



Perthshire Society of Natural Science – Botanical Section – Excursion Programme 2018

Meeting times: Saturdays and Sundays 10 am or **10:30 am** Wednesdays 10 am and **6 pm**

AG: Alistair Godfrey (01738 – 827 140/07717 – 524 078); **SE:** Sandy Edwards (01334 – 478 629/07986 – 183 706); **LL:** Liz Lavery (01577 – 840 645/0749 – 907 982); **MR:** Martin Robinson (01250 – 881 477/07884 – 002 372); **BB:** Brian Ballinger (01382 – 669 727/ 07541 - 779 349); **FA** Faith Anstey (01350 - 727499/07949 018214; **LT:** Leslie Tucker (01382 – 642 442/07757 – 320 394); **JJ:** Jane Jones; **DC:** David Chamberlain.

Date	Botanising area	Reason	Meet & parking	Grid ref.	Reporter
Jan	3 Wed (am only)	St. Magdalene's Hill, Perth	New Year Plant Hunt - winter flowering plants	St. Magdalene's Hill car park	NO 108 217 AG
Feb	24 Sat (am only)	Kinnoull Hill, Perth	Winter trees	Roadside car park/layby	NO 135 235 MR
Mar	21 Wed all day	Kinross	Bryophytes; joint, BSS	Kinross Park and Ride *	NO 111 024 LL & DC
Apr	25 Wed evening	Moncreiffe Hill, Bridge of Earn	Early flowers and woodland (turn off before Bridge of Earn and leave road at NO 150 188)	South side car park at end of track from NO 150 188	NO 153 192 LT
May	5 Sat all day	Polyrigg & Twenty Shilling Woods, Comrie	Woodland habitat and flora id.	Laggan car park, Comrie*	NN 777 222 AG
	16 Wed all day	Menstrie, Clackmannanshire	Urban Flora of Scotland; joint, BSS & BSBI	Menstrie Park, West Main St. at 10:30*	NS 849 970 BB & LL
June	16 Sat all day	Corb Glen, Dunning	Easy access upland vegetation id.	Forestry Commission car park off B934*	NO 016 082 AG
	30 Sat all day	Doune	Atlas 2020 recording, joint with BSBI	Doune Ponds car park*	NN 725 018 LL & JJ
July	4 Wed evening	New Mill, west of Marlee Loch	Orchid meadow created by Dave Trudgill	New Mill**	NO 130 445 MR
	7 Sat all day	Carsebreck	Detailed recording & mapping of mire habitat & search for <i>Callitriche palustris</i>	Verge on Braco to Auchterarder Road*	NN 865 105 AG
Aug	4 Sat all day	Logierait	Workshop id.	Logierait car park, off round-about at 10:30*	NN 978 520 FA
	11 Sat all day	Braco	Atlas 2020 recording; joint, BSBI	Braco Park car park*	NN 837 097 LL & JJ
Sept	1 Sat all day	East Sands, St. Andrews	Seaweeds (Note change of date!)	East Sands Car Park, Woodburn Place	NO 517 161 SE

Other id: Contact Faith Anstey for further information on the following: faithanstey@gmail.com

June 23 Sat **all day** Plant Families Workshop: 'Grasses'; Mugdock Country Park, Milngavie.**

July 28 Sat **all day** Especially for beginners and improvers: St. Cyrus National Nature Reserve.

Details of other excursions and other Plant Families Workshops: Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland [<https://bsbi.org/field-meetings>] Botanical Society of Scotland [<http://www.botanical-society-scotland.org.uk/content/societys-activities>] Dundee Naturalists Society [<http://www.dundeenats.org.uk/>].

<http://www.psns.org.uk/>

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Bookings. In the 'meet & parking' column above, an asterisk is shown where booking is preferred and a double asterisk where booking is essential. Booking is preferred where there may be constraints on parking, party size or other reasons and where additional information might or would be helpful that is not available on the programme. You may attend if you wish without booking. Booking is essential where places will be limited. Bookings can be made by e-mail where the reporter has provided an e-mail address or by telephone using the numbers above. Landlines are preferred for bookings; mobiles are provided for contact on the day of an excursion

Guidance for Excursions

We look forward to seeing as many members on our excursions as possible, and any friends and family who would like to come along. **All meetings are free to PSNS members, and new members are especially welcome.** The following commonsense guidance will help you enjoy our excursions.

Full-day excursions take place on Saturdays, Sundays or Wednesdays, and some excursions are arranged for Wednesday evenings. Bring a packed lunch for full-day outings, and on all excursions come prepared with suitably warm and weatherproof clothing and appropriate footwear. For ID sessions, please bring notebook, pencil and hand-lens.

For the purpose of insurance liability it is necessary to state that members, their relatives and friends of the PSNS attend excursions at their own risk. They should be aware of their own safety and the safety of others and respect the property over which they pass.

Booking and Confirmation

Bulletin Reporter(s) for the excursion should be contacted a few days beforehand when planning to attend, to confirm details and book a place. Even where excursions have been fully planned, there may be a change at short notice.

Medical conditions and allergies

If any member suffers from a medical condition that may affect an excursion or if a member is prone to allergic reactions, they should alert the reporter of an excursion when making a booking. If medication is being taken or may be required to treat an allergic reaction the medication should be brought on the excursion.

Weather

If bad weather is due on the day of the excursion members should contact the reporter to confirm whether the excursion will proceed or not. Appropriate clothing should be worn or packed in preparing for an excursion; waterproofs should almost always be packed, warm clothing will be required in cool or windy weather or in upland conditions, sensible clothing should be worn in warm weather, bearing in mind that there are recommendations to keep as much of the skin covered as possible to prevent sunburn and tick bites. Additional clothing should be carried in the event of weather changing from warm conditions. Sun-cream is also advisable and sunglasses can be a useful protection against the harmful effects of ultraviolet light. A hat with a good rim will also provide protection against the damaging effects of the sun. Drinking water is required on all day excursions and food helps to provide energy during cool conditions.

If weather turns bad during an excursion the excursion may have to be curtailed. The group should stay together when returning to the start of the excursion. The worst condition that may be met is lightning. Lightning is attracted to any prominence such as trees and mountain tops from which the electrical charge will be transferred to the surrounding area. Avoid sheltering in such areas and behind loose rock. Sitting on a rucksack or dry clothing in a foetal type posture helps to prevent and reduce the chances of injury.

Access

Take account of the nature of the terrain before booking on an excursion and when preparing for one. Advise a reporter if you do not intend to take part in a full excursion and always tell the reporter if you have decided to leave an excursion early, or to extend it into a longer solo walk. The statutory right of access and responsibilities are set out in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, www.outdooraccess-scotland.com.

Water

Avoid entering fast-flowing water and avoid the unstable edges of river banks. Be aware of soft or false bottoms to still water bodies where the water will be deeper than it appears. A grapnel can be used to retrieve plants from deep water.

Heights

Avoid the steep edges of cliffs, corries and the like. Keep to paths in these situations where possible, especially in poor visibility.

Animals

The reporter will not always be aware of the presence of livestock in advance. Stock should be avoided if possible. Bracken or long vegetation may harbour ticks; check for any ticks after an excursion, which should be removed cleanly using tweezers applied to the tick's head. Bites of any kind which result in swellings, or rashes followed by 'flu like symptoms should be referred to a doctor. For further information, see www.lymediseaseaction.org.uk/ticks.htm.

