

## Plantlife events, walks and workdays : Autumn and winter 2008/2009

We simply could not keep tabs on so many of Britain's rare wildflowers, other plants and fungi - and maintain their habitats - without your help. Events are open to all and are free of charge. You do not need to be an experienced botanist or conservationist to take part in surveys and workdays as full guidance is given on the day.

### Booking information and procedure

When booking, always leave your telephone number in the unlikely event of meeting changes. If you have any special needs please mention them at this stage. If you intend to travel by public transport but need a pick-up, please discuss possible arrangements with the contact given.

We ask that children under the age of 16 are accompanied by an adult and that dogs are left at home. Please contact Plantlife nearer the time for full joining details.

### What to bring

Any special items that you should bring are stated in the event details - tools and gloves are supplied by us when needed. In general we recommend the following:

- old outdoor clothing appropriate to the weather
- waterproof outers (top & bottom)
- sturdy footwear – e.g. walking boots
- sun hat and sun block (or high-factor cream)
- packed lunch & something to drink

To book, contact Plantlife on 01722 342730, or email [enquiries@plantlife.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@plantlife.org.uk), stating "events" in the subject line. Or write to Events, Plantlife, 14 Rollestone Street, Salisbury, SP1 1DX. Include your cheque if applicable and a SAE.

### Scotland

For information about future survey days, guided walks and other events in Scotland, please contact Deborah Long, Plantlife Scotland Conservation Officer, on 01786 478509 or by emailing [Scotland@plantlife.org.uk](mailto:Scotland@plantlife.org.uk).

### Midlands and Northern England

**Sunday 23rd November 2008, 10am – 4pm, Deep Dale Nature Reserve, near Sheldon, Derbyshire. Workday.** Join us, and the Peak District Countryside Volunteers, for a day's scrub cutting amidst spectacular limestone scenery at Plantlife's reserve.

**Saturday 31st January 2009. 10am - approx 1pm, Much Marcle, Herefordshire. Mistletoe Meander: Discover Mistletoe, its seasonal traditions and learn how to grow your own.** Join Mistletoe expert Jonathan Briggs on a short field walk around some beautiful cider apple orchards with abundant Mistletoe – only about 2 miles in distance but with plenty of stops to examine mistletoe, and to talk about its biology and how to grow your own, mistletoe in medicine and mistletoe in *art nouveau*, complete with mistletoe info pack to take away! To reserve a place for this event, please send a cheque payable to Plantlife for £7 (£8 for non-members) to Events, Plantlife, 14 Rollestone Street, Salisbury, Wilts, SP1 1DX. After the walk there will also be the option to relax in a local restaurant or pub for lunch and to chat about the morning's activities.

**Sunday 15th February 2009, 10am – 4pm, Deep Dale Nature Reserve, Derbyshire. Workday.** This workday in partnership with the Peak District Countryside Volunteers is another chance to

help with the on-going scrub clearance effort at this glorious Plantlife reserve in a wonderful National Park landscape.

## **Southern England**

**Friday 28th November, 11.30am – 2.30pm, Charlbury, Oxon. Flora Guardian day.** Ever wondered how Plantlife decides which species to save? Join us for a day of indoor talks by Plantlife staff and discussions about our conservation programme. Although the event is primarily aimed at Flora Guardians, other members are very welcome to attend. A light lunch will be provided but we may ask for a small contribution to cover the costs. Numbers will be limited so please book in advance; further details will then be provided.

**Sunday 18th January 2009, 10am – 4pm, Ryewater Farm Nature Reserve, Dorset. Workday.** It's the time of year when we welcome back a cheerful team from the Dorset Countryside Volunteers for a joint event to cut back scrub at this tranquil Plantlife reserve. Tea and biscuits provided!

**Sat 21st March 2009, 10.30am - 1pm, All Saints Church, Broad Chalke, Wiltshire. An introduction to lichen identification and ecology.** Join Plantlife's Tim Wilkins on a churchyard ramble exploring the wondrous miniature world of these intriguing organisms. A partnership event with the Wiltshire Botanical Society. Please contact the Plantlife office to book as numbers will be limited. Stay and join us for lunch in a local pub after the event too.

## **Wales**

**Thursday 5th March 2009, 11am – 3pm, Arthog, Merionethshire. Sword-leaved Helleborine management day .** Plantlife's Trevor Dines and Plantlife members will be joined by the Snowdonia National Park Authority to tackle Rhododendron and Gorse bushes that are threatening a population of Sword-leaved Helleborine orchid on the edge of the Mawddach Trail. Meet at Mawddach Trail car park at Arthog (grid ref SH640148).

**Saturday 7th March 2009, 11am – 3pm, Llanberis, Caernarfonshire . Sword-leaved Helleborine management day .** We'll be undertaking experimental bramble and light scrub clearance at a site for these orchids to see if they respond to this type of management. Meet Plantlife's Trevor Dines at the bridge at the end of Llyn Padarn near Brynrefail (grid ref SH559623).

The Welsh Lichen Group meets monthly in and around Wales. For further details, contact Ray Woods, email [ray.woods@plantlife.org.uk](mailto:ray.woods@plantlife.org.uk) or call 01597 824661.

## **Events at Ranscombe Farm Reserve in Kent**

Please contact Ranscombe's new warden Ben Sweeney on 01471 824180 or 07983 578201 for further details about events and workdays at the reserve in autumn and winter 2008 - or for any other information about conservation work at Ranscombe. You can also email Ben at [ben.sweeney@plantlife.org.uk](mailto:ben.sweeney@plantlife.org.uk).

Sunday 16th Nov, 10am. **Guided walk .** Join the warden to discover some of the secrets of this fascinating reserve – expected to last up to three hours.

Sun 28 th Dec, 10am. **Christmas walk.** Help walk off the mince pies with a guided walk around Ranscombe Farm. Join the warden to explore open fields, coppice woodlands, and fantastic views across the Medway Valley.

**'A Team' workdays** will take place on the following Wednesdays throughout November and December: 5th November, 19th November, 3rd December and 17th December 2008. Start will be at 9am - please contact Ben Sweeney for details of locations and activities.