

Council Newsletter no. 35, as given at the 2018 AGM in Llanrwst, October 2018

Prior to the report there was a presentation from Phil Stanley in the form of a bound register for members attending the AGM to sign. Traditionally attendees have signed loose sheets which the Secretary has attempted to collate and file in various states of completeness. Phil felt that we ought to have something rather more impressive and permanent and I have great pleasure in thanking him for presenting this handsome book to the society to join the bog-oak gavel with its silver engraved plate as a new fixture for the Society AGMs.

I will start off this year's report with some personnel changes. Firstly David Chamberlain comes to the end of a 10-year stint on Council as treasurer this year - I would like to thank him on behalf of all of us for this outstanding service to the society and wish him more time to work on bryophytes in the future. Subsequently the meeting elected Ms Sally Peacock as our new treasurer. Secondly Jo Wilbraham and Silvia Pressel are standing down as editors of *Field Bryology*, thanks to both for a job well done, and I welcome another team of editors in the form of Chris Preston and Mari Whitelaw. We also have a new recorder for liverworts after Sam Bosanquet stood down early this year after a good stint of sterling service. I did feel a bit cheeky asking Nick Hodgetts to take over after he had just finished as president but he was more than happy to take on this new role.

We have had some excellent meetings this year, even though the final BRECOG field trip was snowed off due to March's unseasonal weather. Spring in Reeth was fun, if a bit wet at times, and I have a particularly pleasing memory of

making my first acquaintance with *Ditrichum plumbicola* – thanks to Sharon Pilkington. The first of our summer meetings was unusual in being joint with the BSBI on the Isle of Man while the second was more of a conventional affair on Arran. The Arran meeting produced some particularly interesting records including *Frullania microphylla* var. *deciduifolia*, new to Scotland, *Marsupella stableri* and *Sphenolobopsis pearsonii*. Not to be outdone there have been some nice moss records from elsewhere – notable being Sean O'Leary's *Grimmia crinita* in Buckinghamshire, a second extant site for Britain, and *Fissidens serrulatus* in West Cork, where it was found by Fred Rumsey *et al.* A quick look at the website shows that local groups have also been busy with plenty of meetings past or planned.

Jointery has been a bit of a theme this year with a joint *Sphagnum* workshop at Manchester Metropolitan University in January, contracts with Plantlife for training on two large projects and a meeting later this month with the NHM, Plantlife, CIEEM and the BSBI on the future of botanical training. We also had discussions with the Field Studies Council on their proposal for an on-line beginners bryophyte course. We felt that this was impractical at this time but might be worth reconsidering in the future.

Carrying on the theme of training, Tom Blockeel and Jan Kucera's *Didymodon* workshop at Leicester Botanic Garden later in October was over-subscribed and very successful. For those who try to set up local training meetings but are stretched for resources we have recently bought five compound microscopes for loan to support

training meetings around the country. This has been supported by a very generous donation of books by Jean Paton. The equipment loan will be managed by Nick Law - more details on this are given below.

It won't have escaped your notice that the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) were introduced in May this year preceded by

typically convoluted "guidelines". In the event these turned out to be less difficult than we thought – thanks to the efforts of Oli Pescott and Rachel Carter. We now have a policy in place and contracts with our publishers on how they will look after your details.

Martin Godfrey, BBS President

New BBS Resource

The Society has created a new resource for the membership. Five Brunel SP27 high-power microscopes have been purchased, and a companion 'book box' has been compiled using a generous book donation by Jean Paton and books currently within the BBS library. This combined resource is now available for loan; for example, to local groups that would like to follow up field meetings with laboratory sessions. It's usually not too difficult to find a room to hire, but for use of high-power microscopes groups will normally be reliant on the goodwill of a local university or college, but even when this is available, few will have the books that are needed. It is anticipated that the kit will also be a useful support for some of the popular BBS workshops. The loan package is for all five microscopes and the 'book box', and is therefore not suitable for borrowing for individual use.

The SP27 lighting unit is powered by a rechargeable battery; they will be sent out fully charged, and for most loans there will probably be no need to charge them up again. Each unit has its own protective carry case for safe transport and an instruction sheet. Borrowers will need to provide their own slides, cover slips, tweezers, etc.

Rules for borrowing are few. The person taking responsibility for the loan will need to provide a cheque for £50 made out to the 'British Bryological Society' which will be retained to cover any accidental breakage or loss. The cheque will be destroyed if not needed.

The kit is stored in the Midlands; a central location that will hopefully enable its use across the country. Loan arrangements will be handled by Nick Law. The borrower will need to collect (and return) the equipment from Nick's home (near Swadlincote, South Derbyshire) or workplace (near East Midlands Airport), or at an agreed meeting place within reach of these locations. Anyone interested in making use of this new resource should contact Nick by email well in advance of the loan date; please be patient as it may be two or three days before Nick can reply.

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Election of Officers and Elected Members of Council

Dr M.A.S. Burton, the current Vice President, will become President on 1 January 2020 and it is necessary to elect a Vice President who will take up office on that date and will become President on 1 January 2022.

The terms of the following Officers expire at the end of 2019: General Secretary, Recorder for Mosses, Conservation Officer, Librarian, Membership Secretary, Recorder for Liverworts and Recording Secretary. Both the General Secretary and the Recorder for Mosses have served for 10 years, the normal limit of tenure, so it is necessary to appoint new people to these positions. The present incumbents of the other offices are eligible for re-election for another 2-year term.

There are two vacancies for Elected Members, each to serve for a period of 3 years from 1 January 2020.

Members are invited to submit nominations for Vice President, Officers and Elected Members of Council, sending them to the General Secretary of the BBS, Dr R.H. Carter, 6 Church View, Wootton, Northampton, NN4 7LJ (Carter.RH@gmail.com) to arrive no later than 5 September 2019. A nomination must not be made without the consent of the person whom it is wished to nominate. Elections will be held at the AGM at the Leicester Botanic Garden on 5 October 2019.

R.H. Carter, General Secretary, February 2019

Annual General Meeting 2019

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 4.00 p.m. on Saturday, 5 October 2019 at the Botanic Garden in Leicester.

The agenda will comprise the standard business: namely, Minutes of the 2018 AGM, the Annual Report of the Trustees for 2018, Accounts and Treasurer's Report for 2018, the President's report from Council, the election of Officers and Elected Members (see separate notice), the place and date of the 2020 AGM, and any other business.

The full agenda, minutes and reports are in the booklet enclosed with this issue of *Field Bryology* (no. 121).

R.H. Carter, General Secretary, February 2019