

AGM 2011

The AGM will be held at 4.00 p.m. on Saturday 10 September 2011 at Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

At the time of writing, the agenda will comprise the standard business, namely: Minutes of the 2010 AGM, Annual Report of the Trustees for 2010, Accounts and Treasurer's Report for 2010, Officers' reports, Report from Council, the election of Officers and Elected Members (see notice below), the place and date of the 2012 AGM, and any other business.

The agenda, minutes and reports will be issued with the next issue of *Field Bryology* (vol. 104).

Election of Officers and Elected Members of Council

Dr J.W. Bates, the current Vice-President, will become President on 1 January 2012 and it is necessary to elect a Vice-President who will take up office on that date and will become President on 1 January 2014.

The terms of the following Officers expire at the end of 2011: General Secretary, Editor of *Field Bryology* (the *Bulletin*), Conservation Officer, Librarian, Meetings Secretary, Membership Secretary, Recorder for Mosses, and Recording Secretary. The current holder of the post of Meetings Secretary has served for 10 years, the normal limit of tenure. All the present incumbents of the other offices are eligible for re-election.

J.K. Rowntree and J. Wilbraham will leave Council at the end of 2011 and are not eligible for re-election until a period of 3 years has elapsed; therefore two Elected Members need to be elected, each to serve for a period of 3 years.

Members are invited to submit nominations for Vice-President, Officers and Elected Members, sending them to the General Secretary of the BBS, Dr R.H. Carter, 6 Church View, Wootton, Northampton NN4 7LJ, to arrive no later than 10 August 2011. A nomination must not be made without the consent of the person whom it is wished to nominate. If elections are needed they will be held at the AGM in Cardiff on 10 September.

R.H. Carter, General Secretary, January 2011

Field Guide feedback

Alan Hale has now activated an online page for general comments and suggestions about the *Field Guide*. If you wish to comment on any aspect of the *Guide*, suggest improvements for future editions or highlight errors, go to www.bbsfieldguide.org.uk

Slide tray boxes for sale

Ken Adams has a number of second-hand, 16 tray slide boxes. If you are interested in purchasing these, contact Ken on ken.adams@virgin.net

Journal facelift

When the next issue of *Journal of Bryology* arrives through your letter box or on your desk, you will immediately notice two major changes. The publishers, Maney, in consultation with BBS Publications Committee, have completely redesigned the article layout and covers of the journal. The modern, new look will of course not affect the usual high quality of papers published. Your comments on the new design will be welcomed.



Changes to the Membership List, January 2011

These changes refer to the September 2009 list.

Changes of address and amendments

Bennett, Mrs J., 46 High Street, Easterton, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 4PE
Boardman, Mrs K., The Old Bakehouse, Church Farm, Billingsley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire SY10 7RP
Flagmeier, Ms M., Flat 7, 329 Easter Road, Edinburgh EH6 8JG
Moore, Mr O., The Storemans, Letterewe Estate, Achnasheen, Ross Shire IV22 2HH
Page, Dr M., Senior Ecologist, David Clements Ecology Ltd, Carlton House, 5 Herbert Terrace, Penarth, Glamorgan CF64 2AH
Pielach, Ms A., Botany and Plant Sciences, Avon de Brun (Block C), National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland
Potter, Ms R., Fourways, Marls Road, Botley, Southampton, Hampshire SO30 2EY
Roberts, Mr L., Flat 6B Sunnycroft, Princess Avenue, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5HU
Smith, Mr G., 81 Moore Avenue, Bournemouth, Dorset BH11 8AU
Watling, Mr M., 31 The Square, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd LL41 3UL

New members

Benyon-Davies, Mr R., 4 Primrose Hill, Northampton NN2 6ER (S) (2011)
Campbell, Mr C., 23 Armadale Court, Westcote Road, Reading RG30 2DF (O) (2010)
Foulkes, Mrs J., 3 Greenfield Cottages, Pool Road, Four Crosses, Llanymynech, Powys, SY22 6PS (O) (2010)
Grabame, Dr E.S., 44B The Birches, Bramhope, Leeds, LS16 9DN (O) (2010)
Grabame, Mr J., 44B The Birches, Bramhope, Leeds LS16 9DN (F) (2010)

Hurtunen, Dr S., Laboratory of Genetics, Dept of Biology, FI-20014, University of Turku, Finland (O) (2010)
Inskipp, Mr T., 1 Herneside, Welney, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE14 9SB (O) (2011)
Jones, Mr G., Poplars Farm, 19 Silver Street, Chacombe, Oxon OX17 2JR (O) (2010)
Kowal, Ms J., 6 Frogmal Lane, London NW3 7DU (O) (2010)
Macpherson, Mrs E., 152 Rullion Road, Penicuik, Midlothian EH26 9JB (O) (2011)
Maber, Ms C., Botany and Plant Science, Aras de Brun, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland (S) (2010)
Marks, Ms T., 40 Belvoir Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 3AY (O) (2010)
Moss, Mr M., 119 Chapel Lands, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 1ER (O) (2010)
Parratt, Mr M., Forest Records Station, Alice Holt Lodge, Farnham, Surrey GU10 4LH (O) (2011)
Pinhorn, Mr N., Flat 3 Raleigh House, 89 Magdalen Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 4TG (O) (2010)
Rickerby, Miss C., 16/4 Marchmont Road, Edinburgh EH9 1HZ (O) (2011)
Russell, Mr S., 3 Tanralt Cottages, Llanllyfni, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL54 6RS (O) (2010)
Snape, Mr V., 25 The Nook, North Shields, Tyne and Wear NE29 0JL (O) (2010)
Wynn, Mrs S.J., 19 Brungerley Avenue, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 2JB (O) (2011)

Deceased

We regret to report the deaths of:
Leo Andriessen, Molenstraat 20, B-3540 Herk-de-Stad, Belgium
Mr Barry Nicholson, Felindre, Mill Road, Little Melton, Norwich NR9 3NX

Council Newsletter No. 27

The President's Report as given to the 2010 AGM at the Natural History Museum in London on the work of the Council since the previous AGM.

It is a pleasure to report on a very successful year for the BBS, with several new developments, traditional activities well maintained, and steady progress in long running projects.

At the end of 2009 Liz Kungu took over from Howard Matcham as Managing Editor of *Journal of Bryology*. Howard has passed on an

effective online submission system for papers and a fine collaborative effort from the team of five Scientific Editors. The 'New National and Regional Records' column was started by Tom Blockeel in 1999 and very well received, with part 23 published in 2010. Len Ellis has now agreed to take over as editor of this column

and thanks are due to Tom for his 11 years of skilfully editing and developing it. At a time when one bryological journal has recently ceased publication and others are facing difficulties, it is a relief to report that our *Journal* maintains its prominent and respected position as a leading international publication. However, the future remains challenging since volume 31 with 282 printed pages of text fell below the 336 pages budgeted, reflecting a decline in the amount of worthwhile material being submitted.

Field Bryology has maintained its high standards of content and attractive layout, remaining very popular with members and the envy of other societies. Ian Atherton as Editor has introduced several new features in recent years that have proved successful, including 'Hot off the Press' commentaries on scientific work published elsewhere, 'Useful Pieces of Equipment' and an 'Opinion' page, while maintaining the articles, recorders' reports, news of meetings and notes on Society business.

Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland, a field guide was published by the BBS early in 2010. This substantial book of 848 pages was edited by Ian Atherton, Sam Bosanquet and Mark Lawley, with many others members of the Society contributing text and illustrations. It breaks new ground in providing coloured illustrations and non-technical descriptions as identification aids for beginners, while experienced bryologists will want to carry it as an aide-memoire. The *Field Guide* has already received good reviews and a measure of its success was the need for Council to approve a reprint of 1,500 additional copies in March 2010, within 3 months of the initial publication. The editors are to be congratulated for their expertise and hard work in producing a valuable and attractive addition to the bryological literature, on time and for a very modest price. Mark Lawley is thanked

especially for bearing the brunt of the distribution effort.

Both Recorders had an especially busy year. This was partly due to the publication of a new *Census Catalogue* at the end of 2008, provoking a flurry of updated records due to a change in date-class for 'bracketing' and also reminding recorders which specimens they had forgotten to send in previous years. In addition the spring and summer meetings targeted neglected areas, leading to a good crop of new records, respectively from Ayrshire and from Counties Cork and Kerry. Sam Bosanquet as Recorder for Hepatics dealt with 213 new and updated records from 2009, representing almost a threefold increase on the 78 from 2008. Gordon Rothero's 12-year term as Recorder for Mosses also ended with a bumper crop of 696 new and updated records. Thanks are due to Gordon for his skill, patience and persistent hard work in dealing with so many specimens over the years and to Tom Blockeel for agreeing to return as Recorder for Mosses from the beginning of 2010.

Our Recording Secretary, Mark Hill, reported a remarkable total of 234,000 records added to the BBS database at BRC during 2009. The high total reflects continuing efforts to collect data for the new *Atlas* project, from both new fieldwork and existing datasets collected for local mapping studies. Much work in checking the records by Mark has often provided valuable feedback for those submitting records, picking up slips for example in grid references or allocation to vice-counties, and allowing corrections to be made.

The Conservation Officer, Nick Hodgetts, was able to report on a year when there were a number of encouraging developments in bryophyte conservation. The Scottish Lower Plants Partnership, to which the BBS contributes, issued a series of attractive and useful leaflets, including one on *Buxbaumia viridis* and a

colourful and accessible leaflet on bryophytes aimed at the general public. In Ireland the fieldwork for a bryophyte *Red Data Book* begun by National Parks and Wildlife Service and Northern Ireland Environment Agency a decade ago was completed and the text of the book is now written. Conservation and Recording Committee have been concerned that in England the failure of the new Natural England agency to appoint a bryologist will lead to less activity in bryophyte conservation. However, it is encouraging that the Talland Barton SSSI in Cornwall was notified in early 2010 to protect six threatened bryophytes.

Our Librarian, Ken Adams, has been kept busy with unprecedented sales activity. The new *Census Catalogue* had sold 188 copies by January 2010, and sales of mini-blades and plastic eyepiece micrometer scales have proved unexpectedly popular with members. The BBS Library now fills the space available for it at Preston Montford, resulting in an overflow of new books and journal parts. Attention is therefore being directed at ways of reducing the bulk of the reprint collection, possibly by digitizing some of the material. The reprints are being catalogued as a first step.

The BBS website continues to be run efficiently by Jonathan Sleath. New material is added as it becomes available. The online payments system using Paypal was extended to receive payments for the *Field Guide*. In early 2010, the Website was receiving about 100 visits a day, of which about a quarter came from overseas.

Mark Lawley again arranged a fine programme of meetings for 2010. The Spring field meeting was in South Lincolnshire and East Nottinghamshire, based at Newark, and led by Robin Stevenson and Jonathan Graham. The Summer main field meeting was in East Ross, led by

Keith Raistrick. In addition, Liz Kungu led a Summer 2010 pre-field meeting for a week in Morayshire. All of the field meetings were targeted to survey areas for which data were needed for the new *Atlas* and all of them succeeded well in filling gaps, as well as producing some surprising new records and allowing the usual enjoyable mix of field tuition and socializing. Today's excellent meeting at the Natural History Museum has been arranged by Jeff Duckett and we are grateful to him and the speakers for an enjoyable and informative day.

By the end of 2009, membership of the Society stood at 738, with 499 in the UK and 239 overseas. 655 were paid up to date. Our Membership Secretary, Martin Godfrey, noted that in 2009 we recruited 109 new members and lost 65 members. Paypal was introduced as a means of paying subscriptions and it has proved very popular, especially with overseas members. A further increase in membership is expected during 2010. Our Treasurer, David Chamberlain, has considered the possibility that the membership subscription would need to be increased, but was able to report at the Council Meeting in March 2010 that this can be avoided at the moment.

At the end of 2009, Mike Walton retired as General Secretary after a hard-working and effective 10 years serving the Society. Rachel Carter has taken over this critical role and, in addition to routine activities, has been kept busy with Reporting to the Charity Commission and with discussions of a proposed new contract from Maney for publication of our *Journal*. Special thanks are also due to Mike Walton for his continued involvement and advice on the contract negotiations.

David Holyoak, President

FutureMeetings

Spring 2011 Field Meeting

Upper Wharfedale, Yorkshire 6–13 April 2011

Local secretary – Gordon Haycock, 15 Chevin Side, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 3JJ

(t 01943 461408 or 07814 447122; e gordon.haycock@haycockandjay.co.uk)

The spring meeting will be held near Kettlewell in Upper Wharfedale, Yorkshire.

The programme will include a number of sites in Wharfedale but we also plan to visit neighbouring parts of Wensleydale and possibly Nidderdale and/or Upper Ribblesdale. The landscape in Wharfedale is dominated by carboniferous limestone, but siliceous Millstone Grit caps much of the higher ground, and is also exposed lower down the dale. The programme also aims to include a diverse range of habitats, and will target some lesser known sites and under-recorded squares. The limestone crags and gills have a rich calcicole flora, including upland species such as *Pedinophyllum interruptum*, *Seligeria trifaria* s.l., *Plagiobryum zieri*, *Amblyodon dealbatus*, *Mnium thomsonii* and *Myurella julacea*. Calcareous flushes near Kettlewell have *Orthothecium rufescens*. There are interesting old records to be sought out, including *Hypnum hamulosum* at the head of the valley, and the nationally rare *Scapania praetervisa* and *Homomallium incurvatum*.

The base for the meeting is Scargill House near Kettlewell. Each day we will meet at the House and set off in shared cars to field destinations.

Scargill House is a country house with purpose-built comfortable accommodation for groups visiting the Dales, including a lab (with tea- and coffee-making facilities), a drying room, a library and meeting rooms. Bedrooms are single or twin, each room has washing facilities, and towels and bedding are provided. Toilets and showers are provided on each corridor. Full board has been arranged (includes packed lunch) with high-quality, 'home-cooked' meals. Special diets will be catered for. The cost is £245 for 6 nights, or £50 per night for those not able to join us for the full Meeting. For those not wishing to stay at Scargill House a good range of bed and breakfast and hotel accommodation is available in Kettlewell – please visit www.kettlewell.info

Public transport to Kettlewell is frequent by 'Pride of the Dales' buses from either Ilkley or Skipton railway stations. Details can be found at www.prideofthedales.co.uk

To attend the Spring Meeting please download the booking form from the BBS website and return it by the end of February 2011 to Gordon Haycock, 15 Chevin Side, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 3JJ.

Summer 2011 Field Meeting

Week 1: 25 June–2 July 2011 Angus and Kincardine, Scotland

Local secretary – Liz Kungu, Royal Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh (e e.kungu@rbge.org.uk)

This area comprises much of Ursula Duncan's old stamping ground, which was last surveyed pre-1963. The centre for the week will be Brechin where there are 22 under-recorded hectads stretching from the coast and lowland areas around Forfar to the high ground of Mount Keen, Mount Battock and the upper reaches of the Water of Mark. There

are also some better known sites worthy of a visit, such as The Burn and North Esk. In addition, even within the better recorded areas, there are a number of old records which are not localized within the hectads and which it would be useful to refind.

Week 2: 2–9 July 2011

Sutherland and Caithness, Scotland

Local secretary – Liz Kungu, Royal Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh (e e.kungu@rbge.org.uk)

A more informal meeting is offered for the second week to the north coast, based at Melvich. This meeting will target some of the under-recorded ground on the boundaries of v.-c.s 107, 108 and

109. For the more adventurous, a couple of the hectads could usefully be accessed from Altnabreac Station.

Autumn 2011 Meeting and AGM

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum of Wales, Cardiff 9–11 September 2011

Local secretary – Ray Tangney, Department of Biodiversity and Systematic Biology, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NP (e ray.tangney@museumwales.ac.uk)

The Museum is centrally located, close to coach and rail transport, and to Cardiff University where single en suite accommodation is available. The Sunday ex-

cursion will be to the Rhondda/Treherbert area of Glamorgan, an area with few bryophyte records but good potential, approximately ¾ hour north of Cardiff.

Sphagnum Workshop

Preston Montford Field Centre, Shropshire 11–13 November 2011

Local secretary – Martin Godfrey (e martinandtrosie@aol.com)

This is the first workshop we have held for some time and will concentrate on the genus *Sphagnum*. There will be classroom and lab sessions complemented by a field trip.

The cost for the weekend will be £147 for a

shared room and £167 for a single. Book via the local secretary Martin Godfrey,

The workshop will take place from the evening of 11 November to mid-afternoon on 13 November and the tutor will be Mark Hill.

Spring 2012 Meeting

North Cumbria 28 March–4 April 2012

Local secretary – Diane Dobson, Consultant Ecologist, OpenSpace (Cumbria) Ltd, Ecological and Environmental Consultants, Unit 8, Westwood, Orton Grange, Carlisle, Cumbria CA5 6LB (t 01228 711841; e ddobson@openspace.gb.com)

The 2012 Spring Meeting will be held mostly in v.-c. 70 in North Cumbria. The base will be at

Caldbeck Village Hall. Further details will be published in future issues of *Field Bryology*.