

# **BAS FIELD WEEKEND & AGM, 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

## **General information**

You are warmly invited to attend the B.A.S. field weekend in May 2018. It will be an interesting, stimulating, informative and sociable event, with the following things on offer:

- field trips to stunning local habitats.
- the chance to chat to friendly spider experts and enthusiasts.
- two interesting talks (no previous knowledge required).
- a one-day practical arachnology workshop for less experienced B.A.S. members.
- comfortable accommodation with *ensuite* rooms.
- excellent and plentiful food.

If you have anything of interest to show other attendees, then please feel free to bring it along. This might comprise: innovative new equipment for collecting or microscopy, unusual specimens, interesting books, photographs, artwork etc. In fact, pretty much anything at all that is arachnological! There will also be a selection of B.A.S. merchandise for sale.

## **Locality & dates**

We are excited to announce that we will be staying at Margam Discovery Centre (FSC), near to Port Talbot. Margam Discovery Centre is situated within Margam Park, an 850 acre country estate situated on the narrow coastal plain and southern slopes of Mynydd Margam. The Park covers a remarkably diverse and varied landscape. The Centre is also very close to Kenfig Burrows, Merthyr Mawr Warren, Tennant Canal (*Dolomedes plantarius*) and Bishop's Wood (*Trogloneta granulum*).

The weekend event runs from Friday 25th to 27th May 2018.

## **Weekend layout**

This layout might be subject to change, depending on local weather conditions.

- Friday – arrival time after 3pm, dinner, A.G.M., details about local sites for fieldwork, bar.
- Saturday – breakfast, fieldwork/workshop, dinner, two talks, bar.
- Sunday – breakfast, fieldwork, end of weekend.

## **One-day workshop**

An optional, free one-day workshop for B.A.S. members less experienced in the practical side of arachnology will be held on the Saturday of the A.G.M. weekend. This will include a morning in the field with other B.A.S. members, providing an opportunity to see and try out various capture techniques, and an afternoon session in the laboratory devoted to spider identification, preservation and storage. Advice will be given on equipment such as the best types of microscopes, lighting, etc.

to purchase. We will endeavour to tailor the workshop to your individual needs, interests and level of expertise. All equipment required will be supplied, but please feel free to bring your own. If you have any identification books e.g. Roberts' *Collins Field Guide to Spiders of Britain and Northern Europe*, please bring these along too. Please contact Jan Beccaloni (j.beccaloni@nhm.ac.uk) to book, as places are limited.

### **Cost & booking arrangements**

The cost is a reasonable £100 per person sharing; £115 single occupancy. This also covers all food from arrival to departure, plus hire of a meeting room and laboratory. There may be a small additional cost for mini-bus hire, depending on requirements. If you want to make other accommodation arrangements (such as camping), please contact me for local advice. You can still join us for the weekend, including for meals.

To secure a place, please send your £30 deposit to Jan Beccaloni, Curator of Chelicerata (Arachnida, Xiphosura, Pycnogonida), Myriapoda, Tardigrada & Onychophora, Division of Invertebrates, Department of Life Sciences, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD (cheques payable to the B.A.S.), and state your dietary preferences (i.e. vegetarian). Balances need to be paid at the latest in early April 2018.

*Jan Beccaloni*

*Meetings Secretary*

*j.beccaloni@nhm.ac.uk*