

**WILD FLOWER SOCIETY AGM AND MEMBERS' WEEKEND 2022  
PRESTON MONTFORD FIELD STUDIES CENTRE, MONTFORD BRIDGE,  
SHREWSBURY, SY4 1HW  
FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> TO MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**Accommodation**

There is still accommodation available at the Field Studies Centre. For details of costs see WFS website (<https://thewildflowersociety.org.uk/event/friday-2nd-september-monday-5th-september>) To book it, contact Liz Wilcox at Preston Montford, stating that you are part of the WFS Weekend, either by ringing 01743 852040 or emailing [enquiries.pm@field-studies-council.org](mailto:enquiries.pm@field-studies-council.org)

Even if you have already booked your accommodation at Preston Montford, please send bookings by the end of July 2022 to Sheila Wynn, 17 Southfield Drive, West Bradford, Clitheroe, BB7 4TU  
Email: [wfs.gensec@gmail.com](mailto:wfs.gensec@gmail.com) or Phone: 01200 425813  
Mobile number, for use at the event only, 07875 284334

**Catering**

When booking please advise of any dietary requirements.  
Please let Sheila know before Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August, if you do NOT want to have the buffet lunch on Saturday and advise of any dietary requirements if you do.  
If you are not staying at the Centre the cost of the buffet lunch is £9/person. (Payment to WFS on booking by cheque or online please. Please request details from Sheila.)  
A packed lunch will be needed on Sunday and Monday (provided by Preston Montford for those staying there.)

Evening meals at Preston Montford: If you are not staying at the Field Studies Centre and would like to join us for an evening meal on any day, the cost will be £10/person. Please let Sheila know before Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August. (Payment to WFS on booking by cheque or online please. Please request details from Sheila.)

**Transport**

Please inform Sheila which field meetings you wish to attend (including your choice of sites for Sunday and Monday) and whether you will require transport. Also, if you are coming by car, please let Sheila know how many passengers you would be willing to take, as car sharing will be necessary.

**Programme**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 2 pm: Branch and Competition Secretaries' Meeting**

The room will be available from 1pm and tea and coffee will be available.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

**Field Meeting: The Grounds of Preston Montford Field Studies Centre.**

**Leaders: Sue Dancey (Former head of Preston Montford), Gareth Bursnall, Stephen Clarkson, Roger Heath-Brown.**

**Meet for a 10:00am start by the courtyard pond if fine, or in the Darwin Common Room if raining.**

We will divide into groups to explore the Preston Montford grounds which are quite diverse. Preston Rough has many ancient woodland indicators (not very evident in September!). There are meadows and freshwater habitats which are very varied and the ponds all have a relatively high species count. There will be wild plums in the hedgerow and the semi-improved grasslands are becoming a little more interesting. There is some access (with care) to the gravel beds in the river where gravel can yield a few water treasures.

**1pm: Buffet Lunch**

## 2pm: AGM

There will then be a short break followed by:

### **An illustrated talk by Jonathan Drori, *Around the World in 80 Plants***

In the follow up to his best-selling *Around the World in 80 Trees*, WFS member, Jonathan Drori takes another trip across the globe, bringing to life the science of plants by revealing how their worlds are inextricably entwined with our own history, culture and folklore. For more information about Jonathan, visit his website, <http://www.jondrori.co.uk/>

After the talk there will be some of Jonathan's books for sale. (Proceeds to the WFS)

During the afternoon, entries to the Photographic Competition will be on display and the winners will be announced. Entries to the 'Shoot and Show' competition will be voted on by members present at the AGM.

There will be our usual Plant Identification Quiz, provided by Stephen Clarkson.

There will also be a sale of botanical books donated by Pat Verrall, Chris Pogson and others.

### **After dinner, at approximately 7:30pm**

#### **A microscopy session led by Martin Godfrey. (The session will be limited to a maximum of 15, please book your place in advance)**

The session will cover pollen and fern spore fertility (good for hybrids), stomata size and distribution which is handy for sorting out some species. Martin would like you to bring specimens.

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September:**

**There will be a choice of three field meetings:**

**When booking, please let Sheila know which one you would like to attend.**

**All meetings will start at 10:30**

**Routes and parking information will be available nearer the time.**

- 1. The Montgomery Canal and Vyrnwy Aqueduct at Llanymynech. Leader: Martin Godfrey**
- 2. Wern Claypit Reserve and Montgomery Canal, Arddleen (am) followed by Llanymynech Rocks Nature Reserve (pm). Leader: Kate Thorne**
- 3. Llanymynech Rocks Nature Reserve (am) followed by the Llanymynech Heritage Area and the Montgomery Canal at Llanymynech (pm) Leader: John Martin**

#### **Llanymynech Rocks Nature Reserve**

The reserve has a varied limestone flora. Plants we should see include: Autumn Gentian *Gentianella amarella* ssp. *amarella*, Autumn Lady's-tresses *Spiranthes spiralis*, Ploughman's-spikenard *Inula conyzae* and Common Calamint *Clinopodium ascendens*.

**Llanymynech Heritage Area** has a beautifully restored Hoffman Limekiln

#### **Montgomery Canal**

There should be a good variety of water and emergent plants at all the sites. We should see Common Skullcap *Scutellaria galericulata* and Gypsywort *Lycopus europaeus* as well as other emergent species along the margins. There should also be some Pondweeds *Potamogeton* spp. in the canal and Floating Water-plantain *Luronium natans* has been recorded at both sites.

### **After dinner, at approximately 7:30pm**

**A workshop led by John Poland on how to use *The Vegetative Key to the British Flora***

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September: Field Meetings at Ironbridge Gorge, Telford.**

**There is a choice of two field meetings in Benthall Edge Woods, Ironbridge.**

**When booking, please let Sheila know which one you would like to attend.**

**Walk 1: Leader: Martin Godfrey**

**Meet for a 10:30 start in the Ironbridge Station Yard Pay and Display Car Park, Ladywood. Postcode: TF8 7JU, Grid ref: SJ67240329, What3Words: saved.butter.bungalows**

The site is all woodland in a steep-sided gorge by the River Severn. Walking is almost all on good paths although there are some steep sections.

The walk is aimed at those who would like to get to grips with our ferns, their structure and identification. The site is pretty fern-rich and has examples of most of our fern groups (no filmy ferns but there are some horsetails), from the tiny to the very large, so provides an ideal opportunity to get a better understanding of the group. For those who would like to develop their skills there are both common species of Shield-ferns *Polystichum* and their hybrid and several of those tricky *Dryopteris*, plus a couple of hybrids to really test the keen.

**Walk 2: Leader: Kate Thorne** We will also be joined by Frances and Frank Hay (who are members of Shropshire Botanical Society and Volunteers at Benthall Hall) and Nick Swankie (who is the Gardener in Charge at Benthall Hall).

**Meet for a 10:30 start in National Trust Car Park (Free to NT Members) at Benthall Hall, Postcode: TF12 5RXm Grid Ref: SJ65750248, What3Words: cassettes.concerts.surgical**

The walk will be on the higher ground in the woods and will be on more level paths.

Plants we should see include Wood Barley *Hordelymus europaeus*, Bird's-nest-orchid *Neottia nidus-avis*, Common Gromwell *Lithospermum officinale*, Wild Service-tree *Sorbus torminalis* and Herb-Paris *Paris quadrifolia*. There is also a little limestone quarry (Patten's Quarry) which can also be accessed more easily from the high ground.

For those who are interested in history, there is the Iron Bridge which you can walk over, and some historical quarries and lime kilns as well as the small town itself.