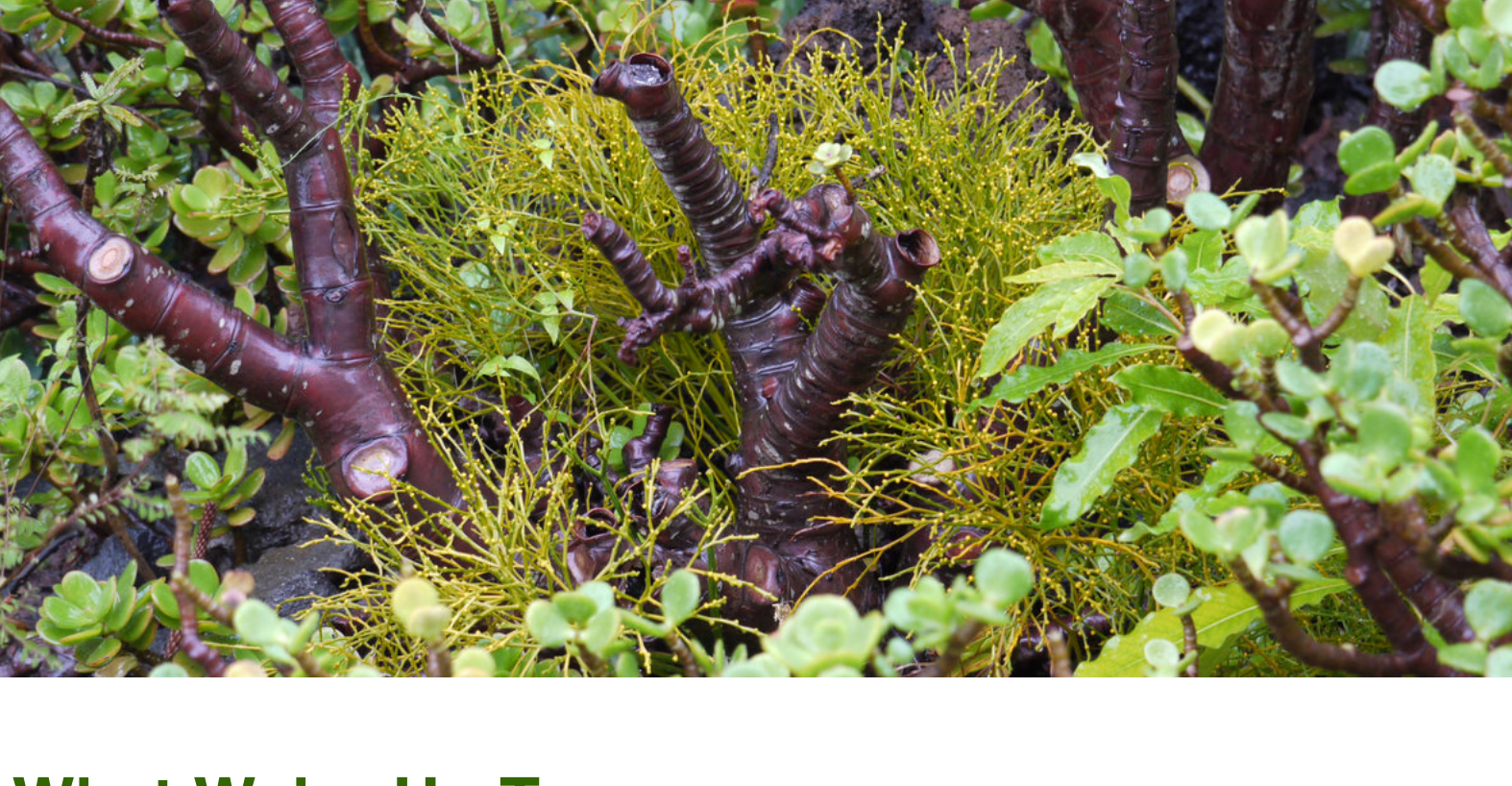


Autumn 2025 Newsletter



Connect, Learn, Grow.
Read about our news and latest updates.

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter. It's been a busy summer for the Exotic Fern Group. Between watering the ferns and mitigating the effects of the heat and sun on our own collections, the EFG has taken part in several shows and events. We are pleased to share with you reports on these, as well as some new articles and updates written by our members. If you are new to the society, to view the articles you will need to login to the website by creating a password. This is easy to do by following the instructions on the website when prompted. Get in touch if you if you need any assistance.



What We're Up To

In this edition, Ben Merritt, who some of you will know as @casualfernhunting on Instagram, shares with us his passion for discovering and growing all the ferns that Florida has to offer. Peter Blake goes in depth on the strange *Psilotum nudum*. Stuart Worth is back, this time with Dick Hayworth, exploring *Davallia pentaphylla*. Sean Barton has contributed a short piece on his planted paludarium and Yvonne Golding gives an update of Thwaite Botanic Garden. Links to all these articles are found below. We also have reports on our Fern Day at Treborth Botanic Garden and our participation at the Ferns and Carnivorous Plants Show at RHS Garden Wisley. In June we had a show stand at BBC Gardeners' World Live at the NEC Birmingham, UK, and we were thrilled to win a gold medal.

Remember that our printed journal, *The Glasshouse*, is available through the website. You received the latest edition if you subscribe and back copies of earlier editions are also available individually. Subscribing will really help us fund and develop our new society.

[Subscribe to The Glasshouse](#)

Happening Today!

Later this evening, Hans-Peter Vierstraete is giving us a talk on 'Developing a *Platyserium* Collection'. Hans-Peter is a member of the Dutch Fern Society and of the Exotic Fern Group. He became interested in *Platyserium* a few years ago and, after reading Darryl Ruprecht's book *King of the Ferns*, he determined to set about growing *Platyserium superbum* in his home in the Netherlands. He has offered to tell us of the pleasures and pitfalls he has experienced over the last few years. Please RSVP online to be sent the link to attend this event.

[RSVP to attend Hans-Peter's Talk](#)

Looking ahead, on Monday 3 November 2025 we have another EFG Zoom Lecture. Anthony Pigott is going to be giving us an introduction to fern genetics.

If you are interested in giving a talk or lecture on any topic relating to pteridology, fern conservation or fern horticulture, then please get in touch. A selection of past talks is now available for members to watch in the video archive on the website.

[Video Archive](#)

Richard Hayward, the First Recipient of an EFG Special Award

On Friday 4 July 2025 we presented Richard Hayward with an Exotic Fern Group Special Award. This was for the contribution he has made to tropical fern culture. The event took place at Treborth Botanic Gardens, close to where Richard and his wife Judy live, just a few miles from Yr Wyddfa/Snowdon, North Wales.



[Read more about Richard Hayward](#)

Forthcoming Meetings

Our Monthly Online Meets continue, but if you want to talk face to face then why not join us in September at the home of Peter Blake and Nick Lodge in Norwich, UK. There will be a selection of presentations and tours around Peter's glasshouses and garden, along with plant sales and lunch, with proceeds going the Exotic Fern Group and British Pteridological Society East Anglia Group.

In October we have a joint meeting with the British Pteridological Society All-Ireland Group at the Tropical Ravine in Belfast Botanic Garden. This will be a short meeting with the Head Gardener, Colin Agnew, who will show us around the ferns in the Tropical Ravine and Palm House. We will also have a chance to look around the hardy ferns in the gardens. Definitely an excellent opportunity to meet other fern enthusiasts and ask questions.

[See all events](#)

New Articles

Ben Merritt on finding and growing the **ferns of Florida**.

[Read article](#)



Peter Blake goes in-depth on *Psilotum nudum*.

[Read article](#)



Stuart Worth and Dick Hayward look at two *Davallia pentaphylla* forms.

[Read article](#)



Sean Barton writes about how he created his planted **paludarium**.

[Read article](#)



Yvonne Golding updates us on **Thwaite Botanic Garden**.

[Read article](#)



Events

Monday 1 September 2025	EFG Zoom Lecture: Developing a <i>Platyserium</i> Collection with Hans-Peter Vierstraete. 7.00 PM–8.30 PM, British Summer Time.
Wednesday 3 September 2025	EFG Online Meet. 7.00 PM–8.30 PM, British Summer Time.
Saturday 20 September 2025	Meeting at the home of Peter Blake and Nick Lodge in Norwich, UK. At this meeting there will be presentations, plant sales and a tour around Peter's collection. 11.00 AM–4.00 PM.
Wednesday 1 October 2025	EFG Online Meet. 7.00 PM–8.30 PM, British Summer Time.
Saturday 4 October 2025	Explore Belfast's Tropical Ravine with Colin Agnew. 10.00 AM–1.00 PM.
Monday 3 November 2025	EFG Zoom Lecture: Introduction to Fern Genetics with Anthony Pigott. 7.00 PM–8.30 PM, GMT.
Wednesday 5 November 2025	EFG Online Meet. 7.00 PM–8.30 PM, GMT.
Wednesday 3 December 2025	EFG Online Meet. 7.00 PM–8.30 PM, GMT.

[See our full list of events](#)

Reports

Peter Blake writes up our **Fern Day at Treborth Botanic Garden**.

[Read report](#)



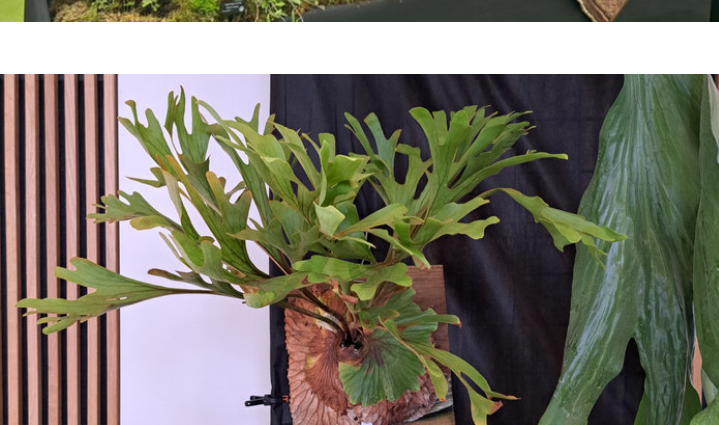
Matthew Reeve reports on our gold-winning display stand at **BBC Gardeners' World Live**.

[Read report](#)



Peter Blake sums up the **RHS Ferns and Carnivorous Plants Show 2025**.

[Read report](#)

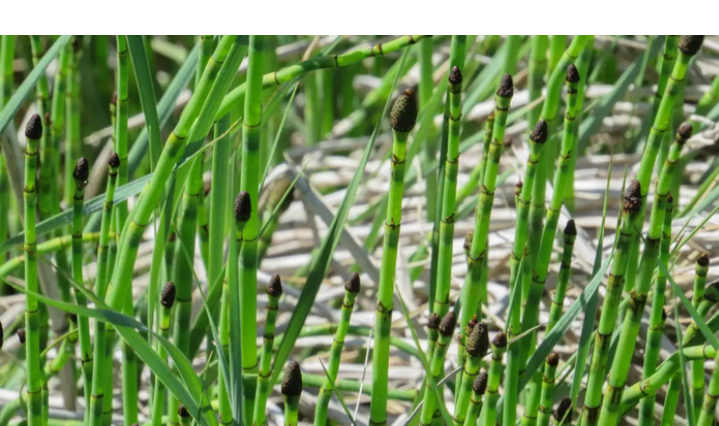


Pteridomania: Ferns in the Headlines



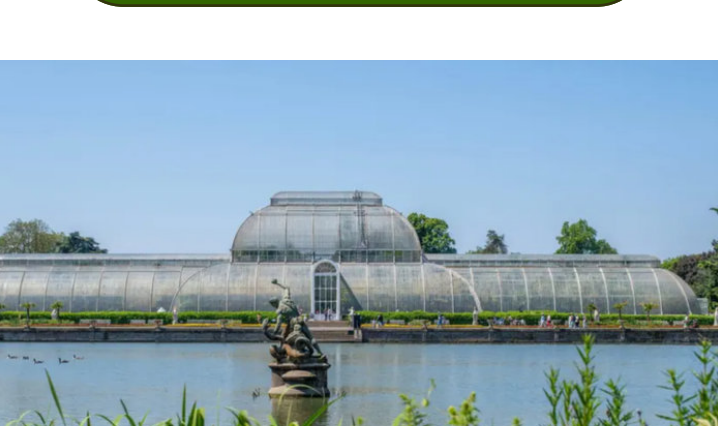
Call for ban on soil imports
The Guardian reported on a rise in sightings of invasive flatworms, prompting calls for a ban on soil imports, to prevent entry of more species that eat earthworms and degrade soil.

[Read The Guardian article](#)



Horsetails helping us reconstruct Earth's ancient ecosystems
The New Scientist tells us how scientists are analysing oxygen isotopes in horsetail fossils due to the unique way the plant processes water.

[Read The New Scientist article](#)



Kew Gardens' Palm House is closing for a major makeover
The BBC reports that Kew's world-famous Palm House is having a £50 million renovation. It will close for 5 years from 2027 but plants have already started to be relocated.

[Read the BBC article](#)



New UK–EU deal promises to make plant imports and exports easier
The UK's Animal & Plant Health Agency recently announced that extra border checks will now be cancelled. A new deal will cut costs and red tape for British producers and retailers.

[Read about UK/EU Summit](#)

Get in Touch



As a new society, your feedback, ideas and opinions are crucial to our success. We want you to get involved and be part of the journey. We are also interested in exploring collaborations in different media. Get in touch and find out more.

[Contact Us](#)

Visit our social accounts



Visit our website [→](#)