

Somerset Rare Plants Group Winter Meetings 2019

Winter Meetings 2019. The three winter meetings in January, February and March will be held as usual at the Lifelong Learning Centre at the Avalon Marshes Centre, Shapwick Road, Westhay, BA6 9TT (ST425 414).

Sunday 30th December 2018 at Burnham-on-Sea

Take part in the SRPG and BSBI's annual plant hunt for the greatest number of species in flower around New Year. Meet and park in the free car park at Apex Leisure & Wildlife Park, off Marine Drive, at **ST309480 (TA8 3YY)** for a walk through the park and along the Brue Estuary and Esplanade. The objective is to find as many plants in flower as possible in a 3 hour period. Please bring adequate warm clothing and a packed lunch.

Meet at **11am** and finish by **3.30pm**

Saturday 19th January 2019.

This is a particularly important meeting and members are urged to attend if possible and in particular actively contribute to the morning session in which the future of SRPG will be discussed. Steve Parker will chair the morning session from 11am to lunch at 1pm. Steve will conduct a structured meeting to encourage everyone to give views on type of "group" we want to be. It is inevitable that changes are needed and that the various tasks undertaken to ensure we have a meetings program, newsletter etc. need to be delegated to a small group of individuals. In the afternoon we will conclude the formal AGM business with report from Clive Lovatt the treasurer. This will be followed by Ian Salmon announcing the winners of the photo competition. The usual highlights of VC5/6 recording will follow.

Bring displays of any projects that you have been involved with in the last year and plants and books for sale or swap. Meet at **10.30am** at the Avalon marshes (see above) for coffee and chat before AGM at **11am**. Please bring a contribution for our bring-and-share lunch; coffee and tea are provided. Finish by **4pm**.

Saturday 23rd February 2019.

Meet at **10.30am** at the Avalon marshes (see above) for coffee and chat before start at **11am**. Please bring a packed lunch; coffee and tea are provided. Finish by **4pm**.

Conrad Barraclough Project Manager for The Exmoor Mires Project will give a presentation on the first 20 years of mire restoration. An overview of the scope of the project will then focus on a couple of sites which have worked well and focus on plant species that have increased in the monitoring sites. There will be a look at some of the changes to the moor vegetation. This is a 45 minute presentation with 15 minutes for questions. (It is intended to have a summer meeting on Exmoor to record one of the mire restoration success stories).

Conrad will follow on with a 30 minute vegetative ID workshop probably on Exmoor plants. Much of the ID work for monitoring vegetation changes is by necessity vegetative and this will be opportunity to look critically at a small selection from Exmoor. The objective of this

mini workshop is to stimulate recording in the depths of winter and to highlight a few characteristics that can be used to make determinations in the vegetative state.

Restoration of the Mires of Shapwick Heath NNR by Steven Clarke

Colour in margins, 20 minutes update on project plans for 2019 by Alison Mitchell

Saturday 16th March 2019.

The objective of the meeting is to cover a broad number of topics that may be of interest and help with recording in 2019. Talks will include:-

Taxonomy changes in Stace 4 by Fred Rumsey

Wallpaper files and other resources available to members by Graham lavender

Feedback on autumn *Spiranthes* search by Liz McDonnell

Targets for 2019 by Steve Parker

Knotweeds (*Polygonum*'s) by Simon Leach

Bolboschoenus laticarpus identification by Fred Rumsey/Helena Crouch

Taraxacum records 2018 by Simon Leach

The Friday Group in 2018 By Graham lavender

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Please contact Graham Lavender at grahamlavender@hotmail.com