Southern Group meeting at Chiddinglye Rocks, West Hoathly

We all dream of an ideal day in the field – perfect weather, a cordial atmosphere and, of course, exciting bryological finds. Howard Matcham describes just such a day at a recent Southern Group meeting.

Eighteen members arrived at Chiddinglye House at the kind invitation of Sylvia, Countess of Limerick, on a beautifully sunny clear spring morning to be welcomed by Sylvia with tea, coffee and biscuits. The perfect start to a perfect day spent recording familiar and the not so familiar bryophytes that are to be found on and around sand rocks in south-eastern England.

Our leader, David Streeter, began by demonstrating Dichodontium pellucidum on stones on the bank and stream bed in Philpotts Wood. This whetted the appetite for more, and Jeff Bates oblied by collecting Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans with sporophytes; to my knowledge this is only the second occurrence of this common moss with sporophytes; to my knowledge this is only the second occurrence of this common moss.

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