

Happy birthday FB!

Well, it isn't strictly the magazine's 100th birthday of course, the first issue of the *Bulletin* first appearing just over 46 years ago as a foolscap, 3-page, Gestetnered publication in December 1963. But the publication of 'volume 100' of *Field Bryology*, as the *Bulletin* was renamed in 2004, is a milestone in itself and worthy of mention – a small testament to the success and achievements of the Society, past and present.

Unfortunately, I have been unable able to 'celebrate' this moment in the *Bulletin's* history in the the way I had intended in this issue, but I think the occasion is aptly marked by the collection of fascinating articles, concerned as they are with the rare and unusual, in this 100th issue.

A former Editor of the *Bulletin*, Roy Perry, has written a brief history of the publication which can be found on the Society website on the *Field Bryology* pages.

I.D.M. Atherton, Editor

AGM 2010

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 4.00 pm on Saturday, 11 September 2010 at The Natural History Museum, London.

At the time of writing, the agenda will comprise the standard business: namely, minutes of the 2009 AGM, Accounts and Treasurer's Report for 2009, other Officers' reports, Report from Council, the election of Officers and Elected Members (see notice below), the place and date of the 2011 AGM, and any other business.

The agenda, minutes and reports will be issued with the next issue of *Field Bryology* (vol. 101).

R.H. Carter

General Secretary, January 2010

Election of Officers and Elected Members of Council

The terms of the following four Officers expire at the end of 2010: Treasurer, Reading Circle Secretary, Recorder for Hepatics, and Website Editor. The current holders of all these posts are eligible for re-election.

The Recorder for Mosses relinquished office on 31 December 2009 and Council co-opted Mr T.L. Blockeel in his place. The AGM will be asked to confirm Mr Blockeel in this office until 31 December 2011.

There are two vacancies for Elected Members. Council co-opted Professor J.G. Duckett as an elected member for one year from January 2010 to fill the vacancy created when Dr R.H. Carter became General Secretary; Council will propose Professor Duckett for election as

an Elected Member for a further period of 3 years. Mr G.S. Motley will leave Council at the end of 2010 and is not eligible for re-election until a period of 3 years has elapsed.

Members are invited to submit nominations for 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 31 August 2010**. 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 at the Natural History Museum, London on 11 September 2010.

R.H. Carter, General Secretary, January 2010

Changes to the Membership List January 2010

These changes refer to the September 2009 list.

Changes of address and amendments

Bates, Dr J W, 56 King Edwards Road, Ascot, Berks
SL5 8NY, UK

Booth, Dr Vivienne, Reserves Ecology, RSPB, The Lodge,
Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, UK

Buchbender, Volker, Geibelstrasse 25, 08525 Plauen,
Germany

Harris, Dr G P, 1 Moiser Close, New Earswick, York
YO32 4DR, UK

McManus, Miss Alison, 586 Leyland Road, Bathgate,
West Lothian EH48 2XE, UK

Mues, Prof. Dr Rüdiger, Zur Rentrischer Kirche 56,
D-66386, St Ingbert Germany

Newton, Dr Angela E, 1 Cayzer Court, Gartmore, Stirling
FK8 3RE, UK

Page, Dr Martin, Milton Green, Farm Cottage, Chapel Lane,
Handley, Tettenhall, Chester CH3 9EE, UK

Potter, Miss Rachael, 3 Solent Heights, Horse Sands Close,
Southsea PO4 9UQ, UK

Williams, Mr Craig, 18 Clive Vale, Strawberry Vale,
Twickenham TW1 4SF, UK

New members

Ah-Peng, Dr Claudine, Botany Department, University of
Cape Town, Private Bag 7701, Rondebosch, South Africa
(O) (2009)

Becker, Ms Lisa, 22 Seaton Walk, Aberdeen AB24 1SG, UK
(O) (2009)

Boogert, Mrs Ruth, 29 The Paddocks, Cambridge CB1 3HG,
UK (S) (2009)

Booth, Mrs Susan, The Ridings, Gretton Road,
Harringworth, Corby, Northants NN17 3AD, UK (O)
(2010)

Bracken, Mr Bernard, 1 Elmescott, Road, Bromley, Kent
BR1 4RJ, UK (O) (2009)

Bromley, Miss Rebecca, The Pump House, Main Road,
Somersham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 4QA, UK (O) (2010)

Dixon, Miss Nicola, North Garden Cottage, Pitcaple,
Inverurie, Aberdeenshire AB51 5HR, UK (O) (2010)

Eakin, Dr Maurice, National Parks and Wildlife Service,
Government Buildings, Kilcarn, Navan, Co Meath,
Ireland (O) (2009)

Eaton, Miss Sally, Plantlife, 14 Rolleston Street, Salisbury,
Wilts SP1 1DX, UK (O) (2009)

Emes, Mrs Sara, Crombie Cottage, Aberchirder, Huntly,
Aberdeenshire AB54 7QU, Scotland (O) (2009)

Evans, Miss Lucy, 12 De Freville Road, Great Shelford,
Cambridge CB22 5LH, UK (S) (2009)

Hart, Miss Kathryn, 1 Weybank, Wisley, Woking, Surrey
GU23 6QF, UK (O) (2009)

Kaye, Mr Timothy, 35 Marshall Street, Chippenham,
Wiltshire SN10 0ED, UK (O) (2009)

Kwella, Miss Catherine Rose, 7/4 Brown Street, Edinburgh
EH8 9RP, UK (S) (2009)

Littleton, Dr John, 10 Barley Close, Frampton Cotterell,
Bristol BS36 2ED, UK (O) (2009)

Loak, Mr Matthew, Walnut Cottage, 14 High Street,
Ashcott, Somerset TA7 9PZ, UK (O) (2010)

McIntosh, Mrs Joan, 26 Loaning Hill Park, Uphall,
West Lothian EH52 5EB, UK (O) (2009)

McKenzie, Mr John, 12 hollingwood Gate, Ilkley,
West Yorkshire LS29 9PP, UK (O) (2010)

McVeigh, Mr Andrew, 15 Willow Road, Great Horwood,
Milton Keynes, Bucks MK17 0QH (UK) (O) (2010)

Pescott, Mr Oliver, 21 Compton Street, Sheffield S6 5BP,
UK (S) (2009)

Peyton, Miss Jodey, 43 Wallingford Road, Shillingford,
Oxon OX10 7ET, UK (O) (2009)

Robson, Mr Simon, The Cottage Farm, La Rue du Bel Au
Vent, St Lawrence, Jersey JE3 1NT, UK (O) (2010)

Rung, Mr Matthew, 55 Fulwood Road, Liverpool L17 9PX,
UK (O) (2010)

Scoorl, J L M, Lindelaan 18, 3319 XK, Dordrecht,
Netherlands (O) (2010)

Spray, Mrs Deborah, 8 Ledcameroch Gardens, Dunblane,
Perthshire FK15 0GZ, UK (O) (2010)

Suarez, Dr G M, Santiago 3348, San Miguel de Tucuman
(4000), Tucuman, Argentina (O) (2009)

Sutcliffe, Mr Mike, 15 Maxwell Street, Gateshead, Tyne and
Wear NE8 4TX, UK (O) (2009)

Deceased

We regret to report the death of:

Hill, Dr D A W, Gwnfryn, Colley Way, Reigate, Surrey
RH2 9JH, UK (O) (1991)

Resignations

Mott, Mr John, 62 Great Melton Road, Hethersett, Norwich
NR9 3HA, UK

Robinson, Mr T F, 35 Moray Place, Edinburgh EH3 6BX,
UK (O) (1980)

Tarpey, Mrs Terri M J, 33 Bristol Road, Colchester, Essex
CO1 2YU, UK (O) (1998)

Thomson, Mrs S E, Hall Pool, Marden, Hereford HR1 3EN,
UK (O) (1970)

Veall, Dr R M, 1 Plant's Close, East Wellow, Romsey, Hants
SO51 6AW, UK (O) (1996)

Council Newsletter No. 26

The **President's Report** as given to the 2009 AGM at the University of Sussex on the work of the Council since the previous AGM.

Last year I was rather anxious about a number of impending key vacancies within the Society, but as my presidential tenure comes to an end I have every reason to feel much more positive. Amongst other changes taking place, this year sees the departure of Howard Matcham from the position of Managing Editor of the *Journal of Bryology*. Under Howard's management the Journal has continued to flourish as an international peer reviewed journal of scientific importance. He has implemented the online submission system, worked hard to keep up the high standards, and has introduced new policies which permit longer papers to be accepted. Howard also relinquishes his role as General Referee. In this capacity he has helped many beginners to head off in the right direction along the tortuous paths of bryophyte taxonomy. He leaves the role of Managing Editor with our thanks, and I am delighted that Liz Kungu has agreed to take on the task. Liz has many contacts within the academic bryological community, and I am sure that her appointment will be a great success. Our thanks and support go to her. One new feature relating to the *Journal* that we were able to introduce was the availability of free online access to the content for non-institutional subscribers. This was a little tricky to set up technically, but thanks to the staff at Maney it is now up and running and works well.

Field Bryology continues to impress with its attractive layout, interesting articles and fine illustrations. It is very popular with our members

and is the envy of other naturalists as well. We are very much indebted to Ian Atherton for all his hard work in producing such a publication which can only serve to raise the profile of bryology in this country. It is also much admired overseas. He has also produced a membership leaflet in a similar style to attract new members. Quite how he also has the time to edit the *Field Guide* I do not understand. This has been an enormous task, and the final touches are now being added in preparation for publication at the end of this year or the beginning of the next. This surely will turn out to be our flagship achievement of the decade, and much credit is due to Mark Lawley for his energy and enthusiasm in driving the project forwards and to Sam Bosanquet for ensuring scientific rigour. We have had over 900 pre-publication orders so far and I'm sure that this will prove a very popular publication in the natural history community. I really do feel that the society is fulfilling one of its roles as a promoter of the study of bryophytes in this unique publication. Thanks are due to all who have contributed to make this a collective work of bryological evangelism by the society as a whole. In the last year we have seen the publication of the latest edition of our *Census Catalogue*. This is always a formidable but very important undertaking, for which Mark Hill, David Long, Gordon Rothero and Tim Blackstock are to be congratulated. Thanks are also due to Tim who has now stepped down after 10 years as Recorder for Hepatics, and we are delighted that the baton has now passed to Sam Bosanquet.



△ Jonathan inspecting the bark of an apple tree in an orchard. *J. Sleath*

Likewise Gordon Rothero, who for over 10 years has tolerated the deluge of packets as Recorder for Mosses, will stand down at the end of this year. We are very grateful for all his hard work and patience, and also to Tom Blockeel who has agreed to take up the role once again.

Rather more mundane is the system of collecting payments for our publications, as well as subscriptions, online via PayPal. I feel obliged to mention this as I have been involved in setting the system up together with Martin Godfrey who did battle with the forces of red tape in order to make the process work. This has made it a lot simpler to collect payments, especially from overseas, and I hope it will make life easier for our new Treasurer. We are very grateful to David Chamberlain for taking on this responsibility. It may seem but a short step to many of you from studying spore ornamentation in the Pottiaceae to scrutinizing the detail of the society's balance sheet, but this is a vital role that helps to keep us afloat and pursue our activities as a scientific society. We are also grateful to David Rycroft who stepped down at the end of last year for all the work and meticulous attention to detail that he has given the society as Treasurer during his time in this office.

Our core activities continue to be based in the field, and thanks to Mark Lawley as always for putting together another excellent year of

meetings. Liz Kungu took us in the spring to a rarely visited corner of Ayrshire, and Sam Bosanquet and Chris Preston in the summer to some of the less fashionable parts of Co. Cork and Co. Kerry. Both meetings generated a

wealth of new and valuable records. Today we have enjoyed a fascinating paper reading meeting in honour of Jean Paton, and many thanks to David Streeter for making it such a success. Behind the scenes, Jeff Bates and the BRECOG group continue to make progress towards enlarging our understanding of the ecology of British bryophytes. It is an ambitious and very worthwhile project which deserves every success.

I must apologize if this has sounded too much like the ramblings of a headmaster at the speech day of a minor public school, but I cannot finish without paying tribute to our outgoing Secretary, Mike Walton, whose term in office finishes at the end of this year. His experience in local government was just what we needed to bring order and punctuality to Council meetings, and those of us who have had the good fortune to work with him will be able to testify to his wisdom, efficiency and hard work. He has served the society diligently over the last 10 years and we owe him an immense debt of gratitude. My own spell as President also comes to an end this year. Looking back, I don't really feel that I have contributed very much, but I thank the society for the honour it has done me as I pass on the role to a proper bryologist in the form of David Holyoak.

Jonathan Sleath, Past-President

Spring 2010 Field Meeting

South Lincolnshire/East Nottingham 17–24 March 2010

Local secretaries – Robin Stevenson, 111 Wooton Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 4DJ

Contact secretaries (e crs111@talktalk.net) and Jonathan Graham

This meeting will explore some of the under-worked terrain in two vice-counties – South Lincolnshire (v.-c. 53) and Nottinghamshire (v.-c. 56). We have decided to try and be reasonably 'carbon conscious' and restrict recording to within (roughly) a 30 mile radius of Newark. Although a lowland area, there is some variation in the geology, with a ridge of Jurassic limestones separating the Triassic and Liassic lowlands of the Trent basin to the west from more acidic lower Cretaceous sands, and the recent sediments of the Fens, to the east.

This meeting should be especially attractive to relative beginners, who will not be too challenged by difficult genera such as *Sphagnum*, nor by a multiplicity of tiny liverworts. There will, however, be opportunities for the experienced too, to pick up new vice-county records and help fill in gaps.

We have decided on Newark as our centre of operations. There is, unfortunately, no field centre or college in the area able to offer us both cheap accommodation and lab facilities; however, there is a wide range of accommodation available in the town itself, and in the surrounding area. We also hope to be able to book some rooms in Newark for evening microscope work, and socializing; these

offer tea- and coffee-making facilities, but there are lots of bars and restaurants in Newark itself, which is only a few minutes walk away.

Newark, which is just off the A1, has good road and rail connections to most other parts of the country. It is quite compact, and has a good range of eating places, as well as a castle, churches and a river frontage, which might be bryologically productive.

The North Muskham Travel Lodge just off the A1, some 4 km north of Newark itself, probably offers the cheapest accommodation in the area. Most of the larger hotels in Newark are in the £50–60 a night bracket for a single room, but prices drop appropriately for B&Bs, and in the surrounding villages. Those on a restricted budget would be well advised to book early. A list of accommodation can be obtained from the local Tourist Information Centre – www.visitnewarkandsherwood.co.uk – as well from www.bedandbreakfast-directory.co; www.britinfo.net/index_Newark.htm; www.4Hotels.co.uk; and www.information-britain.co.uk/hoteltowns.cfm?town=Newark&county=12

We have not yet finalized our choice of sites to visit, but we envisage having at least one 'big' site per day (usually in the morning), and then offering a range of smaller sites in the afternoon, to which people can disperse in smaller groups.

Each morning we will meet up in a large car park in Newark, to try and share cars. However, those people staying some distance out may wish to proceed to localities under their own steam. It is therefore important to let us know you are coming, so that we can inform you, either by letter or email, where we will be on any one day, and where the relevant meeting places are.

◀ Newark on Trent. *Marcin Floryan*



Summer 2010 Pre-Field Meeting Morayshire, Scotland 26 June–3 July 2010

Local secretary – Liz Kungu, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR
(e e.kungu@rbge.org.uk)

Prior to the main event there will be an additional week on the eastern edge of the Cairngorms National Park focusing mainly on recording under-recorded hectads in Morayshire, including some parts of western Aberdeenshire. The base for the week will be in Glenlivet near Tomnavoulin, where a self-catering cottage is available. This area is sufficiently close to the high Cairngorms that there could be opportunities to visit other areas of interest, including nearby limestone sites.

Summer 2010 Main Field Meeting East Ross, Scotland 3–10 July 2010

Local secretary – Keith Raistrick, Tigh an Uillt, Corry, Muir of Ord, Rosshire IV6 7TN
(t 01463 871959 or 07884 437302; e keith.corry1@btinternet.com)

The number of prospective sites has now risen to 15, covering mountain and lowland habitats.

I am pleased to say that permission has now been obtained to visit a corrie at the north end of Ben Wyvis near the head of Loch Glass.

It is now the intention to spend the final day of the meeting visiting an MOD range between Tain and Portmahomack, instead of travelling to the Ythan Dunes as reported in the previous issue.

There may also be an opportunity to visit a system of remote north-facing corries at Fuar Thol Mor (28/1246) (park at Glenuaig Lodge 28/1047). However, the number of people able to visit this exciting site will be limited as access is dependent on us having a 4x4 vehicle(s) to negotiate the

6-mile trek into the high mountains along a rough mountain track. I visited this site in April 2009 in a Freelander vehicle. Lightly loaded 4x4s should have no problem reaching the site.

Both Dingwall and nearby Strathpeffer offer good accommodation and are within striking distance of the proposed sites. For information, telephone 0845 225 5121 or go to the *VisitScotland* website (www.visitscotland.com). Alternatively, contact the Strathpeffer tourist information centre (01997 421415). Information about accommodation in Dingwall can be obtained on 01349 866040.

I have had a number of computer problems recently. However, I can still be contacted by mail, phone or by texting my mobile phone.

Autumn 2010 Meeting and AGM Natural History Museum, London 10–12 September 2010

Local secretary – Jeff Duckett, Botany Dept, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD
(e j.g.duckett@qmul.ac.uk)

Full details of the Autumn Meeting will be published in the next issue of *Field Bryology*.

The meeting will include the AGM and paper-reading sessions on Saturday 11 September in the New Darwin Centre at The Natural History Museum and a field excursion to Hampstead Heath on Sunday 12 September.

Speakers will include Andy Cuming (*The Physcomitrella genome project*), Jo Denyer (*Progress and plans for encouraging bryophyte recording in Ireland*), Jeff Duckett (*Thursley common 5 years after the great fire of 2006*), Mark Godfrey (*Why museums matter*) and Silvia Pressel (*Surface ornamentation in bryophytes; novel functional insights*).