

Monitoring the impact of ash dieback: The SPLASH project

Whilst ash dieback has only infrequently been in the news over the last year, the spread of the disease has continued, with the Forestry Commission now reporting 437 occurrences (as of 22nd September 2014) in the wider environment, almost double the number reported in our last article in *Field Bryology* (no. 111). The SPLASH baseline survey is continuing until 2016. A project overview, methods, and target areas can all be viewed on the project website: <http://www.brc.ac.uk/splash>. To recap, recorders are being asked to record the bryophytes on 10 ash trees and 10 trees of other deciduous species at each site surveyed, with a focus on both woodland and open environments where possible. Please contact Oli at the e-mail address below to express your interest.

A little book, 'The ash tree' by Oliver Rackham (Little Toller Books, 2014), has recently been published and may be of interest to those taking part in the project.

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Searching for specific text in BBS publications

The writer has produced a set of searchable PDFs of the text in all issues of the *Bulletin*, *Field Bryology*, *Transactions* and *Journal* published since 1947. To check the validity of these large PDF files I would be grateful to anyone wishing to search each or all of these files, to please contact me. As an example, a single word text search for "Buxbaumia" within all BBS PDF files, finds some 476 instances. However a search for the text string "Buxbaumia aphylla" finds 114 instances whereas one for "B. aphylla" finds just 24 instances. Anyone wishing me to make such a search or searches on their behalf would receive a Microsoft Excel file from me giving a list in plain text of each instance found, together with its source (e.g. *Journal*), year date, volume, page and a line of text in which the sought text occurs on that page. For most searches the enquirer should receive a reply within 24 hours. The main purpose of this undertaking has been to help me improve the *Cumulative Index of BBS Publications* (www.Lumiweb.com) which has been a work in progress since 1988. However such in-depth searches may also be of value to those writing manuscripts. In its present form this offer is open until 31 March 2015.

Dr Philip Stanley, Cambridge

e bbssearch@Lumiweb.com

Derek Ratcliffe

A book edited by Des Thompson, Hilary Birks, and John Birks entitled *Nature's Conscience - The Life and Legacy of Derek Ratcliffe* will soon be published. Derek was a member of the BBS from 1954 until his death in 2005 and he made many important records, particularly of alpine and Atlantic species. He published in 1967 a major monograph on Atlantic bryophytes in Britain and Ireland. The 30 chapters in the book cover many aspects of Derek's life and scientific contributions including his work on the Peregrine Falcon and the impacts of pesticides on birds of prey, field ornithology, mountain botany and ecology, bryology, Atlantic ferns and bryophytes, alpine plants, nature conservation, conservation and forestry, the battle for the Flow Country of Caithness and Sutherland, writing, and Lapland exploration. There are chapters by David Long and Gordon Rothero and Chris Preston specifically about bryophytes whereas other chapters by Rod Corner, Richard Lindsay, and John and Hilary Birks discuss Derek's bryological activities.

The link to the book is <http://www.eecrg.uib.no/NewsItems/DAR.htm>, from which you can click to get further details.

John Birks

Vice County recorder updates

Sharon Yardy has volunteered to take on the role of vice-county recorder for East Perthshire (v.c. 89), whilst Rory Whytock has taken over Stirlingshire (v.c. 86) from Nick Hodgetts.

We wish them both many exciting discoveries in their new roles.

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Council Newsletter no. 30: as given to the 2013 AGM at the Natural History Museum, London, 7 September 2013

I am pleased to report that the Society had a productive 2012, successfully advancing a range of exciting projects despite continuing financial difficulties in the country. My report summarises the highlights and our officers' much-valued contributions.

Journal of Bryology, a major foundation of our position as a scientific society, continues to thrive under Liz Kungu's stewardship as Managing Editor. Once again, nearly the full annual allowance of 336 pages was taken up with interesting articles concerning the distribution,

taxonomy, anatomy, reproduction and physiology of mosses and liverworts from across the world. Authors from some 19 countries are represented including Britain. An innovation in 2012 was to publish three papers on moss phylogeny that had been given in the previous year at the *International Association of Bryologists* meeting in Melbourne. In February our publishers Maney promoted *Journal of Bryology* as 'Journal of the Month'. Liz persuaded a number of editors and other BBS members to contribute relevant materials for the Maney website. This received

Maney's third highest number of page views to date. During that month the Journal was the 25th most downloaded title on Ingentaconnect and Maney's second highest title for downloads of which there were 3,359 in February. During 2012 the Society commissioned Maney to archive all back numbers of both the Journal and its forerunner *Transactions of the British Bryological Society*. All issues of both are now available on-line via the BBS website providing you are a fully paid-up member and have obtained your password from our Membership Secretary.

2012 was the last year that Ian Atherton edited our other important publication, *Field Bryology*. Three issues were published amounting to 212 pages and encompassing subjects as diverse as 'the moss men of Papua New Guinea', 'bryophytes of the Falkland Islands' and 'the use of *Sphagnum* as suppositories'. You would have to be a dull person indeed not to find something to cater for your interests in these glorious pages. Regrettably, Ian has had to retire after achieving so much in his five years as Editor but he has now trained up a new editorial team of Jo Wilbraham and Silvia Pressel and we have already seen this year that the high quality of *Field Bryology* will continue although, for financial reasons, its frequency will now drop to two issues per year. We thank Ian for his great service to the BBS and wish our new Editors every success.

That other publication in which Ian Atherton had more than a guiding hand, the *Field Guide*, has again been reprinted (that is in 2013) and continues to sell like hot cakes. I think it is worth reiterating that each time a reprinting is ordered, the Society takes a hefty financial risk that the extra copies may not sell. Although none of us could have anticipated it, so far there has been no such difficulty and the sales continue to pay for themselves and to contribute a helpful profit to BBS funds.

Our Website Editor, Jonathan Sleath, reports that useful material continued to accumulate in 2012 and the local meetings page in particular is frequently updated. Visits to the website rose to an average of 77 per day in 2012. There is now a link on the BBS website to the BBS Facebook page, a new enterprise sanctioned by Council and overseen by Charlie Campbell whose original idea it was. Jonathan strongly encourages members to make use of this on-line presence of the BBS.

A great deal of hard work is undertaken for members of the Society by our two Recorders. Both found 2012 to be an exceptional year for the volume of specimens received, largely related to the year-end deadline for submitting records for the new bryophyte Atlas. Partly bolstered by holding the summer meeting in bryologically poorly-known parts of Ireland, both Recorders found that new records from Ireland outnumbered those from England, Wales or Scotland. The Recorder for Liverworts, Sam Bosanquet, reported new or updated vice-county record totals of: England, 63; Wales, 29; Scotland, 41; Ireland, 104. For mosses the totals noted by Tom Blockeel were: England, 167; Wales, 44; Scotland, 144; Ireland, 376. The extent of the 'last minute' recording is shown by the fact that new or updated records of mosses were made for 119 of the 143 British and Irish vice-counties. Four moss species were added to the flora of the two countries; namely, *Orthotrichum cambrense*, a newly described species from Carmarthenshire, *Grimmia anomala*, which some people saw at Easky Lough during last year's summer meeting in Ireland, *Orthotrichum scanicum* and *Entosthodon mourettii*.

The Recording Secretary, Mark Hill, processed 214,000 distributional records in 2012. These included the database used for *Rare and Threatened Bryophytes in Ireland* which I will

mention again later. A number of significant datasets from currently active bryologists were sent in ahead of the Atlas closing date and are included in the total. Mark was also able to glean records from the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre, from a typescript of the Castle Douglas meeting held in 1993 and from the Spring and Summer Meetings in 2012, all this involving many hours of careful work. Preparations continued for the proposed new Atlas including revising data on altitudes. New Regional Recorders were appointed for the vice-counties of N.E. Yorkshire, Huntingdonshire, Cheshire, Anglesey, E. Ross and Sussex.

Our Conservation Officer, Nick Hodgetts, attended a conference held in Budapest by the European Committee for the Conservation of Bryophytes aimed at initiating a revised European Red List project. Although there is much interest, funding for the project is a difficulty and at a later meeting, held in Ireland, ways of progressing this were discussed. In Ireland, the bryological highlight was publication of the admirable *Rare and Threatened Bryophytes of Ireland*. Rather remarkably for a bryological event, the launch of this was attended by the relevant ministers of the governments of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Nick says there is still plenty more to do in the country, as illustrated by rediscoveries of several species described in the publication as 'Regionally Extinct'. In the UK the BBS has been involved in discussions about the next review of Schedule 8 species on the Wildlife and Countryside Act and consultations about proposed revision of SSSI guidelines. In Wales, Sam Bosanquet has continued to make discoveries of rare and threatened species and to influence conservation management work for some of these. An example is that the second largest population of *Ditrichum plumbicola* is being notified as a SSSI. In Scotland, a revised

version of Bryological assessment for hydro-electric schemes in the west Highlands was published as an SNH report and is already proving of value in influencing planning of the current plethora of small-scale proposals. In England, work started to draw up bryophyte site dossiers for four important SSSI in the south: Combe Bottom (Surrey) and Eridge Green, the Hastings to Pett Beach area and Marline Valley (all Sussex). Furthermore, a small sample of *Didymodon glaucus*, known from a single locality, has been taken into ex-situ cultivation at Kew.

Our Librarian, Ken Adams, reports that sales of titles and equipment picked up a little from 2011's low point. Some 48 orders were received, many of these related to the identification workshop that was run in 2012. Apart from photocopies of library articles, forceps were the most popular item. Ken notes that the x20 Chinese hand lenses have been well received and that x30 versions can now be purchased. As part of the library exchange, a special issue of the *Polish Botanical Journal* was received dedicated to the late Marian Kuc. The Reading Circle, now increasingly based on electronic copies, continues to be a useful service to members and is efficiently managed by Martin Godfrey.

At the end of 2012 our new Membership Secretary, Peter Martin, reports that there were 600 paid-up members of the BBS, but there were 80 others who did not pay their subscriptions in 2012, a perennial headache. Sadly, six members died in 2012 and another 11 resigned. Pleasingly, there were 88 new members in 2012 compared to 75 the previous year. Peter notes that we stopped accepting credit cards in 2012. Paypal, via the BBS website, is now the predominant method of payment (41%), whereas 39% of members pay by standing order and 20% by cheque.

In 2012 Joanne Denyer became our new Meetings Secretary although the meetings

that year were arranged under her predecessor Mark Lawley and were mainly mentioned in last year's report. Jo arranged the very pleasant AGM and Paper Reading Meeting held in Dublin in September. In November 2012, the BBS Weekend Workshop, an introduction to pleurocarps, was taught at Preston Montford by Martin Godfrey. This year the Spring Meeting was held in Basse Normandie and, despite the comparatively southern locality, almost overcome by the heavy snowfalls which brought much of Europe to a temporary standstill. Although attended by a rather small group of a dozen or so, this was a very enjoyable occasion. We saw some good plants in a different kind of countryside and made useful liasons with local French bryologists. You will be glad to know that they also use the BBS Field Guide. In late April Martin Godfrey organised a BRECOG weekend in Snowdonia where it was good to see one or two new faces and visit some classic bryophyte localities. The two weeks of the Summer meeting, held respectively at Kinlochewe and on Raasay, both in the north-west highlands, were well-attended, involved fabulous landscapes and spectacular bryophytes, and we warmly thank the local organisers Oliver Moore and Nick Hodgetts. Jo Denyer has now drawn up an exciting set of meetings for 2014 and beyond, some abroad, and has put in motion plans for a novel programme of local meetings.

As I approach the end of my Presidency, I want to acknowledge the considerable efforts that our Treasurer, David Chamberlain, and General Secretary, Rachel Carter, put in behind the scenes. In 2012, there were two main sources of anxiety: that our outgoings were exceeding our income, and that we might lose our relatively inexpensive public liability insurance. The increase in the subscription rate this year has largely addressed the first problem and the second one has for the moment gone away as we have been able to continue our policy through the North Western Naturalists' Union. These are obviously matters that need reviewing frequently and before difficulties arise. On the subject of finance, I would like to mention that a revision of our grant awarding procedures was undertaken in 2012 and the details are available on the BBS website. It is possible for members to apply for funds to attend meetings, to undertake research projects at home or abroad, and to help to publish floras and similar works.

I am sure that, like me, every retiring President hopes that something positive has been achieved in his or her brief term and that the Society remains in a healthy condition. The success of the BBS, I have learnt, stems from the boundless enthusiasm and skills of its members, the many strands to its endeavours, and the sheer warm-heartedness of bryologists!

Jeff Bates, President

Changes to the Membership List, October 2014

New Members

Barrett, Andrew, 18 Carr Hill Lane, Whitby, YO21 1RS, UK
Bollman, Anita, Bodensiedlung 4, 6300 Worge, Austria

Brighton, Phil, 32 Wadson Way, Croft, Warrington, WA3 7JS, UK
Campbell, Jill, Airedale House, Micklethwaite Lane, Bingley, BD16 3HP, UK
Cheeseman, Colin, Cwm View Cottage, Old Blackrock Road, Clypach North, Abergavenny,

- Gwent, UK
Coudert, Yoan, 21 Belmore Close, Cambridge, CB4 3NN, UK
Cowden, Phaedra, 521 Wolsely Street, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada
Essilfie, Dr Mathew Kweku, PO Box LG 1048, Legon, Accru, Nigeria
Field, Katie, 81 Crawford Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S8 9BT, UK
Harris, Mags, 103 Verulam Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 4DL, UK
Hofbauer, Wolfgang, Unterer Stadplatz 6, A-6330 Kufstein, Austria
Jean, Giraud, 16 Avenue Daumesnil, 75012 Paris, France
Johnson, Christine, The Croft, 24 Ardivachar, South Uist, Western Isles, HS8 5RE, UK
Kiebacher, Thomas, Friesenbergstr.88, Zurich, Switzerland
Kim, Wonhee, National Institute of Biological Resources, 42 Hwangyong-ro, Seo-gu, Icheon, 404-708, South Korea
Milne, Fraser, 14 Spottiswoode Gardens, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 8SB, UK
Neil, Catriona, Sunny Bank Cottage, The Terrace, Chacewater, Truro, TR4 8LT, UK
Pita, Angel Ares, c/ Garcia Prieto no. 58 2D, 15706 Santiago de Compostela, La Coruna, Spain
Porteus, Hilary, Holly Cottage, The Glen, Slaley, Northumberland, NE47 0BN, UK
Quandt, Dietmar, Fritzdorferstr. 23, Arzdorf 53343, Germany
Whytock, Rory, 2 Burnbank, Port of Menteith, Stirling, FK8 3RB, UK
Wiggins, Peter, 26 Braidpark Drive, Griffnock, Glasgow, G46 6NB, UK
Yoon, Young-Jun, 2606, Division of Life Sciences, Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI), Songdonirae-ro Yeonsu-gu, Incheon 406-840, Korea
Zielman, Rudi, Wooldrikshoekweg , 104, 7535 DD Enschede, The Netherlands

Change of address

- Banks, Karen*, Coolnacaheragh, Lissacresig, Macroom, Co Cork, Ireland
Bastos, Cid Jose Passos, Instituto de Biologica, Universidade, Federele de Bahia, Laboratorio de Taxonomia de Briofitas, Av. Barao de Geremoabo, s/n Campus Universitario de Ondina, 40170-280, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil
Bennett, Jenny, 1 Manor Yard, Brixton Deverill, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 7EJ, UK
Brown, Dr D H, 10 Glanville Drive, Forest Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 9LA, UK
Cameron, Fiona, 4 Yard 18, Kirkland K e n d a l ,

- Cumbria, LA9 5AD, UK
Couvreur, Jean-Marc, JM et P Couvreur-truyens, 45 Avenue des Traquets, 1160 Bruxelles, Belgium
Fackler, Kim, 19148, Inndale David, Lakeville, MN55044, USA
Harrington, Katherine, 19 Kellys Bay Beach, Skerries, Co Dublin, Ireland
Hoitomp, Torbjorn, Boplassveien 7, N-1407, Vinterbro, Norway
Perkins, R J, Sheffield Quaker Community Ltd, Water Lane, Bamford, Hope Valley, S33 0DA, UK
Pitkin, Dr P H, 8 Blackford Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DS, UK
Rimington, William, 87 Edith Road, London, W14 0RS, UK
Sanders, Andrew V, 54 Swinburne Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 2HE, UK
Smith, Graeme, 3 Old Stack Gardens, Hightown, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 3EP, UK
Stevenson, Diane, 55 Quai du Marechal, Leclerc, 77590, Chartrettes, France
Whytock, Rory, 60 Dean Road, Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire, KA3 7UA, UK

Resignations

- Craft, Mr Ian*, 1 Station Close, Riding Mill, Northumberland, NE44 6HE, UK
Hall, Dr Michael J, The Old Byre, Rigmaden Court, Mansergh, Carnforth, Cumbria, LA6 2ET, UK
Hall, D M, The Old Byre, Rigmaden Court, Mansergh, Carnforth, Cumbria, LA6 2ET, UK
Knott, Pam, 1 Hebden Avenue, Culcheth, Cheshire, WA3 5JL, UK
Lock, Dr J M, Glen Fern, Whitford Road, Musbury, Axminster, Devon, EX13 7AP, UK
Mues, Prof. Dr Rudiger, Zur Rentrischer Kirche 56, D-66386, St Ingbert, Germany
Pemberton, Clare, The Grange, Selsey Road, North Woodchester, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 5PJ, UK

Deaths

- Dalby, Dr D H*, 2 West Park, Stanley, Perthshire, PH1 4QU, UK
Smith, Mr Justin, 13 Baden Road, Redfield, Bristol, BS5 9QE, UK
Wallace, Mr I R, 33 Ripley Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 3JD, UK

Future Meetings and Courses

Details of the BBS meeting programme for 2015 are given below. Many areas also have BBS local group meetings and details of these can be found on the BBS website. Check the BBS website for the latest news on meetings. Please contact the relevant local Secretary if you wish to attend any of these meetings, and for further details. Beginners are very welcome on field meetings unless otherwise indicated.

FIELD MEETINGS

Regional meeting, Norfolk, 18th January 2015

Local Secretary: Mark Hill (email: moh@ceh.ac.uk)

This is a joint meeting between the Cambridgeshire and Norfolk and Suffolk bryophyte groups. The meeting will be held at Gayton Hall near King's Lynn. Gayton Hall is a large estate with water gardens, wet woodlands, lakes, streams and bridges. Meet at 10:30am. Take the B1153 off of the B1145 in Gayton, then immediately turn right into Back street, then left into the hall after 150-200m. Keep left where the road forks, bend left and park on parkland. The meeting will only be cancelled if there is snow or a hard frost.

Regional meeting, Lower Hyde Heath, Dorset, 1st March 2015

Local Secretary: Sharon Pilkington, (email sharon.pilkington1@btinternet.com)

Lower Hyde Heath is a classic East Dorset heathland and mire complex. Bryologically, its most interesting feature is a very large and deep valley mire, which supports numerous common species of *Sphagnum* and associated liverworts. It is also home to some less frequent species, including *Sphagnum pulchrum*, *S. molle* and *S. fuscum* at its only extant locality in southern England. The adjacent heath and woodland support many other common bryophytes. The day will involve approximately 2.5 miles of walking from Stroud Bridge (on level ground/tracks). Because of the fragility of the habitats and parking limitations numbers will be restricted to 10 on a first-come first-served basis. For further information and to book please contact Sharon Pilkington.

Additional Spring 2015 Field Meeting, Freiburg, SW Germany, 11-18 April 2015

Local secretary: Michael Lueth (mail@milueth.de)

Freiburg is an old University city with about 200,000 inhabitants, 10% are students. The surrounding of the city has a very high diversity in geology, climate and vegetation. In a circle of 20 km you have Mediterranean vegetation on loess at Kaiserstuhl and Tuniberg and also as subalpine vegetation in the Black Forest on the peak of Schauinsland and Feldberg. The bryoflora of the region is very rich and contains about 800 species. We will start the excursion at Kaiserstuhl and Tuniberg. From here we will make three excursions to loess and limestone vegetation. After three days we will move to the mountains of Black Forest. From here we will make excursions to mountain vegetation on granite, gneiss and sandstone. Details of accommodation and prices are on the BBS website. Places may need to be limited to 18 and early booking is required to reserve a place.

Spring 2015 Field Meeting, Renfrewshire (VC 76), 23-29 April 2015

Local secretary: Keith Watson (keith.watson@glasgowlife.org.uk)

Renfrewshire (comprising the modern day local authority areas of Inverclyde, Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire - and part of SW Glasgow), located to the west of Glasgow, is one of the smallest vice-counties and also one of the least explored. The spring meeting will aim to amend the latter through visits to a variety of the habitats: the Firth of Clyde coastline, Muirshiel plateau with extensive blanket bogs and hills rising to over 500m, valley woodlands, species rich fens and mires, species rich grasslands and rocky outcrops, and urban fringe localities. The base for the meeting will be Lochwinnoch an attractive village on the edge of the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park with good facilities including shops and pub and a railway station (25 minutes from central Glasgow). There are several B&Bs there and nearby and a few self-catering establishments locally (further details can be provided). Please get in contact with Keith Watson to express interest and for further information.

Useful links:

<http://www.lochwinnoch.info>

<http://www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk>

Regional meeting, Slieve Gullion and Mourne Mountains, Northern Ireland, 16-17 May 2015

Local secretaries: Maurice Eakin (email Maurice.Eakin@ahg.gov.ie) and Richard Weyl.

This is a two-day meeting visiting sites in adjacent counties in Ireland (Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland). Day 1 will be to Slieve Gullion, Co. Armagh (NI) and (time permitting) to nearby Ravensdale Forest, Co. Louth (RoI). Slieve Gullion is dominated by upland heath on granite and basalt (with varied rock chemistry on exposures), with mixed woodland on lower slopes. Ravensdale Forest is a mixed woodland progressing into upland heath and acid grassland with streams. Day 2 will be spent exploring less recorded areas in the middle Mourne Mountains, Co. Down (NI). For day 1, please meet at 10:30am in the car-park of Slieve Gullion Forest park (Grid Ref. J042197; OSI Discovery Series map 36). Details of day 2 will be provided closer to the time. Please contact Maurice Eakin for further details.

Summer meeting Week 1, Snowdonia, Wales, 6-13 June 2015

Local secretary: Sam Bosanquet (sambbryo@aol.com)

The first week of the BBS summer meeting will focus on the mountains of Snowdonia/Eryri (V.-c. 49, Caernarfon). This is historically one of the best-recorded areas of Britain, but many notable species have not been seen for 20 or 30 years and are poorly localised (often just to the level of a cwm). One aim of the meeting is for small groups of bryologists to visit as many cwms as possible over the week, recording species lists for each one and collecting locality details for notable species; the other is to provide an introduction to the montane flora for intermediate bryologists by ensuring that recording groups are of mixed ability. A recent visit by the IAB resulted in records of such notable species as *Dicranoweisia crispula*, *Glyphomitrium daviesii*, *Haplomitrium hookeri*, *Leiocolea fitzgeraldiae*, *Molendoa warburgii* and *Scapania ornithopodioides*, alongside commoner montane bryophytes like *Amphidium laponicum*, *Antitrichia curtipendula*, *Herbertus stramineus*, *Hypnum hamulosum*, *Orthothecium*

rufescens and *Radula aquilegia*. Long-lost rarities include *Conostomum tetragonum*, *Encalypta alpina*, *E. rhamnoides*, *Gymnomitrium corallioides*, *Myurella julacea* and *Scapania nimbosea*. Other species discovered new to Snowdonia in recent years include *Grimmia anomala* and *Odontoschisma elongatum*, highlighting the potential for exciting discoveries during the meeting.

The montane nature of the week means that it will not be suitable for bryologists with limited mobility. It should be a good opportunity for 'improvers' to learn their upland bryophytes, but is really not ideal for complete novices. The meeting will be based in Betws-y-coed, an attractive riverside town that is very popular with tourists in the summer. The relatively early date of the meeting is aimed at avoiding the busiest season in Snowdonia and consequent inflated prices for accommodation. Small teams will be aimed at different cwms each day. A self-catering 'HQ' will be booked, but most attendees should organise their own B&B or self-catering accommodation within Betws-y-coed. Please email expressions of interest to sambbryo@aol.com.

Summer meeting Week 2, Eigg Scotland, 4-11 July 2015

Local secretary: David Long (email: d.long@rbge.ac.uk)

The Isle of Eigg is one of the 'Small Isles' of the Inner Hebrides, part of v.-c. 104. It is quite small, approximately 9 km long and 5 km broad, rising to 393 metres on the Sgurr, the most prominent point on the island. Since 1997 it has been owned and managed by the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust with many innovative projects including self-sufficiency in renewable energy. Eigg is accessible by ferry from Mallaig and in summer from Arisaig, but no vehicles can be brought on to the island.

Bryologically some parts of Eigg are well-known, others completely un-recorded. The earliest records date from the 1930s by K.B. Blackburn and E.M. Lobley who recorded species such as *Herbertus hutchinsiae* and *Oedipodium griffithianum* on the Sgurr, and *Aulacomnium turgidum*, *Glyphomitrium daviesii* and *Marchesinia mackaii* on the cliffs above Cleadale. Since then little recording was done until surveys by Ben Averis in 2000 and 2002, which added numerous species to the list such as *Frullania microphylla*, *Plagiochila bifaria* and *Ulota calvescens*.

It is proposed to undertake a tetrad-based survey of as much of the island as possible. There are 16 tetrads, of which 7 were visited by Ben Averis so much ground remains unexplored. However, as access is only on foot and some of the tetrads are remote and involve strenuous walks over *Molinia* bog, participants must be prepared for some long and tiring days. Prominent on Eigg are the lines of basalt cliffs which will involve some challenging access in the northern part of the island and on the Sgurr. However, some of the 'midlands' have extensive wet heath, bog and some woodland so easier but less interesting options will be available on some of the days, and the coastline at Kildonnan and Cleadale has accessible sand dunes. Also accessible is the 'Massacre Cave' where the whole population of the island was reputedly massacred in 1577.

Accommodation has been booked in the Glebe Barn, a short walk from the ferry pier, and it offers both self-catering and restaurant food. Room-sharing will be necessary to accommodate everyone. At present numbers are limited to 20 but this may increase slightly when I have been on a short visit in the spring to assess other accommodation within walking distance. Places will be offered on a first-come-first-served basis from 1 November 2014 onwards, and if over-subscribed a reserve list will be created.

Regional meeting, Endrick Water, Loch Lomond, Scotland, 16 August 2015

Local secretaries: Rory Whytock and Julie Smith (contact Rory rory.whytock@gmail.com or Julie jesscot09@hotmail.co.uk for further details)

Our aim is to refind existing records of *Physcomitrium sphaericum* on the edge of Wards Ponds and record the margin of the ponds for any further records of this rare species. *Physcomitrium sphaericum* was first discovered here by John Mitchell in 1980 and resurveyed in 2005 by Nick Hodgetts. The water levels were very full when Nick surveyed the site, so we hope the water levels will be lower for us. If the water levels prove to be too high, there will be plenty of opportunity for visiting other sites to the east side of Loch Lomond to debracket old records. Please contact the local secretaries for more information.

Autumn 2014 AGM and Paper-reading session, Preston Montford, Shrewsbury, 5-6 September 2015

Local secretary: Martin Godfrey (email: MartinandRosie@aol.com)

The indoor meeting on Saturday 5th September will be held at the Preston Montford Field Studies Centre, Shrewsbury. On Sunday there will be a site visit to a nearby area, with an alternative BRECOG recording session for those interested. Further details will be available in the next issue of *Field Bryology* and on the BBS website.

WORKSHOP

Pleurocarps workshop, Preston Montford, Shrewsbury, 30 October – 1 November 2015

Organiser and trainer: Martin Godfrey (email: MartinandRosie@aol.com)

The workshop will be held at Preston Montford Field Centre, near Shrewsbury, Shropshire and is a repeat of that held in November 2012. The workshop is designed for beginners/improvers to improve and develop their knowledge and identification skills in both the field and lab, concentrating on this particular group of mosses. As well as developing general skills we will look in more detail at some of the tricky aspects of the pleurocarps and you can expect to spend some time in the lab on critical microscopical examination of specimens. We will work mostly on material we collect in the field but if you have any specimens you would like to work on please bring them along.

Numbers will be limited to 16 to ensure ample lab space. For further details and booking please contact Martin Godfrey (martinandrosie@aol.com).