

Early Spring Newsletter



Connect, Learn, Grow.

Read about our news and latest updates.

It's been a busy start to the year with several events taking place and lots of planning for the year ahead. Richard Storey is now taking a lead on developing our conservation strategy as our new Conservation Secretary. He will continue to work closely with Ruth, Peter and Matthew with development and editorial but with more focus on this important area. Other news includes: we are now an institutional member of Botanical Gardens Conservation International, an organisation that aims to promote and develop a rational approach to plant conservation in botanic gardens.

Volume 4 of our journal, *The Glasshouse*, is hot off the press and will shortly be sent to our subscribers. You can purchase a subscription through the website and back copies of earlier volumes are available individually. Subscribing helps us fund and develop the society. Volume 4 is full colour, 164 pages, and is a compendium of our articles and reports from 2025.

[Subscribe to The Glasshouse](#)

EFG Plant Fair—Save the Date

We are organising a plant fair that will focus on exotic ferns, including ferns and plants for indoors, terrariums, glasshouses and hardier exotics for the garden. It will take place Saturday 12 September 2026, in Yattendon, Berkshire. Doors will open at 10:30 and there will be £5 door charge to raise money for the society. There will be further details in our next newsletter. As well as EFG plant sales, several sellers have already confirmed including EFG members Stuart Worth and Sean Barton. Trey Sanders from Orchid Botanics will also be there. If you would like to be a vendor please contact us and we will put you in touch with our organiser, Stuart Worth.

[Contact us](#)

EFG Pteridology Prize

In February we launched the EFG Pteridology Prize. If you are thinking of entering, abstracts or summaries must be received no later than 1 April 2026. The prize aims to promote emerging botanists, conservationists and horticulturists working with ferns who have a passion for writing and communication. The competition is open to amateurs, students and professionals, with no restrictions on nationality or place of residence. The winning entry will receive £1000. We welcome submissions of essays, reports or academic papers. Your submission needs to be enlightening, informative and engaging to read, and must celebrate an element of the EFG community mission.

[Call for Submissions 2026](#)

New Articles and Reports



In this newsletter, we welcome Ursula Schell from Cambridge University Botanic Garden who is writing on the ferns she saw on a trip to the Western Cape of South Africa. Jonathan Hutchinson, from RHS Garden Rosemoor, continues the African theme with some short notes on some of the ferns he saw in Ethiopia. Horticulturist, Marco de Jong begins a series of reports on the renovation of the glasshouses at Utrecht University Botanical Garden.

We have two short reports on events that have already taken place this year. We attended the Snowdrop and Plant Fair at Yattendon and the Houseplant Event at RHS Garden Rosemoor in January.

Forthcoming Meetings

We will be returning to BBC Gardeners' World Live at the NEC Birmingham in June 2026 and RHS Garden Wisley for the Ferns and Carnivorous Plants Show at the end of July 2026. Our monthly Online Meets are continuing. These are a chance to meet other members of the group and chat about all aspects of your fern passion. All are welcome, from beginners to those who are more experienced, just register online and join in.

Our next event is in Northern Ireland in May. Head Gardener, Rob Wilson, will be showing us around the ferns at Mount Stewart. Rob is a fount of knowledge about the garden at Mount Stewart and how it is developing. The special microclimate at Mount Stewart has meant several subtropical species have historically grown well in the gardens. However, recent regular flooding and the effects of a changing climate are altering their approach to preserving the gardens.

[See all events](#)

New Articles

Jonathan Hutchinson, Team Leader at RHS Garden Rosemoor, provides short notes on some of the ferns he saw in **Ethiopia**.

[Read article](#)



Ferns of the Western Cape. Ursula Schell reports on the fascinating ferns she saw on a recent trip to South Africa.

[Read article](#)



Marco de Jong begins his report on the renovation of the glasshouses at **Utrecht University Botanical Gardens**.

[Read article](#)



Events

Wednesday 4 March 2026	EFG Online Meet. 7.00 PM–8.30 PM, GMT.
Wednesday 1 April 2026	EFG Online Meet. 7.00 PM–8.30 PM, BST.
Wednesday 6 May 2026	EFG Online Meet. 7.00 PM–8.30 PM, BST.
Saturday 23 May 2026	Explore Mount Stewart with Rob Wilson, Northern Ireland. 10.00 AM–1.00 PM.
Wednesday 3 June 2026	EFG Online Meet. 7.00 PM–8.30 PM, BST.
Thursday 18 June 2026 to Sunday 21 June 2026	BBC Gardeners' World Live, NEC Birmingham, UK. 10.00 AM–5.00 PM.
Wednesday 1 July 2026	EFG Online Meet. 7.00 PM–8.30 PM, BST.
Saturday 25 July 2026 to Sunday 26 July 2026	RHS Ferns and Carnivorous Plants Show, RHS Garden Wisley, UK. 10.00 AM–5.00 PM.
Saturday 12 September 2026	EFG Plant Fair, Yattendon, Berkshire, UK. 10.30 AM–3.30 PM.
Saturday 19 September 2026	Meeting at the house of Peter Blake and Nick Lodge in Norwich, UK. 11.00 AM–4.00 PM.

[See our full list of events](#)

Reports

Peter Blake writes up the **Houseplant Event at RHS Garden Rosemoor**.

[Read report](#)



Matthew Reeve reports on the new **Snowdrop & Plant Fair, at Yattendon**.

[Read report](#)



Pteridomania: Ferns in the Headlines



Freezing weather threatens Pierson fern farms

About 80% of the green foliage sold in bouquets across the U.S. and Canada comes from northeast Volusia County. Companies growing ferns are watching the weather closely because freezing conditions can kill plants before their busiest season.

[Watch WKMG News 6 report](#)



Ferntastic news for the critically endangered *Antrophyum austroqueenslandicum*

Adult ferns have been recorded in Queensland for the first time in 40 years thanks to an Australian Government-funded Saving Native Species project led by Tweed Landcare Inc.

[Read Threatened Species Commissioners Facebook post](#)

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



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