

Warwickshire Flora Group

AUTUMN FIELD MEETINGS 2013

All botanical meetings will start at 10 a.m. and finish at about 3.00 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, and 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 johnwalton46@tiscali.co.uk.

Our mobile number is 07804 119319 but please only use it if you are having difficulties finding the site.

Saturday 13 July

The Leys, Combrook

This meadow has been taken over by a group of Combrook villagers as a wildlife project. It has been surveyed previously by John Bowley and we will hopefully have the time to add to his list. As the site is quite small, we may move on or walk to a different site nearby after lunch. There will be room for 4 or 5 cars on the drive at Chestnut House, Combrook (CV35 9HP) with and some more places by the church. There is also parking on the corner in the wood and you can walk back from there if you need to. Our meeting point will be at Chestnut House. (see attached map). Hot/cold drinks and cake will be available at lunchtime.

Thursday 18 July

Baddesley Common and Allotments

Meet at the parking area in Folly Lane (SP279979). The easiest way to find it is to approach down Merevale Lane (B4116) from the roundabout at the west end of the Atherstone bypass (A5). Turn right at the T junction towards Baddesley Ensor and Folly Lane is the first on the right at the beginning of the woods. The car park is 200 yards on the left. We will then move to 46 Hill Top, Baddesley Ensor, CV9 2BQ (where the Waltons live) where tea and cake (but not sandwiches) will be available and from where we will walk about ¼ mile to Baddesley Allotments.

Targets: *Cross-leaved Heath, Bell Heather, Heath Grass, Mat Grass, Western Gorse.*

Friday 26 July

Walsgrave, University Hospital Wildlife Reserve

Park in Dorchester Way which is the road just north of Tesco's (CV2 2TS (SP380796)), off Clifford Bridge Road, Coventry where there is unlimited parking **not** in Tesco's. We will then take a 15 minute walk along the Sowe Valley Footpath to the new Wildlife trust reserve being developed at the University Hospital site in Walsgrave where we will meet Simon Phelps from the Trust. If you wish you can park in the Hospital car park where parking is both difficult and expensive and meet us at the reserve at 10.30 a.m. A map will be sent later.

You will need to take some lunch with you as we will probably not return to the cars until about 2 pm. A cafe and toilets available at Tesco's and the Hospital..

Sunday 4 Aug

Swift Valley and Newbold Quarry

John and Val Roberts will lead us around these two Wildlife Trust sites in Rugby. Swift Valley is a disused canal and Newbold Quarry has a good mixture of limestone plants. Parking for Swift Valley is off Brownsover Road west of the A426 North of Rugby. From the A426 take the Brownsover Lane turnoff (to Brownsover Hall) north of the Brownsover Road and then turn left when the road turns to the right for the car park. (SP505775) Newbold Quarry is in Yates Avenue, Newbold, (SP497770), N. Maps and more details are available on www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk.

Saturday 17 Aug

Piles Coppice

We will spend the day looking round this excellent Woodland Trust reserve. The entrance (SP382769) to the wood is accessed from the southbound carriageway of the A46 Coventry bypass south of the A428 junction to Brandon and Binley Woods. After the roundabout you will pass an antique/craft centre with wooden giraffes outside it. Pull into the next exit road from the carriageway and park before you come to the petrol station where toilets are available.
Targets: *Common Cow-wheat, Purple Small-reed, Green-ribbed Sedge.*

Saturday 31 Aug

Ryton Pools Country Park

Ben Colman, the warden has invited us to add some more plants to his own list for the site. You will visit a very impressive bird hide that is covered with Ben's photos of the plants he has seen in the park.
Ryton Country Park is on the A445 Leicester Lane, near Bubbenhall, CV8 3BH. There is a parking charge of £2.50 per car.

Thursday 18 September Middleton Lakes RSPB Reserve

Access to the reserve has been restricted this year by landscaping work and the building of a new flood barrier by the Environment Agency. However we will spend a day adding to this large and varied reserve's species list. There are toilets and a cafe at the craft centre.
Middleton Lakes RSPB is on the A4091 south of Tamworth. You can get to the reserve along the drive to Middleton Hall passing the pool and continuing left to the RSPB car park at SP194983.

Sat 5 October

Warwick Racecourse.

John Roberts will lead us on a walk around Warwick to include a chance to see the Autumn Crocus (*Crocus nudiflorus*) growing on the racecourse. Please note these are real crocuses not Colchicums, the so called Autumn Crocus sold in garden centres. We will meet at the St.Mary's Area 4 car park (SP277653) on the south side of the A425 Saltisford Road, west of Albert Street where there will obviously be parking charges.
There is probably free parking nearby if you are prepared to walk the extra distance but be warned that Sainsbury's do prosecute if you over stay in their car park.