

# Council Newsletter No 36, as given at the 2019 AGM in Leicester, October 2019

Probably our most taxing project of 2019, although perhaps rather invisible to the majority of members, arose from a communication from the Field Studies Council late last year. We were told that, due to some structural changes in the FSC, we would have to move our Library from Preston Montford by summer 2019. After discussion in Council it was agreed that we would keep rather than dispose of our Library so we set out to find a new home for it. It took a while but an approach to Sean Russell, the director of the Treborth Botanic Gardens Bangor, received a very enthusiastic response. This was particularly fortunate as they have an excellent lab which we have used for a number of workshops. Due in no small measure to the hard work of our librarian, Ken Adams, the move was completed on time with, at the time of this report, just some administrative work to be signed off with Bangor University.

This will be my last AGM as I come to the end of my time as President with Agneta Burton taking on the role from the end of the year and we will need to elect a new Vice-President at this meeting. At the subsequent vote Liz Kungu was elected as our next Vice-President. We are also due some major personnel changes this year with Rachel Carter and Tom Blockeel each coming to the end of a 10 year stint in their posts of secretary and moss recorder respectively. Jeff Scott and Sharon Pilkington were elected by the AGM as the new secretary and moss recorder. Liz Kungu also stands down from a long and productive, if sometimes rather stressful, editorship of J. Bryol. and Neil Bell has been appointed as the new Editor. I would like to thank these three, and

Ken Adams, for their outstanding service to the society and propose a formal vote of thanks from this meeting to all of them.

Having mentioned J. Bryol., as just about her last task Liz piloted through some format changes – which I, for one, think improve the look without being obtrusive, she also believes that changes will improve the throughput of papers. Last year I mentioned that Field Bryology was to change editors and would like to thank Chris and Mari for a full and attractive edition under their management. Our website redesign project is at the consultation stage although those of you who use the existing system much may have noticed that, although it looks the same, its performance has improved substantially due to the work of Claire Halpin who has sorted out the loose ends in the existing system.

The spring meeting of the society, centred on Bideford, had to have been in the most luxurious accommodation I have ever seen at a society meeting. I was particularly pleased to see quite a few newer members at the meeting and feedback I have had from some since shows that they enjoyed themselves and felt welcome and encouraged by more senior members. Unusually this year's 1<sup>st</sup> week summer meeting has been rescheduled for this month – although I am sure that it will be just as good – and the 2<sup>nd</sup> week was well received.

Last year I mentioned that meetings and Joint workshops were due to take place with Plantlife. The meeting at the NHM went ahead as planned, three of us attended, along with other Botanical societies, and some useful contacts and ideas for future progress were made. The

two training workshops are being carried out - by me in the Lake District last autumn and by Sharon Pilkington in the West Country later this year. The projects they were meant to start amongst members of the public are intended to continue, creating local knowledge and records, - just last week I was sent details of a photographic exhibition based on the project in Cumbria. As I mentioned in my last report we were invited to a meeting with the Field Studies Council last autumn to discuss the possibility of an on-line bryophyte course based loosely on the "Identiplant" beginners flowering plant course. At the time we concluded that, although generally we found the idea interesting, we were concerned by what we were told about the amount of voluntary work needed each year to run the course and we were a bit sceptical that there would be enough potential tutors so put the idea on ice. The project has recently resurfaced

as a volunteer to manage such a course has come forward so we are reopening negotiations with the FSC to see what might materialise.

Finally – looking at our own training – the Acrocarps workshop run by Sharon Pilkington early this year was very successful and we have programmed two workshops for 2020, one early in the year in conjunction with MMU again and one at Treborth Botanic Gardens, which should be able to make use of our library. I am also pleased to say that we have been able to increase the Ed and Trg grants from £150 to £250 to take account of the increasing costs of beginner and intermediate courses.

I would also like to register my thanks to all the members of Council for supporting me, and the Society, during my tenure in office.

**Martin Godfrey**, British Bryological Society President

## Election of Officers and Elected Members of Council

D. J. Scott became General Secretary on 1st January 2020; Council co-opted P. Thompson to take his place as an Elected Member of Council, serving until 31st December 2022. The Annual General Meeting will be asked to ratify this co-option.

The terms of the following Officers expire at the end of 2020: Treasurer, Field Bryology Editors (Joint), Meetings Secretary, Website Editors (Joint) and Education Officer. The present incumbents of these 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 2021.

Members are invited to submit nominations for Officers and Elected Members of Council, sending them to the General Secretary of the BBS, D. J. Scott, 19 Abbots Grove, Peterborough, PE4 5BP (jeff83758@gmail.com) to arrive no later than 22 August 2020. 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 Teesside University, Middlesbrough Campus on 12 September 2020.

D. J. Scott, General Secretary, March 2020

## Annual General Meeting 2020

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 4.00 p.m. on Saturday, 12 September 2020 at Teesside University, Middlesbrough Campus.

The agenda will comprise the standard business: namely, Minutes of the 2019 AGM, the Annual Report of the Trustees for 2019, Accounts and Treasurer's Report for 2019, the President's report from Council, the election of Officers and Elected Members (see separate notice), the place and date of the 2021 AGM, and any other business.

The full agenda, minutes and reports are in the booklet enclosed with this issue of *Field Bryology* (no. 123).

D. J. Scott, General Secretary, March 2020

## Future meetings

At the time of writing (March 2020) measures to contain the spread of Covid-19 have led the Society to postpone the Spring Meeting at Plas Caerdeon, Barmouth, North Wales, and the Summer Meeting in Jura. Both meetings will have to be re-scheduled, but dates for these have not yet been decided at this stage.

**Autumn Meeting and AGM: Teesside University Campus, Middlesbrough.** Friday 11 September to Sunday 13 September 2020. Local Secretary: Ambroise Baker. To book please email Ambroise at [ambroise.baker@gmail.com](mailto:ambroise.baker@gmail.com). Further information will be published on the website in the near future.

### Further meetings

We will be looking into re-scheduling both the meeting in Barmouth and the meeting in Jura, probably for Summer 2021. Further information will be published on the website as soon as possible. A Spring Meeting for 2021 is being organised in the Lake District, focussing on the central area. Keep an eye on the website for further details.

In Spring 2022 we hope to meet in Hungary; the dates, in first half of April, are to be confirmed. Local secretary: Peter Erzberger. Further details will be published on the website closer to the time.

We are currently looking for a location for the 2021 Autumn Meeting and AGM, so if you would like to host this meeting, or a meeting in your county or area from summer or autumn 2022 onwards, please get in touch with Lucia Ruffino. You don't have to be the county recorder to arrange a meeting, you just need enthusiasm, time and local knowledge! Duration of meetings is flexible: they can run for a week, four days, a long weekend or a weekend, depending on your time and site availability. If you have any questions on meeting organisation please contact me. Many thanks – Lucia.

Lucia Ruffino, Meetings Secretary  
e [luciaruffino65@gmail.com](mailto:luciaruffino65@gmail.com)