

Summer 2025 Newsletter



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

Welcome to our Summer newsletter. This email gives you links to read our latest collection of articles, alongside news and information on events for the Exotic Fern Group. To view the articles you will need to login to the website. It is easy to create your login simply by following the instructions on the website when prompted.



What We're Up To

Our printed journal, *The Glasshouse*, is now available. If you want to receive this annual journal you can subscribe on the website. Back copies of our three previous editions are also available individually. Subscribing will really help us fund and develop our new Society. If you would prefer to just read the articles online via the website, then please consider making a donation.

In this edition of the newsletter we've four new articles to draw your attention to. Peter Blake describes the work of the naturalist Richard Beddome; Matthew Reeve interviews the couple behind the UK's leading fern nursery; Colin Agnew, Head Gardener of Belfast Botanic Garden, writes about his own 'Rustic Garden'; and tropical fern expert, Stuart Worth, talks about his current approach to substrate mixes. Peter Blake also gives a short report on our recent display at the Norfolk Plant Heritage Show and has a book review of Darryl Ruprecht's *King of the Ferns*.

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Remko Beuving—our next EFG Zoom Lecture

Later this month Remko Beuving is giving us a talk on 'Hardy and cold-tolerant *Pyrrosia* and related genera'. This is going to be an interesting talk giving us an insight into Remko's experience growing these *Pyrrosia*, *Lepisorus* and *Microsorium*. Remko is a prominent member of the Dutch Fern Society and other international fern groups. He has conducted field trips in Asia, North America and Taiwan in search of these plants. In this talk he will discuss species likely to be successful, his own experience in growing these borderline hardy plants outside, with strategies for winter protection.

[RSVP to attend Remko's Lecture](#)

EFG Online Meets

Our regular Zoom social events have been successful. Topics have included spore growing, the use of pesticides and *Nephrolepis* taxonomy. Each online meeting has allowed us to share the highs and lows of our shared passion. These will continue on the first Wednesday of every month. These events allow you to meet and socialise with other members of the group. It's an opportunity for you to ask questions or share your ideas and successes. You can drop in and out as you wish, but please let us know you are attending in advance so we can share the link with you. As we said in the last newsletter, unfortunately you'll need to provide your own wine and snacks!

BBC Gardeners' World Live

We will have a stand at BBC Gardeners' World Live at Birmingham NEC, 12–15 June 2025. You will find us somewhere within the International Orchid Show in the Floral Marquee. We will be displaying a range of tropical ferns and ferns that can be used as houseplants, we will also be on hand to answer questions about all ferns. Please come and say hello.

Plant Health Week 2025

We took part in the 2025 Plant Health Week. Throughout the second week in May we posted a rogues' gallery of fern pests on our social media. If you use Instagram you will be able to see the collection of posts there and more practical information on dealing with them is available on the EFG website.

Articles

Peter Blake writes about his pteridological hero, **Richard Beddome**.

[Read article](#)



Matthew Reeve interviews RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2025 gold-medal winners Linda and Mark Taylor of **Alchemy Ferns**.

[Read article](#)



Stuart Worth tells us about his approach to **compost mixes** suitable for epiphytic ferns.

[Read article](#)



Head Gardener at Belfast Botanic Garden, Colin Agnew, writes about his own '**Rustic Garden**' in Woodgrove, Northern Ireland.

[Read article](#)



Events

Wednesday 4 June 2025	EFG Online Meet. All welcome: ask questions, meet other members of the group, tell us what you are up to. Contact peter@exoticferngroup.org for details. 7.00 PM–8.30 PM, British Summer Time.
Wednesday 11 June 2025	"Hardy and cold-tolerant <i>Pyrrosia</i> and related genera' with Remko Beuving (EFG Zoom Lecture), start 6.30 PM, British Summer Time.
Thursday 12 June 2025 to Sunday 15 June 2025	BBC Gardeners' World Live, NEC Birmingham. Find us in the International Orchid Show, stand OR10.
Wednesday 2 July 2025	EFG Online Meet. 7.00 PM–8.30 PM, British Summer Time.
Saturday 26 July 2025 & Sunday 27 July 2025	Fern & Carnivorous Plant Show at RHS Wisley.
Wednesday 6 August 2025	EFG Online Meet. 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 house 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.
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 provides a summary of our display stand at the **Norfolk Plant Heritage Plant Fair** at the beginning of May.

[Read report](#)



Book Review: We have reviewed Darryl Ruprecht's *King of the Ferns*, a book that focusses solely on *Platycerium superbum*.

[Read report](#)



Pteridomania: Ferns in the Headlines



RHS Chelsea Golds for Alchemy Ferns and Kells Bay House & Gardens.
Both fern specialists gave stunning displays of ferns at this year's show. Kells Bay also won the President's Choice Award.

[Go to RHS website](#)



Hortus Botanicus Amsterdam's Climate House to reopen this month.
The glasshouses are current being restocked after they have been closed to the public for a year of renovations. They are due to reopen 2 June 2025.

[Go to de Hortus website](#)

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](#)

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