

2017 FIELD WEEKEND & AGM

Jan Beccaloni (Meetings Secretary)

General info

You are warmly invited to attend the BAS field weekend in June 2017. 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 BAS members
- comfortable accommodation with en-suite rooms
- excellent and plentiful food

If you have anything of possible 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 BAS merchandise for sale.

Locality & dates

We are excited to announce that we will be staying at **Millport Field Studies Centre, Isle of Cumbrae in the Firth of Clyde**. The weekend event runs from Friday 2nd to 4th June. This small unique island is surrounded by a rich wildlife and marine habitats. The Centre is just metres away from the sea – there is a chance to see seals, porpoise and a wide variety of sea birds. Millport is easily accessible being just an 8 minute ferry crossing from the mainland.

Weekend layout

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

Friday – arrival time 4pm onwards, dinner, AGM, 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 BAS members less experienced in the practical side of arachnology will be held on the Saturday of the AGM weekend. This will include a morning in the field with other BAS 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 those along too. Please contact Jan Beccaloni (j.beccaloni@nhm.ac.uk) to book, as places are limited.

Cost & booking arrangements

You're now really keen to come on along to the BAS AGM weekend, aren't you?! The cost is £149 per person sharing; £169 single occupancy. This also covers all food from arrival to departure, plus hire of a meetings 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 Arachnida & Myriapoda, Division of Invertebrates, Department of Life Sciences, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD (cheques payable to the BAS), and state your dietary preferences (i.e. vegetarian). Balances need to be paid latest in early May 2017.

See you in 2017!