumilum*) Rock Stonecrop (*Sedum forsterianum*), and several Whitebeams (*Sorbus* spp.) search for Autumn Lady's-tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*)

Meet 11am at the public (pay) car park at the bottom of the gorge ST4609 5359 (BS27 3PT)

Leaders: Helena Crouch helenacrouch@sky.com & Libby Houston

Sunday 17th September Yeovil (VC5)

Meet at 11am in Stars Lane West car park, ST5600 1584 (BA20 1NR) for a meet and scatter urban square-bash in this under-recorded area

Leaders: Steve Parker stephenjparker1710@gmail.com & Simon Leach

Sunday 8th October SRPG 20th Anniversary Conference

West Monkton Village Hall, Monkton Heathfield, Taunton TA2 8NE

This is still in the planning stage, but we are celebrating 20 years of the Somerset Rare Plants Group this year with a conference for members and guests. Keynote speakers include Peter Marren & Tim Rich. Invitations and details will be sent out later in the year.