

BSBI

Scottish Newsletter

2006

No 28



Curved Sedge

BSBI SCOTTISH NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

At this time of editing the Newsletter it would be surprising (and disappointing) if I was not remembering my erstwhile co-editor and friend, Allan Stirling. Since the last issue a full obituary has appeared in *Watsonia* and another in the *Glasgow Naturalist*. At the 2005 AGM I invited stories or anecdotes and one such appears on page 16.

The cover illustration was chosen to complement the article on *Carex maritima* (Curved Sedge). It was drawn by Dr Elspeth Lindsay partly from photographs taken by her and the editor at Bettyhill, Sutherland (VC 108– 29/703605) in June 1974.

Our Scottish Officer, Jim McIntosh and Dr Jane Squirrell have developed a BSBI Scottish Website. We will liaise and co-ordinate as to what appears on the Website, the *Scottish Newsletter* and both.

For the first time, as well as the postal addresses, E-mail addresses have been included for BSBI Committee for Scotland Secretary and the Scottish Officer. Postal addresses for other Office Bearers and Committee Members will, of course, be found in the Year Book.

My thanks to the majority of contributors who submitted material in our in-house style. Appreciation is due once again to John Hawell for his meticulous proof reading and to Jackie Muscott for arranging the photocopying and despatch of the Newsletter.

Address labels are kindly supplied by Gwynn Ellis, Membership Secretary. In recent years up to 15 Scottish members have not received the Newsletter on time because they had not paid their subscription by 1st May. Apparently the regulations state that that date is the cut off point. Had it not been for JM checking the members lists, we would not have known. Rather different from what I recently saw in an 1887 copy of the constitution of the Natural History Society of Glasgow; 'Should a member be a second year in arrears, the Treasurer shall twice send him a note and if payment be not then made, his name may be removed from the roll!'

Peter Macpherson
"Ben Alder"
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Report on the BSBI Scottish Committee's Activities for 2005

CHRIS MILES
& RICHARD PANKHURST

The Committee met four times during 2005 as well as organising the annual meeting at Perth Museum and Art Gallery in November. This year Mark Watson and Chris Miles retired from the Committee. Richard Pankhurst continued as chairman. The committee helped organise changes of recorders in VCs 75 and 105 during the year.

With the Scottish Officer in post there was much discussion about what kind of events it might now be possible to run in Scotland. In April a successful course for MapMate users was attended by 19 people. A meeting for Scottish VCRs was planned and will take place in April 2006. It was also agreed that as well as the usual programme of field meetings in 2006 there should be events for those who are new to plant recording.

A large amount of work was undertaken to assist SNH's Site Condition Monitoring programme for SSSIs in Scotland. Following training for 12 members in April, survey work on 20 sites involving 15 volunteers and 20 other helpers took place throughout the season. One benefit from this will be that SNH will give BSBI copies of the SCM survey reports for c.150 sites with vascular plant features.

Field meetings took place based in Orkney, Aberdeenshire, Skye and Raasay, RBG Edinburgh and Fife, Wigtonshire and Kircudbrightshire. These were generally well attended with 30 attending the Orkney meeting.

Scottish Newsletter 27 was produced in the summer. It contained a personal reminiscence of Allan Stirling, the former joint editor. There were numerous botanical notes reflecting in part the excellent range of displays at the annual meeting. An article about the discovery of Spotted Rock-rose on Coll, the first record for Scotland, highlights the fact that there are still botanical discoveries to be made by those who have their eyes open.

A £15K grant was made available to the BSBI by SNH, starting in October, for the data capture of the plant records for 4 vice-counties (80, 84, 103 and 104). It is hoped that this project will continue and be expanded to include other vice-counties in the future.

On 5 November 102 members and friends attended the Scottish Annual Meeting held at the Perth Museum and Art Gallery. An excellent range of exhibits was

set out by members. A beautifully illustrated talk about the RSPB's Abernethy Reserve covering the dramatic scenery of Cairngorm was given by Andy Amphlett.

Plantlife consulted with VC recorders on a report on Important Plant Areas in Scotland, and BSBI's comments were sent in December. BSBI also contributed to the Scottish Biodiversity List, published at the end of the year. This list is longer than previous lists of threatened plants since it also takes into account relatively common plants that are in decline.

Scottish VC Recorders Meeting November 2005

CHRIS MILES

41 VCRs attended covering 38 VCs.

Richard Pankhurst was in the Chair.

David Pearman reported on the work on which the Director of Development, Gabriel Hemery, was concentrating. Gabriel had sent his apologies being unable to attend the meeting. The first activity had been updating the logo, the second building links with agencies, Plantlife and BTO and the third investigating the possibility of a plant unit.

He thanked those present for information about *Carex maritima* which had filled some gaps in both distribution and population size. He expressed concern about *Crepis mollis* and *Melampyrum sylvaticum* for which quite a lot of sites have not been refound.

He reported on the Atlas update project. This was principally a data extraction exercise and he encouraged us to send records in through the MapMate hub as these will be picked up for the Atlas update.

Chris Preston explained the Hybrids project. The intention, given the evident gaps in the Atlas, was to supplement this over the next couple of years and then to update the now 30 year old Hybrids account using all the recent work. Examples of possible layout were shown. The treatment would include morphology, references, ecology, chromosomes, experimental work, habitat and distribution. The maps would show the distributions of both the parents and the hybrids. Scotland already had a lot of records with Lanarkshire having most and Kincardineshire the least. Final records will be accepted up to October 2006. VCRs will be asked to check all records during the process. A handout setting out the timetable was distributed.

Jim McIntosh asked whether VCRs were interested in a workshop next year. Given the level of interest he agreed provisionally to book Kindrogan for 22nd and 23rd April 2006 (subsequently changed to 1st and 2nd April). This was likely to include some MapMate training but he was open to other ideas. He would also be setting up some induction training for newish VCRs. There was interest in this going ahead in May.

In 2006 there would be a project operating jointly with RBGE and SNH looking at the species that have declined between the Atlases, probably those that appear in the Red Data list and Scottish Biodiversity list.

One possible topic for discussion at a workshop is the archiving of hard copy material. This could be with the local museum or record centre. He reported on the grant to computerise data for 4 VCRs which he hoped might be repeated in future years.

Jeff Johnson from the National Biodiversity Network summarised progress with the NBN to date. He reminded VCRs that although the NBN had been going since the mid 1990s it was still early in the project. The Atlas data is the biggest set in the NBN. He suggested that basic site data would be available to VCRs in early 2006. In response to a question he was hopeful that it might be possible in the future for VCRs to download a site boundary.

Lynne Farrell talked about the new Red Data list. This was now available on the JNCC website. There were additions from the previous lists including difficult groups like *Hieracium*. A list of possible species that might be looked at in more detail in Scotland was presented. This could be discussed further at a workshop next year. If this generated further survey work there was a plea to ensure that it didn't conflict with other work like rare plant registers. However it was recognised as a possible basis for getting members into the field.

BSBI Committee for Scotland

Composition of the Committee from November 2005 to November 2006:
Chairman - Richard Pankhurst; Vice-Chairman - vacant; Secretary & Treasurer - Jeanette Hall; Field Meetings Secretary - Stephen Bungard; Minutes Secretary - vacant; Exhibition Secretary - Edna Stewart; Members of Committee - Alistair Godfrey, Ian Green, Heather McHaffie, Jane Squirrel, and Jeff Waddell.
Representing SNH— Lynne Farrell; Representing Plant Life— Deborah Long;
Attending— Jim McIntosh BSBI Scottish Officer.

At the AGM on 4 November 2006, Stephen Bungard and Richard Pankhurst retire but are eligible for re-election. Nominations for the committee, signed by two members of the Society normally resident in, or recorders for, a vice-county in Scotland and with written consent of the candidate, who must also qualify as above, should reach the under noted at Scottish Natural Heritage, Caspian House, Marine Court, Clydebank Business Centre, Clydebank. G81 2NR by 30 September 2006.

J Hall – Hon Secretary (E-mail: Jeanette.hall@snh.gov.uk)

Scottish Field Meetings 2006

Full details of the following meetings will be found in the Year Book

June 9-12	Gairloch, Wester Ross	J McIntosh & J Fenton
June 18	Keltneyburn, Perth	J McIntosh
June 24-26	Kirkcubrightshire	D Hawker
July 2	Birks O'Aberfeldy	J McIntosh
July 4-7	South Harris	P Smith & R Pankhurst
July 9-14	Mull	L Farrell
July 17-20	Shetland	P Harvey, A Lockton & S Whild
Sept 2-3	Lossie Forest, Moray	I Green

Scottish Annual Meeting 2005

ALISTAIR GODFREY

Introduction

Perth Museum and Art Gallery was the venue for the first Scottish Annual Meeting to be held in the Fair City. The attraction of this new venue, its more central location in Scotland and good transport links made Perth a popular destination. Over 100 members signed the attendance register and the main lecture theatre was full throughout the day for meetings and the afternoon talk. There were 22 exhibits from members on a wide range of interesting topics, as well as membership displays from the BSBI and Botanical Society of Scotland. Summerfield Books provided an interesting range of publications in the Museum's library. I was able to show Jon Atkins that the emblems on the library's stained glass window and one of his older publications were the same; the humble daisy, *Bellis perennis*, is the emblem of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science.

Mark Simmons, Perth Museum's Curator of Natural History provided a display from the museum's herbarium that included a specimen of *Zostera marina* (Eelgrass) with an original note saying "I have received this duplicate from the hands of Linnaeus himself 1771". The museum's founders were members of the PSNS who added much to the museum's collection from home and abroad. And coming up to date, members of the PSNS, and BSBI, dispensed teas, coffees and kept proceedings running smoothly. The museum assistants attended to all requests diligently and without complaint. Thanks are due to them all.

The exhibition as above was also open to the public and the press were invited as well. Photographs and articles appeared in the local press and another article will be appearing in Perth and Kinross Council's staff newsletter. Making our meetings more open increases interest in our activities and should help to enlist new members.

Andy Amphlett's talk "Abernethy Forest - botanical perspectives on managing a Cairngorms landscape" took us to the montane mires with such rare species as *Carex lachenalii* (Hare's-foot Sedge) and then Andy took us on a tour of the RSPB's conservation management. His photography was superb and his commitment to practical, active conservation is commendable.

The evening meal in the Royal George Hotel was attended by 60 members, and a selection of members' slides and digital photographs brought an enjoyable day to a successful conclusion.

Abstracts of Exhibits

Equisetum x trachyodon in VC 94

Andy Amphlett

Mackay's Horsetail (*E. hyemale* x *E. variegatum*) was found on 9th September 2005, close to the River Avon, west of Tomintoul in VC 94. A dense stand of approximately 10,000 stems formed an 8 x 3 metre patch, dominating a small "island" in a side channel of the river. This is the first VC record, is new to the Cairngorms area, and is the second record for NE Scotland. One of its parents, Variegated Horsetail (*Equisetum variegatum*), grows in close proximity. Detailed searches revealed this species to be present in eleven 100 x 100 metre squares, in vegetated shingle and grassland. This species often grows in close association here with Baltic Rush (*Juncus balticus*). Both of these species have large populations: probably several thousand stems of *E. variegatum* and c.8500 flowering stems of the *Juncus* (in fifteen 100 x 100 metre squares) perhaps the largest inland population of this species in Scotland. Dutch Rush (*Equisetum hyemale*), appears to be absent from the site, though it is present a few kilometres to the west. Specimens of the hybrid and both parents were shown.

Flowers from Fife and Kinross (VC 85)

GH Ballantyne

The majority of plants shown were rare escapes or introductions, viz. Pirri-pirri Bur (*Acaena novae-zelandiae*) (NCR), Yellow Chamomile (*Anthemis tinctoria*), Rye Brome (*Bromus secalinus*) (1st since 1919), Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*), Canadian Fleabane (*Conyza canadensis*), Garden Candytuft (*Iberis umbellata*), and an unusual Meadow-sweet that may be *Filipendula x purpurea*; along with both British Swinecresses, (*Coronopus didymus*), which may be beginning to spread and *C. squamatus*). A sheet of native Wild Liquorice (*Astragalus glycyphyllos*), now rare in Scotland but with three good Fife populations, was displayed together with the hybrid between Northern Dock (*Rumex longifolius*) and Broad-leaved Dock (*R. obtusifolius*) = *R. x hybridus*, formerly *R. x arnotii*, named after the Kinross botanist Walker Arnott and still present where he first collected it in the 1850s.

A live Thorn-apple (*Datura*)

GH Ballantyne

A fruiting specimen from a garden near Ladybank in Fife (VC 85) was displayed as *Datura stramonium*. One or two observers thought it was likely to be *D. ferox*, while it was subsequently suggested by EJ Clement that, although close to *D. ferox*, it could be the hybrid between the two. However, JMH Shaw

later confirmed its identity as indeed being that of *D. ferox*, a first for Scotland.
Berwickshire Rare Plant Register 2004 - Michael Braithwaite
Already out of date one season on (2005)

The Berwickshire RPR had been completed in 2004 after several seasons' dedicated fieldwork to round up old records after the *New Atlas* work. Nevertheless over 50 new Rare and Scarce Plant localities had been added to the Berwickshire inventory in 2005 by six recorders. Only a few of the records were 'old' localities refound, over 40 were completely new.

It had been found satisfying to be able to measure achievement in this way for the first time and was offered as an inkling as to what the achievement of BSBI as a whole may be if only it could be measured.

Caithness and E. Sutherland Plants

Ken Butler

Specimens and photos of *Rosa sherardii*, *Rosa mollis* and an intermediate from the Dunbeath River valley. A new VC record for *Lycopodium annotinum* from east Caithness. A report of the survey of *Carex maritima* in Caithness as part of a national survey of this species. Discovery of the alien Bog Arum (*Calla palustris*) in a wood in East Sutherland.

Collection of DNA samples and some new photographs of *Calamagrostis scotica* in its only site in the world.

Botanical Society of Scotland

Pat Cochrane

Information relating to the above Society was on display.

Plant Records from Roxburgh VC 80

RWM Corner

Apium nodiflorum (Fool's Water-cress): a second record for a plant over recorded in the past and confused with the commoner and similar *Berula erecta* (Lesser water-parsnip). A discoid variant of *Bellis perennis* (Daisy). *Fargesia nitida* (a Fountain-bamboo): long established and originally planted well away from habitation. *Phacelia tanacetifolia* (Phacelia): a conspicuous plant grown by farmers in set-aside as green manure and providing nectar for bees; becoming commoner and more widespread as a conspicuous casual. *Rorippa islandica* s.s. (Northern Yellow-cress): new to the vice-county and discovered by Luke Gaskell and confirmed by Tim Rich. *Rumex maritimus* (Golden Dock): reinstated to the vice-county by Luke Gaskell; it is a very rare native plant in Scotland. *Salix x strepida* (*S. cinerea* ssp. *oleifolia* x *S. myrsinifolia*) Grey Willow x Dark-leaved Willow): new to the vice-county and probably not uncommon in the south west around Newcastleton. *Symphytum orientale* (White Comfrey) introduced into

amenity woodland.

Plant Records from Selkirkshire VC 79.

RWM Corner

Carex muricata ssp. *lamprocarpa* (a subspecies of Prickly Sedge): from a new site having possibly become extinct in the previously known localities. *Sagina subulata* (Heath Pearlwort): new to the VC, introduced on a forestry track which is part of the Southern Upland Way so may have come in on walkers boots from the west in Dumfriesshire (VC 72) where it is also known from a similar habitat. *Myosotis stolonifera* (Pale Forget-me-not) : a scarce species = 93 missed = 94 from a local change tetrad and a species not well known to Scottish botanists being unknown north of the Pentland Hills.

Although not from Scotland dwarf montane plants of *Catabrosa aquatica* (Whorl-grass) were shown from Mickle Fell in VC 65 (North-west Yorks). It is only known as a montane species in the Northern Pennines occurring up to 730m asl but could occur in similar spring head habitats in Scotland as it is easily overlooked as *Poa annua*.

Local Change

Bob Ellis

Material relating to a look at broad habitats was on display.

A mixed bag from West Sutherland (VC 108)

Pat and Ian Evans

2005 was a pleasantly serendipitous year. A glasswort found by an entomologist in a salt-marsh at Achmelvich (NC02) was later confirmed as *Salicornia europaea*, new to the vice-county. The only other local record of the genus was also checked and is almost certainly this species. Base-flushed meadows at Knockan (NC21) yielded new localities for Brown Sedge (*Carex disticha*), Greater Tussock-sedge (*C. paniculata*) and Grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia palustris*). The northernmost records of Great Fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) on the west coast (NC14) were re-located, in base-rich mires on the Lewisian gneiss. A very isolated record of Hottentot-fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*) on the north coast (NC56), was investigated and three stands found. Finally, there were two striking extensions of the known range of two casuals: Marsh Yellow-creed (*Rorippa palustris*) appeared in a garden at Clachtoll (NC02), and the bird-seed alien, Ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), in a garden at Clashnessie (NC03).

Scrophularia scopolii (Italian Figwort) Established in Scotland Ian P Green

Scrophularia scopolii was discovered established near Aberdeen City (VC 92) in 2004. Displayed was a map showing the distribution of this very rare species

in Britain, as were maps showing the distribution of the other *Scrophularia* species found in British Isles. Fresh specimens of the various *Scrophularia* species found in the British Isles, were also part of the display.

A Cumbrian Miscellany

G. Halliday

Specimens were exhibited of a new native species: *Cornus suecica*, four new and unusual aliens: *Arabis procurrentis*, a native of the Carpathian and Balkan Mountains, *Sinacalia tangutica*, *Nothofagus obliqua* and *Gypsophila muralis*, together with *Solanum nigrum* subsp. *schultsii*. Also shown were photographs of cultivated material of the prostrate shingle ecotype of *Galium aparine*, a specimen of *Ranunculus x levenensis* and living material of true *Ranunculus reptans* from Ullswater.

A New Check-list for Bute and Some Interesting Plants from the Island (VC 100)

Angus Hannah

A new annotated check-list of Bute plants has just been published, and copies were offered for sale. The recording method was explained, and a map was displayed showing species richness in different parts of the island. An abundance profile was drawn and comments invited. The commonest plants were listed along with their Ellenberg values, enabling the nature of the prevailing habitat to be inferred.

The check-list is the first for a hundred years, and some analyses were offered of changes to the island's flora over this period, especially for species which have undergone severe decline or extinction.

A few specimens were exhibited, illustrating some plants rare on Bute, some interesting casuals including several new VC records, and some puzzling leaves for which help with identification was sought.

Angus Coast

Barbara Hogarth

Digital images illustrated a number of species found whilst exploring some of the less accessible parts of the Angus coast in 2005 and highlighted the recently discovered *Crithmum maritimum* (Rock Samphire). The three plants of *Crithmum* in Angus are a long way north of other east coast populations but appear to be thriving after a run of mild winters. Several visits were made during 2005 to see whether the plants would flower and set seed. Plants were photographed on each occasion.

Other plants illustrated included *Ligusticum scoticum* (Scots Lovage), a newly

recorded colony in the vicinity of the *Crithmum*; *Astragalus glycyphyllos* (Wild Liquorice) found in good numbers on steep cliff slopes; *Silene nutans* (Nottingham Catchfly) in abundance on cliffs with *Anthyllis vulneraria* (Kidney Vetch) near Boddin Point and *Dianthus deltooides* (Maiden Pink) at Kinnaber Links.

***Fumaria* and *Equisetum* Workshops**

Heather McHaffie

A workshop will be held on 5th August 2006 to look at the six species of *Fumaria* found in Scotland and a workshop will be held on 19th August 2006 to look at the eight species of *Equisetum* found in Scotland. The mornings of both days will be spent looking at specimens in the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and the afternoons will be spent in the field. To book phone 0131 248 2876 or e-mail h.mchaffie@rbge.org.uk.

BSBI membership, Rare Plant Registers, BSBI 50 years and SNH leaflets

Jim McIntosh

On display was material relating to the above.

In particular, examples of a wide variety of types and formats of Rare Plant Registers were demonstrated and members were invited to browse. They really are local 'red lists'. They include details of populations of all Locally Rare and Scarce as well as Nationally Rare and Scarce Species in a Vice-county. A variety of Rare Plant Registers were displayed. They are useful for people making land management or development decisions, such as planners and SNH staff, as well as being of enormous interest to both local and visiting botanists.

Some practical advice and encouragement, illustrated by displayed material, was given to Vice-county Recorders contemplating making a start on an RPR project. The main point made was that because a complete and accurate Rare Plant Register is such an ambitious project, VCRs should not unduly delay publishing a first edition in striving for perfection. A Rare Plant Register will ALWAYS be "work in progress"! Even a rough and incomplete first draft can be a useful way of stimulating local botanical interest and activity.

New and Unusual Scottish Records

Douglas R McKean

This exhibit showed a range of interesting species growing in Scotland. A new species of Whitebeam from Arran VC 100, to be published in the New Year. Having arisen between *Sorbus pseudofennica* and *S. aucuparia* and doubled its chromosomes it will get a new name.

Turkish Borage (*Cynoglottis barrelieri*) looking much like *Pentaglottis semper-virens* and so probably overlooked. A specimen of the industrial crop Abyssinian Mustard (*Crambe hispanica*), now grown in SE Scotland was exhibited along with a very odd looking *Cochlearia*, *C. megalosperma* from E Lothian where it is established in one area. Most exciting, however, is the discovery of a POSSIBLE specimen of *Senecio cambrensis*, if correct, new to Stirlingshire and indicating a new area to look for this ?extinct plant. *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* is a bird seed alien, and is being sent to the RBG for identification more frequently with the milder winters recently. The most recent sending from Fort William is only the second site north of the Central Belt. My final plant was a new record for Scotland *Juncus balticus* x *effuses* found by Eric Meek and Elaine Bullard on Orkney. This may be the only extant site in Britain now!

An exceedingly rare Water-starwort *Callitriche palustris*

P Macpherson & J Mitchell

The photocopy accompanying the specimen gave the historical review and details of the diagnostic features. The plant was subsequently found at Wards Pond, near Loch Lomond. Since then it has been seen at other locations in the neighbourhood by JM. He has noted that the plant frequently spreads out like a spider's web, with a tendency to die out in the centre. The specimen was collected (JM&PM) in relation to an ox-bow of the Endrick Water, near Drymen Bridge, Stirlingshire (VC 86). It showed the heart-shaped fruits and the sequence of colouring from green, via grey to black.

***Orobanche rapum-genistae*, Greater Broomrape in Dumfriesshire**

Chris Miles

See article elsewhere in the Newsletter.

***Carex maritima* in Scotland**

David Pearman

The New Atlas showed large numbers of 10km squares with no records since 1986 or before, with anecdotal opinion divided between those who thought, quite fairly, that it grew in some very out of the way places, and might well be under-recorded, and those who thought it really had gone. In April 2005 I drew up and circulated a list of all the sites recorded since 1970 but with no recent records. The response was very good indeed, and I am extremely grateful to all the recorders concerned.

Of the 21 squares with records only from the 1970-1986 date-class, 20 were in Scotland. Fifteen of these were searched in 2005 (or had records that had not

been received for earlier years) and six produced updated records. Details of habitat and possible reasons for loss were also exhibited, along with suggestions for further work (Orkney and sort out rumours of recent records on St Andrews Links!). See also article elsewhere in the Newsletter.

BSBI AGM, Ferryside, May 2005

Richard Pryce

The poster showed a selection of photographs which gave a flavour of the very successful weekend in Carmarthenshire made all the better by the good weather. The AGM was supported by various field meetings to local sites of botanical interest including the National Botanic Garden of Wales and the poster recalled some of the highlights. Over seventy members attended from all corners of Britain and Ireland, including several from Scotland. The meeting was organised by Kath Pryce and coincided with the conclusion of Richard Pryce's three year term as BSBI President.

***Carex vaginata* & *C. aquatilis* in the Pennines**

Jermy Roberts

An updated map was exhibited of the Cross Fell range in the north Pennines, with several new sites for Sheathed Sedge (*Carex vaginata*) in VC 70, and new to VC 65 - a considerable extension of the known range to Mickle Fell, where the plant was found in a number of sites on both the north and south flanks in flushed grassland below limestone outcrops.

Also shown were specimens, photos, and maps of a site found in 2005 for Water Sedge (*Carex aquatilis*) at 800 metres on Great Dun Fell: the first time this species has been found in montane mire in England. The vegetation parallels the NVC community M7, a high-level mire community in the eastern Grampians characterised by an upland form of this species.

***Duchesnea indica* (New to Scotland?)**

Alison Rutherford

By chance a sheet of yellow-flowered Strawberry was found near the foot of Kinnoull Hill, Perth, VC 89, on a rough verge, none was seen near-by. This appears to be a first record for Scotland. The plant was flowering and fruiting. A colour laser print of runners and a painting of a flower and berry was shown.

Irish Lady's-tresses in Wigtownshire

Alan J. Silverside

Spiranthes romanzoffiana (Irish Lady's-tresses) is reported as new to Wigtownshire and SW Scotland. Two plants have been discovered at a single site in loch-side vegetation. The site is a significant extension of range within Scot-

land, but geographically closer to sites in NE Ireland. Photographs of two other species confirmed for Wigtownshire during 2005 were also shown. *Borago pygmaea* was first seen in 1990, established on rough, coastal ground and around the margins of a work-yard. The site has been revisited and the identity of the plant confirmed. *Crassula helmsii* was a much less welcome record. Though known as an introduction in a garden pond, 2005 saw its first Wigtownshire discovery in a natural habitat, well established in patches on an exposed, stony, loch shore. Its ability to colonise this habitat suggests that it will continue to spread in Scotland.

Some teeth-cutting *Salix* hybrids from Tayside

Leslie Tucker

The call (*BSBI News*, April 2005, No. 99) for all members to contribute records for the new edition of Clive Stace's *Hybridization and the Flora of the British Isles* (1975) was the impetus for this attempt to display exemplary specimens of those willows which they listed as "... relatively frequent hybrids on which to cut your teeth ... widespread in the British Isles". Despite a fair bit of experience looking at willow species locally, the search proved surprisingly difficult. Of the target binary combinations, *S. aurita* x *caprea* and *S. aurita* x *viminialis* seemed scarcest. On the other hand, several additional hybrids were found, tentatively identified, and brought for display and critical appraisal; these appeared to involve *SS. myrsinifolia*, *purpurea*, or *repens* and at least one other species, e.g. *S. cinerea*. All of the hybrids on the additional list seemed to be growing wild and not, like many on the P & P list, "... spread by clonal propagation".

From comments it was evident that many, even quite experienced, botanists found the analysis of willow hybrids off-puttingly obscure and equivocal. Furthermore, conflicting assignments recorded on the reverse of the herbarium sheets by bolder experts added to the confusion. Perhaps we should follow P & P's recommendation that "... there is a lot to be said for making a little plan to go out and look at specific genera such as willows ..."; Perth would be an excellent base for launching any such ventures!

More memories of Allan Stirling

ALISON RUTHERFORD

A driver since he was a young man, Allan was not really familiar with public transport. On the Southern Polypody (*Polypodium cambricum*) hunt, I went to Arran and found a colony. On a day we were both free, the car was left at Ardrossan and we took the ferry, a bus and shank's pony to Bennan Head for him to vet the fern. South Arran has a very slender bus service - it meant returning to the road quite quickly, or missing the only bus - it was too far to walk back to the ferry. Allan had never felt that spurt of fear when you realise you're not going fast enough and are risking missing the only connection, which gives extra power to your stride. Well-used to timing a stretch, I knew we were going too slowly. I kept urging 'Faster! I pulled ahead onto the main road, hoping if the bus came it would wait till he caught up. Luckily he gathered speed and the bus was not sharp. All this was a revelation to him!

Allan was not fussy about his car, inside or out. One day we returned from the Ayrshire coast, not by our usual route, and seeing a disused quarry, thought we'd explore it. Spying an unfamiliar cotoneaster high up at the far end, I told my elderly Dachsie to wait, and set off. The dog was going blind in one eye which made him uneasy if he lost sight of me. When I realised that he was following me I didn't worry till he trod on the top crust of a lake of sump oil and sank in up to his chin. We wrapped him in the dog towel then the dog blanket with no ill effects to the car interior, but it took a whole packet of biological washing power to clean the dog.

During the winter of 1971 while exploring sites for Southern Polypody that Allan unearthed from herbaria and 'lit. refs'. We were in Lanarkshire - no *Polypodium cambricum*, but we saw a superb cast-iron ferny garden seat, 'Synthetic' British White Cattle and talked to the owner, a vet, who had a selection of crosses between Chihuahuas and Labradors, which he told strangers, with a poker face, were Maggot Hounds, and was often believed.

On the way home we ran into a blizzard and as huge flakes swirled around the car, Allan asked if we were mad? 'No', I replied, 'we're polypody hunting'!

Report on *Carex maritima* in Scotland Background

DAVID PEARMAN

In the *Atlas of the British Flora* (Perring & Walters 1962) the coverage of *Carex maritima* (Curved Sedge) was too patchy to show anything about a trend.

Scarce Plants in Britain (Stewart *et al* 1994) showed better coverage, including, of course, all of Dick David's records from the 1970's that were published in *Watsonia* (David 1982). All references that follow relate to 10km squares.

Scarce Plants showed:

1970+	41 squares
1970	38 squares

The New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora (Preston *et al* 2002) appeared to confirm a picture first shown in *Scarce Plants* - a species in long-term decline. The figures here were:

1987+	22 squares
1970-86	21 squares
A total of	43 squares - thus a "loss" of 49% since 1986
Prior to 1970	40 squares
Total	83 squares

This "loss" from squares recorded from 1970+ but not since 1986 was one of the highest in the Atlas, and anecdotal opinion was divided between those who thought, quite fairly, that it grew in some very remote places, and might well be under-recorded, and those who thought it really had gone.

Survey Work

In April 2005 I drew up a list of all the sites recorded since 1970 and, after consultation with Jim McIntosh, he circulated it to all the relevant Scottish VC Recorders, asking in particular for records for sites not recorded since 1986, but also for any later sites where the record was not long after that. We also asked for opinions as to why it had gone, if indeed it had, and comments on habitat.

The response was very good indeed, and I am extremely grateful to all the recorders concerned (for VCs 85, 90, 91, 93, 95, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111 & 112).

Of the 21 squares with records only from the 1970-1986 date-class, 20 were in Scotland. 15 of these 20 were searched in 2005 (or had records that had not been received for earlier years) and six produced updated records.

In addition records were produced for quite a few sites previously recorded in the 1987+ date class, that either had no details (Atlas mastercard 10km square only) or had records 15 years or more old. Conversely several of the 10km

squares had more than one historic site, and though one or more of these sites have current records, there were plenty of assumed "losses".

Results

An updated Atlas position would now read (including the new square found at Gullane in 2000)

2000+	19 squares
1987-1999	10 squares (of these 3 not yet refound) 29
1970-1986	15 squares (of these 9 not yet refound) 44 squares - thus a "loss" of 34% since 1986
Prior to 1970	40 squares
Total	84 squares

A better position than the Atlas, but still enough decline to be in the Vulnerable category in the new Red list.

Habitat and reasons for loss

Dick David, writing in *Scarce Plants*, gave... "open damp sand, often at the mouth of a stream debouching onto the beach, for it requires plentiful fresh water... In dune slacks it is often found in quite dense turf provided that it is kept short by grazing..."

Most of my correspondents this year have said much the same, and herein lies, perhaps, the difficulty of re-finding it. **It must perforce be a mobile species**, perhaps like *Mertensia maritima* (Oysterplant) and other shore-edge plants. We looked a few years ago on the links at Dornoch at the appropriate GR and found one tiny patch, but we were hundreds of yards from the sea. Refinds this year are often at different GRs from the previous records from the same site.

Though there are specific local real losses (to new airstrips or roads) I can think of no over-riding reason for the general losses, especially on the East coast, where it seems to have largely vanished over a long period of time.

Of the losses on the north coast and in the Orkneys and Shetland there were no specific reasons given, other than a comment in the Shetland RDB that agricultural activity and industrial developments have severely depleted the sedge in some areas (echoing a comment from Barbara Hogarth in Angus). Pat & Ian Evans, and others, pointed out that storms had considerably re-shaped dune sys-

tems. Conversely Richard Pankhurst, who did a mass of special fieldwork in VC 110, concludes that it is doing fine there.

Possible Future Work

On Orkney and to sort out rumours on St Andrews Links?

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Orobanche rapum-genistae (Greater Broomrape) CHRIS MILES in Dumfriesshire

Last summer I started to map the current distribution of *O. rapum-genistae* in the Nithsdale area. The species has been known to occur in the county for a long time. The first record appears to be from 1837 at Jardine Hall (NY18), another from 1846 near Blackwood (NX98) and a third from 1893 near Dumfries (NX97). The most recent record from the area appears to be from 1992.

Greater Broomrape is now regarded as near threatened in the most recent *Red Data Book* listing. It appears to have declined particularly through the earlier half of the twentieth century across its range but to have held its own between the two Atlas projects.

The new Atlas shows that there are records from 7 hectads in the lower Nithsdale area. Interestingly the earliest record from NY18 is not shown. Apart from an old record in West Caulder this is the only part of Scotland where the plant has been found. In 2005 three populations were found in flower.

Site 1 Glenmidge. NY 895867. 25 June 2005. This appeared to be an isolated plant parasitizing one of a small number of brooms growing on a shaded roadside bank on the edge of a maturing plantation. There were 5 flower spikes this year and no obvious spikes from 2004.

Site 2 Hillend. NY 908861. 19 June 2005. This is a young plantation of pine and Sitka spruce on a site that had been felled sometime in the previous 3 years. The whole site has been invaded by broom to give approximately 50% cover over an area of about 9 hectares. The site undulates and has shallow stony soils and appears to be well drained. There is a good rabbit population.

Spikes of *O. rapum-genistae* were found throughout the area. Flowering spikes usually occur in groups at the base of individual broom bushes and these were considered as one plant. The spikes varied from short stunted or aborted spikes to tall straight spikes up to 60cm tall. Some had clearly been frosted. Flowering spikes from 2004 were also regularly visible beside this year's flowers.

In a sample of the first 10 plants encountered on a transect there was a total of 53 flower spikes from 2005 ranging from 1 to 15 spikes per plant. On five of these there were 28 spikes from 2004 visible ranging from 1 to 15 per plant as well.

In an area approximately 70m x 50m I counted 241 current year spikes. Given that the broom is infected across the site I estimate that the total number of spikes in the entire plantation could amount to c.6000.

Site 3 Locharmoss NY014776. 12 June 2005. This is a roadside area where following widening and the construction of a roundabout within the last ten years, an area of gorse and broom has grown up. The area is peaty being on the edge of the Locharmoss. This linear area had *O. rapum-genistae* on both sides of the road, 71 spikes on the western side, 3 on the eastern side. There were also spikes from 2004 amongst some of this year's flowers. At least one of the plants appeared to be growing on gorse, the only case seen on any of the sites. This is within 500m of a site recorded by Mary Martin in 1989 which is no longer suitable having no broom and being overgrown.

Two other areas where there were previous records were searched for *O. rapum-genistae*. The old railway embankment at Amisfield was found to support only isolated plants of broom and gorse none of which supported the broomrape. This area is now grazed and so less scrubby, a change that Mary Martin recorded in 1991. The forest track to Racks moss was also searched but none of the broom appeared to be infected by *O. rapum-genistae*.

Conclusions to date

One of the most significant observations to date is that while the host plants, particularly *Cytisus scoparius* but also *Ulex spp*, occur widely in mid and lower Nithsdale (and adjacent parts of Dumfries and Galloway), despite extensive

searching, infection by *O. rapum-genistae* appears to be rare. This is even true where there are extensive stands of host plant in close proximity to infected stands.

It appears that *O. rapum-genistae* has maintained itself in the Glenmidge area since at least 1957. The record is in the same 1km square as that recorded by Milne-Redhead. The one plant found appears vulnerable to further decline given the generally unsuitable habitat.

O. rapum-genistae has also maintained itself at Locharmoss where its population is quite healthy. While the currently infected stand of broom, including gorse, is over mature and may decline in the next few years there is plenty of host plant in the immediate area so this population is likely to remain.

The Hillend site appears to be a new location for the species. There is an old record (1846) for the hectad (NX98) from near Blackwood. Blackwood House is just over a kilometre from this site. There has been a huge quantity of seed of *O. rapum-genistae* produced at Hillend this year. Whether this disperses to adjacent areas currently lacking broomrape remains to be seen. The species is likely to decline as the plantation slowly develops and the broom declines but this will take several years and so the site is likely to support a significant population for some time.

Railway Lines, Beneficial to Brambles: A Correction

GH BALLANTYNE

In the article under the above title in last year's issue (2005;27,18), I wrote that *Rubus phaeocarpus* had become an official pest in Australia and New Zealand owing to its invasive habit. Unlike the mistake made over the identity of the *Erythronium* 40 years ago referred to elsewhere in the Newsletter, which was due to inexperience, this error can be put down to *anno Domini*: the species referred to ought to have been named as *R. anglocandicans*. This bramble, previously recorded under other names in a few spots in east Scotland, was finally determined by Alan Newton in 2002 after having been refound earlier by myself and David Welch. It seems unlikely to spread much in Scotland, although with global warming one never knows.

Phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*) in Lanarkshire P MACPHERSON

While plant recording in the Shieldhill area, NW of Biggar, Lanarkshire (VC 77), a bluish-purple sheen was noted in the south-east corner of a field in which grew a barley crop. On closer inspection the colouration was found to be due to intermingled Phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*). The field straddles 36/0040 & 0140. It is roughly rectangular and is large, being approximately 0.5 km square. The patch containing the Phacelia was approximately 40 m square. The grid reference for the SE corner is 36/013406.

On enquiry at the farmhouse, I was informed that in that area and along a strip diagonally opposite, a Game Cover Seed Mix had been sown. The farmer was surprisingly vague as to the reason for these small areas. He did not know the content of the mix which he had been asked to sow. The other site was found to be a rectangle of approximately 30 x 20 m., the SE corner of which is 36/008408. The Phacelia was intermingled with the barley and accompanied by Oil-seed Rape (*Brassica rapa*). The other plants were such as one might expect at the edge of an arable field e.g.: Common Ramping-fumitory (*Fumaria muralis*), Red Dead-nettle (*Lamium purpureum*), Common Hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis tetrahit*), Redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*) and Fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*).

I knew the plant on sight, having seen it previously covering whole fields in Fife. Clement & Foster (1994) describe it as 'a casual or persistent grain, grass and agricultural seed alien and garden escape; cultivated in recent years as an aid in the control of insect pests and as a food plant for bees and probably escaping from this source, increasing'. Stace (1997) states 'that it is grown in gardens for ornament and small scale in fields for bees; also contaminant of crop- and grass-seed, casual on tips, waste ground and among crops and new grass'. It is a native of California.

This was the first occasion that I knew of its occurrence in Lanarkshire. At first sight of it, being intermingled with barley, I assumed that it was a contaminant. However, even after consulting the farmer, the reason for its presence remained unclear!

A return visit was paid in August 2005 in order to find out if any of the Phacelia plants had survived the winter. There had, in fact, been further sowing of the seed-mix.

At the first site, instead of a square in the south-east corner of the field, there was a rectangle along the south boundary measuring approximately 300 x 50m.

On this occasion there was no intermingled barley, though that was still the crop in the adjacent part of the field. Associates were Oil-seed Rape, Ribbed Melilot (*Melilotus officinalis*), Common Hemp-nettle, Lesser Hemp-nettle (*G. bifida*) and Common Chickweed (*Stellaria media*).

At the northwesterly site the plant now occupied a rectangle of 150 x 60m. The associated species were Oil-seed Rape, Ribbed Melilot, White Melilot (*M. alba*), Red Dead-nettle, plus the ubiquitous Field Forget-me-not (*Myosotis arvensis*) and Thyme-leaved Speedwell (*Veronica serpyllifolia*). The adjacent crop was now the wheat *Triticum aestivum*.

While driving along a farm track in late August 2005, I noticed another field with Phacelia. The site was Netherhill Farm in the south of the vice-county (NS8421). Here the Phacelia was the main crop. Associates were Oil-seed Rape and arable weeds as above, with the addition of Corn Spurrey (*Spergula arvensis*) and Knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*). The field measures approximately 150 x 125m. An enquiry as to the relevance of the crop resulted in the answer that it was 'Pheasant Food'.

Being rather intrigued by the occurrences and the reason for growing the crops, I consulted a number of professional and amateur botanists. The following are the answers received:

Attractive to bees; food for honeybees.

Seeds are food for pheasants.

When sown, cut and baled with barley, it bruises the latter seeds and makes them more edible.

Forms a green manure which is ploughed in.

Useful for cleansing the ground.

For one reason or another, therefore, it would seem that colonies of Phacelia are likely to become a more common sight.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful for information received from George Ballantyne, Ken Butler, Douglas McKean & David Welch.

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Beware the Flaky Juniper

PETER MACPHERSON

While recording on waste ground in the Gorbals, Glasgow, a prostrate juniper was seen. A specimen was sent to Douglas McKean at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh for identification, and he had it checked by M Gardner, the diagnosis being *Juniperus squamata* (Flaky Juniper). When giving me this information, D McK added that he had known of it being used as a man-hole cover and that he had once grown it in his garden, but it proved to be too aggressive.

On looking at the map I was unsure as to which square the record should be allocated. Accordingly, I returned with my GPS. The shrub is an irregular circle of c. 8yds in diameter. The GPS reading was taking a while to settle, varying on either side of a grid line. I was not absolutely sure of my bearings in a north/south direction, so decided to take a reading from the centre of the shrub and accept that with regard to square allocation.

I had taken four paces in when my right lower limb went full length down a hole! Fortunately the plant was over 1ft thick by then and springy, so that no trauma was sustained.

However, even in the west take care when treading on prostrate junipers.

A Forgotten Natural History Society

ALISON RUTHERFORD

In the days of the West Dunbartonshire Natural History Society (now the Helensburgh and District) someone asked me about the 'old Society', the low-profile Dumbartonshire Natural History Society which published nothing and having no base because of a lack of public library or museum in the town, left neither notes nor archive. The meetings and excursions were, however, reported in *The Helensburgh and Gareloch Times*.

While researching this group, Allan Stirling who had heard of a lost herbarium, suggested that its members might have assisted in it's collecting. I believe that Professor Lloyd Binns had told him that John Lee was said to have pressed a sample of every plant in Dunbartonshire and put them in matching folders. AS examined the herbaria of Kelvingrove and both Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities, and while there were Lee offerings, they were few and not in matching folders.

The Society was founded on the 9th of December 1913 and met in Hermitage House, in a park of the same name, both donated to the people of Helensburgh. Fourteen attended. By the 3rd meeting in January 1914, numbers had risen to 53, the next month a further 37 joined. The outbreak of the First World War was

catastrophic - the House became a convalescents' home. Hiring rooms was costly; the Victoria (public) Halls were used (where the current Society meets). The Rector of Hermitage School, built on ground at the south of the Park, helped from 1919-1922. Next the church hall of St Michael and All Angels was taken, but proved too expensive. The Court Hall was used for four years, but also swallowed too much cash. From 1929 the Scout Hall was the venue for meetings.

The Society had links with notable people- John Lee, author of *The Flora of the Clyde Area* (1933) and the Secretary was Mrs Ewing, the wife of Peter Ewing (1849-1913) author of *The Glasgow Catalogue of Native and Established Plants* (1892, 1899). On excursions it visited locally important places. Members went to The Murray family home in nearby Cardross, who had a private museum and learnedly researched early local history, and explored the grounds of Camis Eskin House, a very grand place before the Second World War, with separate glasshouses for carnations, camellias and a grape-vine. The Society also visited Belmore, an important garden, now inside the Faslane Naval Base, twice by steamer up the Gareloch, and once by bus.

The winter lectures were also wide-ranging - taxidermy; someone from the Marine Biological Station, Millport; John Lee on the flora of Ben Lawers; the arrival times of 26 bird species; birds of prey; seashore life; migrating birds and garden species and Scottish mountain scenery. The excursions were also varied; besides the Murray collection, Camis Eskin and Belmore gardens, members boarded a steamer for Achnashie on the Rosneath peninsula, between Clynder and Rosneath the garden of which was planted with unusual trees and shrubs and all was written in a series of notebooks. Members also took a steamer to Benmore.

Despite the above links, the very varied programmes of talks and trips, by the 20th AGM in November 1933, the Treasurer, Mr Scroggie 'deplored the unsatisfactory state of the Society's affairs'. Dr Hunter, presiding, initiated a debate as to whether it should fold. (He is remembered for many of the town's trees and especially the Japanese cherries on the verges). £1.19. 4d. was left and it was decided to donate it to the scouts.

A combination of a lack of a local museum and library plus a shortage of funds during the early days of the Society, when war charities absorbed peoples' extra cash and the subsequent depression didn't help things when a sound foundation was required.

Thus a very 'quiet' Society vanished from the natural history scene, and eventually was almost forgotten even in the town of its nativity. An account of it was published in the *West Dunbartonshire Naturalist Report* No. 5 (1980).

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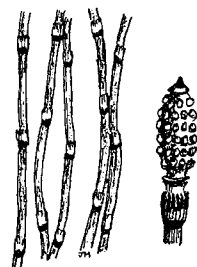
New Records for West Lothian

J MUSCOTT

In a small and heavily exploited vice county like West Lothian one does not expect to find many new records, particularly of native species. However 2005 seems to have been a bumper year.

The first and most exciting record was the discovery in April of a good population of Rough Horsetail (*Equisetum hyemale*) by an unfrequented stretch of the River Almond. There are old records for Carriden and Hopetown but the only other surviving population in the Lothians is in Midlothian.

Then in July a member of an Edinburgh Natural History Society field trip discovered a good population of Heath Cudweed (*Gnaphalium sylvaticum*) on a track across Easter Inch Moss. It's not new to West Lothian but it's new to that 10 km square and is anyway rare. There were also plants of Greater Butterfly Orchid (*Platanthera chlorantha*) which had previously been noted here and elsewhere in the VC, but which I suspect to be in decline, so it was nice to see they were still around.



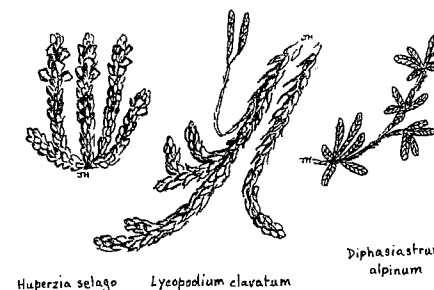
Equisetum hyemale



Gnaphalium sylvaticum

Finally in August a friend reported the presence of Stagshorn Clubmoss (*Lycopodium clavatum*) on Whitrigg Bing. The bing had been flattened and partly planted with trees fairly recently, but a large area had been left untouched. I did a fairly thorough survey in 1999 and though the unplanted area had been colonised by grasses and a variety of flowers including orchids, with a large patch of Lupins (*Lupinus x regalis*) in one corner, there were still relatively bare patches with mosses and a variety of *Cladonia* lichens, but no sign of clubmosses. Nor was there anything obvious during a fungus survey in 2002, so I was astonished to see the large patches which had established themselves during the last 3 years – and delighted to discover in addition a couple of small patches of Alpine Clubmoss (*Diphasiastrum alpinum*) and one or two plants of Fir Clubmoss (*Huperzia selago*).

Lycopodium clavatum is a common coloniser of old coal and shale bings, so this kind of development must have occurred before. I have two earlier records of *Diphasiastrum* on bings - one has definitely gone (that bit of the bing was flattened), the other may still be there but is virtually inaccessible due to the spread of gorse. I have just one earlier record of *Huperzia* - a single plant on Foulshiels Bing a couple of miles from Whitrigg. Presumably the plants originate from wind-borne spores, perhaps coming from a considerable distance. I suspect the very fine seeds of orchids, also good colonisers of suitable waste areas, arrive in a similar way.



Huperzia selago *Lycopodium clavatum*

Diphasiastrum alpinum

Incidentally young trees are now appearing on the barer parts of Whitrigg Bing (doubtless seeded from the surrounding trees), so the days of the meadow plants and the clubmosses may be numbered. I clearly need to make regular visits to the area, and watch developments.

The most interesting discovery came from the Dunes at Findhorn (NJ06) where a new hybrid for Scotland was found *X Festulpia hubbardii* growing with both parents *Festuca rubra* (Red Fescue) and *Vulpia fasciculata* (Dune Fescue). Also found on the dunes and new for the vice-county was *Festuca arenaria* (Rush-leaved Fescue).

In October I had to do some survey work for the Forestry in Lossie and Culbin Forests. I had always thought Lossie Forest as being somewhat boring, but now have a completely changed view. A clump of *Osmunda regalis* (Royal Fern) was found in a damp area just east of the Rifle Range (NJ36), only the second record for VC 95. Growing with it was *Carex x boenninghausiana* a hybrid between *C. paniculata* (Greater Tussock-sedge), which was plentiful in damp areas throughout the east half of the forest, and *C. remota* (Remote Sedge) which I was unable to find anywhere in the forest. Just to the west of the Rifle Range is another damp area where there was a good amount of *Carex diandra* (Lesser Tussock-sedge), and a few plants of *Orthilia secunda* (Serrated Wintergreen). The Rifle Range is a very dry grassy/heathy area with lots of the following small plants: *Hypochaeris glabra* (Smooth Cat's-ear), *Filago minima* and *F. vulgaris* (Small and Common Cudweed), *Jasione montana* (Sheep's-bit) and *Teesdalia nudicaulis* (Shepherd's Cress). There are several ponds (NJ26), some of which had almost dried up and had the largest populations of *Apium inundatum* (Lesser Marshwort) and *Eleogiton fluitans* (Floating Club-rush) I have ever seen. The gem here was *Poa palustris* (Swamp Meadow-grass), a new species for VC 95. Two other new species were also found for VC 95; *Plantago major* subspecies *intermedia* (Greater plantain) growing in bare areas by tracks (NJ26 & NJ36), and in the saltmarsh (NJ26) *Atriplex x taschereaui* (Taschereau's Orache) a hybrid between *A. glabriuscula* (Babington's Orache) and *A. longipes* (Long-stalked Orache). The latter is not known from Moray. On vegetative coastal shingle (NJ36) *Leontodon saxatilis* (Lesser Hawkbit) was found in good numbers, a very rare plant in Moray.

Culbin I know well, so was not expecting too many interesting finds, but even so did find a new site for *Moneses uniflora* (One-flowered Wintergreen) (NH96). *Lythrum salicaria* was found by the pond next to Cloddymoss car park (NH95). A large patch of *Anaphalis margaritacea* (Pearly Everlasting) was found well established by a forest ride (NH96). *Betula x aurata* a hybrid between *B. pendula* (Silver Birch) and *Betula pubescens* (Downy Birch) was seen

in several places (NH96 & NJ06). Several patches of *Phegopteris connectilis* (Beech Fern) were found in damp flushes on a steep north facing slope (NH95) and a small patch of *Urtica galeopsifolia* (Stingless Nettle) by a ditch (NH96).

In Balnacoul Wood (NJ35) by Mosstodloch twenty bushes of *Photinia dividiata* (Stranvaesia) and five trees of *Sorbus hupehensis* were found all self-sown, both new species for the county. Also noted were two bushes of *Rhododendron luteum* (Yellow Azalea), several bushes of *Cotoneaster rehderi* (Bullate Cotoneaster), a clump of *Lilium pyrenaicum* (Pyrenean Lily) and a small patch of *Euphorbia dulcis* (Sweet Spurge). I was surprised I had overlooked these species in the wood as this is in the Local Change Square NJ35J which is just down the road from my house, which I thought I had surveyed very well, just goes to show how easy it is to miss species even if they are good size bushes or small trees.

Garden centres can always be a good place to find the unexpected. Christies Garden Centre (NJ35) in Fochabers produced several plants of *Veronica peregrina* (American Speedwell), plus the species I had been hoping to find there *Alopecurus aequalis* (Orange Foxtail) as this had appeared in my garden after I had planted plants that I had brought from there in 2004. *Solanum nigrum* (Black Nightshade) was found amongst the plants at B&Q and Decora in Elgin (NJ26), this is an extremely rare plant in the county.

Other interesting records:

Anisantha diandra (Great Brome) was found in abundance in an arable field at Barmuckity (NJ26). A single clump of *Armoracia rusticana* (Horse-radish) was noted on a grassy verge in Grantown-on-Spey (NJ02). On Elgin Rubbish Tip (NJ26) several plants of *Artemisia absinthium* (Wormwood) were seen as well as a single plant of *Rudbeckia hirta* (Bristly Coneflower). A single plant of *Campanula persicifolia* (Peach-leaved Bellflower) flowering nicely on the east verge of the A95 at Bridge of Avon (NJ1835). Two plants of *Carduus crispus* (Wetted Thistle) growing on the bank of the old railway line at Cragganmore (NJ1636). Two plants of *Coeloglossum viride* (Frog Orchid) by Loch nan Carriagean (NH9015). *Geum macrophyllum* (Large-leaved Avens) established on the old railway line and the north bank of the River Spey at Knockando (NJ1941). *Mentha x piperita* var. *citrata* (*M. aquatica* x *M. spicata*) (Eau de Cologne Mint) on waste ground by the ruins of Woodside Farm, Elgin (NJ2363). *Salix daphnoides* (European Violet-willow) by the ruins of Coral Peel, southeast of Lossiemouth (NJ2568) where it was most likely planted. A small patch of *Sasa palmata* (Broad-leaved Bamboo) in woodland on the west side of Fochabers (NJ3458). *Scrophularia nodosa* var. *babartii* (Common Figwort) a variety with greenish/yellow flowers on the shingle of the River Spey at Craigellachie and nearby a

single plant of *Symphytum asperum* (Rough Comfrey) (both NJ2845). Two stems of *Equisetum hyemale* (Rough Horsetail) at the bottom of a wooded bank, south side of Allt Lomadaidh (NJ1019).

A Photographic Competition

IAN TEESDALE

Among its other assets Campbeltown has a vigorous and enterprising Rotary Club. Earlier this year this admirable institution decided to encourage the younger generation in Kintyre to become more aware of the environment in which they are growing up. A member of our local botany group who is also a Rotarian dreamed up the idea of an inter-schools photographic competition, the subject of the photographs to be examples of the local flora.

The Rotarian in question, Mrs Agnes Stewart, asked for my help in sorting through and judging the entries. There was the predictable assortment of good (some very good) and bad photos, and of subjects ranging from the banal to the original. But one image intrigued and surprised us both. It purported to be of *Geranium lucidum* (Shining Crane's-bill), a plant not known to us from anywhere in the Kintyre peninsula at the present time - and only shown in two Kintyre hectads as pre-1970 records in the *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora* (Preston *et al* 2002). The puzzling thing was that the photo, somewhat indistinct though it was, did look rather like the plant in question.

The photograph was from a small primary school in the village of Carradale, some ten miles up the east coast from Campbeltown. Mrs Stewart contacted the head teacher and a few days later we went to the school and talking to the two girls who had co-operated over this particular entry. They walked us half a mile or so along a country lane; and there, growing amongst a jumble of grasses and other wayside plants at the edge of the lane, were the geraniums: *G. lucidum* indeed, with those shining, lobed leaves, the reddish stems and distinctive, narrow-petalled flowers.

The girls had apparently come across the plants when looking for anything in flower that they could photograph, and had no idea of the interest of what they had found.

It would be nice to think that this chance encounter with botany would lead these two young persons in due course to take a serious interest in the subject. But life is seldom as straightforward as that. Meanwhile, the new record has been duly passed to our VC Recorder; and another anonymous dot will doubt-

less appear in some future edition of a "New Atlas", mute witness to the improbable train of events that I have described.

Reference

Preston, CD, Pearman, DA & Dines, TD (2002). *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora*. Oxford University Press.

Dog's Teeth and Trout: an Erroneous *Erythronium*

GH BALLANTYNE

It took me ten years to discover Wemyss Castle woods. Although I'd explored most of the estates and policy woodland in and around Kirkcaldy during the decade since I'd first become interested in wild flowers, I'd not looked much at this particular area, on the coast about halfway between Kirkcaldy and Leven in Fife. So I was delighted on an April morning in 1965 to come across a carpet of blue, mainly of Siberian Squill (*Scilla siberica*), and some Glory of the Snow (*Chionodoxa luciliae*)- [or *C. forbesii* as it is now].

As with earlier similar types of finds elsewhere, I concluded that they should be treated as part of the Fife flora: the particular wood where they grew, behind the local kirk, was open to the public and there were no constraints about access. The school of thought that non-native plants should not be considered to be part of a region's flora was still favoured by some in those days, but I did not subscribe to it.

I returned a week or two later and on this occasion ventured into the Castle woods proper. I realised that I was trespassing but access was not difficult, and I was rewarded with more well established introductions such as Italian Lords-and-Ladies (*Arum italicum*) and Spring Snowflake (*Leucojum vernum*). Then I came across a spread of a dainty pink flower with recurved petals that I didn't recognise; back home, it was not in either of my (then) 'bibles', Collins *Pocket Guide to Wild Flowers* (McClintock & Fitter 1956), nor the 1962 Clapham, Tutin & Warburg's *Flora of the British Isles*, ed 2. Scrutiny of my very modest garden library revealed it to be Dog's-tooth Violet (*Erythronium dens-canis*). As it was quite at home and spreading among the daffodils I'd no qualms about mentioning it in my *Wild Flowers of the Kirkcaldy District* in 1970 as being part of the Fife flora.

Thereafter I returned to the woods from time to time, and noted that the plants were increasing. However, access then became more difficult and quite some time passed by. Then, quite unexpectedly, in April 2005 I saw an advert for an

Open Day at Wemyss Castle grounds; off I went, paid my admission, went round the old walled garden now in the process of renovation, and came to the plant stall. Not a great deal of interest here, I thought, until I espied a particular plant: sure enough, the Dog's-tooth Violet. But what was that on the label? - not *Erythronium dens-canis* but *E. revolutum*! Taken aback, I waited until the owner's wife was free and mentioned that I'd first seen the flower some forty years previously. "Yes", she said, "that would be a good while after a predecessor had introduced it from America, where it is known as Trout Lily". Somewhat bemused, I made my way to the wood, to come face to face with thousands of them - a bit more robust, a deeper pink, and with more spotted leaves than their European counterpart for which I'd mistaken them: a thoroughly established and attractive introduction.

Erythronium revolutum does not seem to be included in any of the current British floras or plant-lists but in my view certainly deserves to be considered as a worthwhile addition. Meanwhile, *E. dens-canis* should be deleted from VC 85 in the *Vice County Census Catalogue* (Stace *et al* 2003) while the mention of 'Fife' in Stace's 1997 "New Flora" should be struck out.

References

- Ballantyne, GH (1970). *The flowering plants of Kirkcaldy and District* etc. Kirkcaldy Naturalists' Society.
- Clapham, AR, Tutin, TG & Warburg, EF (1962). *Flora of the British Isles*, (2nd edition). Cambridge University Press.
- McClintock, D & Fitter, RSR (1956). *The Pocket Guide to Wild Flowers*. Collins, London.
- Stace, C (1997). *New Flora of the British Isles* (2nd edition). Cambridge University Press.
- Stace, CA, Ellis, RG, Kent, DH & McCosh, DJ (2003). *Vice-County Census Catalogue of Vascular Plants of Great Britain*. Botanical Society of the British Isles, London.

Draft Minutes of the BSBI Scottish AGM held in the Perth Museum and Art Gallery at 2.30 pm on Saturday, 5 November 2005

1. Welcome and present

The Chairman welcomed 102 BSBI members and friends to the meeting. He extended a special welcome to BSBI President, Richard Gornall, and to David Pearman and Chris Preston, to representatives of Perthshire Society of Natural Sciences, BSS, Plantlife and friends from England and Wales.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from, Jennifer Davidson, Gabriel Hemery, Mrs Jean Millar, Mrs Morven Murray, Paul Smith and Mark Watson.

3. Minutes of AGM of 6 Nov 2004

Draft minutes had been published in the *Scottish Newsletter* No 27 and were accepted without amendment.

4. Business arising

None that was not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

5. Chairman's report

The Chairman, Richard Pankhurst, reported that there had been fewer consultations to deal with this year. One consultation on non native species policies had been responded to. One outcome of the government's attention on this subject had been a code for garden centres. A consultation on the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy had been addressed by the Scottish Officer. This may result in a focusing of effort on certain plant species in the future.

The Chairman reported on the Shropshire conference. He was pleased to note that the Local Change report would be published in the near future. He reminded everyone about the current hybrids project and the need for new records up to the end of 2006.

He reported changes in VCR positions that he and the committee had recommended. In VC 75 (Ayrshire) David Laing had taken over from Allan Stirling and in VC 105 (Wester Ross) James Fenton had now taken over from Douglas Henderson.

6. Scottish Officers report

Jim McIntosh reported that his first year had been very enjoyable and he recorded his thanks for the support he had received.

He reported on the large amount of work undertaken to assist SNHs Site Condition monitoring programme, initially in rounding up the reports for the 2004 season and then guiding the 2005 survey work on 20 sites. In all this had involved 15 volunteers and 20 other helpers. The reports for the 2005 season are currently being compiled.

He had met with 4 VCRs for detailed discussions and planned to do more of these. He had helped secure £15,000 to assist 4 recorders with digitising data sets. He had organised a well attended MapMate workshop.

He had appointed a volunteer, Jane Squirrel, to help develop a website for Scotland. He needed other volunteers to help with administrative tasks at the RBGE

and to package data for VCRs.

7. Scottish Newsletter report

Peter Macpherson reported the death of Allan Stirling formerly joint editor of the newsletter. An article in the Newsletter was followed by an obituary in *Watsonia*.

He expressed his thanks to Jackie Muscott for checking the list and labels meticulously ahead of mailing out the newsletter as this identified that there were 30 fewer members listed. It transpired that 25 of these had not paid their subscription at the time, but copies were sent to the 14 members who paid subsequently. Nine new members were included in the mailing.

Items for the 2006 issue were to reach the editor by the end of February.

8. Field Meetings in 2005 and 2006

Stephen Bungard reported the attendance at the 5 meetings held this year had ranged from 6 in Wigtownshire to 30 on Orkney. Island meetings appeared particularly popular and next year meetings are planned on Shetland and Mull.

There would also be some meetings arranged for beginners run by Jim McIntosh.

9. Election of Committee members

Three members stood down. Chris Miles and Mark Watson have both served for 6 years and were not eligible to be re-elected. The chairman thanked them for their work. Ian Green was eligible for re-election and had agreed to stand. The Committee also nominated Jane Squirrell and Jeff Waddell. It was proposed that all three be elected en bloc by Lynne Farrell and seconded by Rod Corner.

10. Arrangements for the talk and evening meal

Alistair Godfrey reminded those present that the talk by Andy Amphlett would follow at 16:30 and the evening meal would be at the Royal George Hotel at 18:00.

11. AOCB

The Chairman invited Debbie Long, Scottish Plantlife officer to bring members up to date with current projects. Debbie said that the Floral Guardian project would be extending to Scotland.

On the 7th November Susan Cooper starts as a new volunteer co-ordinator. She

will run a project with three principle objectives, involving local people in caring for threatened plants, monitoring sites near where they live, and getting people involved in conservation in their gardens and homes.

Debbie Long would work with Jim McIntosh to match programmes such as the Important Plant Areas (IPAs) and the Important Arable Plants Areas initiatives where possible. For the IPAs, lists were available on the website and VCRs were encouraged to respond on these by the end of December.

The Juniper project had now completed the collection of sightings and the results would now be analysed and then published in Plantlife magazine. A guide for land managers has been developed.

On being questioned about the selection of IPAs it was agreed that it was important that they were checked by VCRs. They were areas chosen on the basis of both higher plants and cryptogam records.

Richard Gornall requested that anyone attending the London exhibition meeting should bring exhibits from today's meeting if possible. He reminded everyone that the closing date for BSBI grants was 1st February. He encouraged applications that addressed scientific questions set out on one side of A4.

Chris Miles, November 2005

BSBI Scottish Officer Report

JIM McINTOSH

BSBI Site Condition Monitoring (SCM) Project

The BSBI surveyed and prepared SCM reports for a total of 20 SSSIs in 2005. The sites included many large montane sites such as Ben Heasgarnich, Ben Lomond, Ben Lui, and Torridon Forest, where long walk-ins, unpredictable weather, and expansive survey areas all contributed to the challenge! There was also a wide variety of sites in coastal, moorland, woodland, grassland and fen habitats.

Most of the sites had never been surveyed before for SCM purposes, but a number had been surveyed by others who had failed to find all the target species. In these cases, the BSBI was asked to find and survey the previously missed species only - another exciting challenge for a botanist - to find something that others had tried but failed to find!

The work was largely done by BSBI volunteers. This was an important aspect of the project. A BSBI volunteer led the fieldwork and completed the report writing for each site. In turn they were encouraged to get help from BSBI VCRs, BSBI members and interested individuals, such as SNH staff and NTS and SWT site managers. As well as a total of 100 days spent on the project by the 14 'lead volunteers', and considerable Scottish Officer time, 48 days in total were spent by BSBI members, mainly helping with fieldwork.

All 20 reports have now been checked by the Scottish Officer and delivered to SNH. The standard is very high, and volunteers' expert and local knowledge of botany and many of the sites involved has added great value, which would be hard to match. A bid for SNH funds to cover volunteers' travel costs and report writing time (only) was successful and £6,600 has now been distributed amongst the volunteer surveyors.

A final step for me will be to distribute the SCM reports, which include many highly detailed records for our rarest plants, for not just these 20 SSSIs but all 150 SSSIs in Scotland that are designated to protect vascular plant populations, to the respective Vice-county Recorders.

Many thanks to all those who helped with this project in 2005, but particularly to the lead surveyors: Andy Amphlett, Barbara & Brian Ballinger, Pat Batty, Stephen Bungard, Rod Corner, Clive Dixon, Ian Green, Barbara Hogarth, Richard Pankhurst, Martin Robinson, Robin Walls, Keith Watson & David Welch. Particular thanks to Barbara Hogarth, who not content to lead on one site, led on three!

Current BSBI Scottish Computerisation Project

Currently some 100,000 BSBI paper records from 4 Scottish VCRs are being computerised by 4 contractors (selected from BSBI ranks). By the time you read this, the data entry phase of the project will be complete, and the majority of the computerised records will have been checked against the original paperwork by the VCRs. The first dataset will have been handed back to the VCR, and the others should not be far behind. The BSBI is very grateful to SNH for the £15,000 funding for the project, and for the painstaking diligence of the contractors: Andy Amphlett, Carl Farmer, Ian Green, and Malcolm Ogilvie. Thanks are also due to the four VCRs who have worked hard to prepare and check records: Stephen Bungard/Catriona Murray, Rod Corner, Lynne Farrell & Jackie Muscott.

Proposed BSBI Scottish Computerisation Project

Enthusied and excited by the success of the current project, I am planning a further, even more ambitious project to help computerise all remaining paper BSBI records in Scotland over a 3 year period, using a similar approach. I am currently quizzing VCRs on their data holdings, in order to help prepare the proposal and bid for SNH funding. I am proposing to offer even more help to VCRs to enable them to participate in this project.

Scottish BSBI WebPages

Many thanks to Jane Squirrell who has developed the BSBI Scottish WebPages, which were launched in January. They can be accessed from a link on the BSBI home page or directly via <http://rbg-web2.rbge.org.uk/sbsbi/index.htm>. If you have not already seen them, log on and check them out! They include Scottish BSBI news, details of Scottish field and indoor meetings, abstracts from the Scottish Exhibition Meeting and a whole page about the work of the Scottish Officer, including his 2005 Annual Report. If you drill down deeply you will even find Scottish Committee and Scottish Officer Steering Group documents!

If you would like to contribute an article to the news page, or a field meeting report with photographs, or any other article that would be relevant and of interest to BSBI members in Scotland please forward them to Dr Jane Squirrell who has kindly agreed to act as receiving editor. She can be contacted at RBGE, 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR or by e-mail j.squirrell@rbge.ac.uk. But remember this medium is generally better suited to short illustrated articles (i.e. with photographs), and is not meant to replace the *Scottish Newsletter*!

Map Floras of Inverness and other surplus books

BSBI/Summerfield Books have sent the Scottish Officer a consignment of books which are surplus to their requirements. They are:

- *Map Flora of Mainland Inverness*, BSE & BSBI, 1985
- *Flowering Plants of Selkirk & Roxburgh*, Rod Corner, 1985
- *Checklist of Flowers of Culbin State Forest*, Mary McCallum Webster, 1977

If you can provide a good home to any of these books please contact my Admin. Assistant, Jane Jones, by telephone (01877 382682) or by post at Cuilvona Cottage, Loch Ard Road, Aberfoyle, Stirling FK8 3TQ. If writing, please state which of the books you would like and remember to include a note of your ad-

dress. They are being provided free of charge, but if you would like to include a donation to the BSBI with your request that would be very gratefully received and would help offset postage (but this is *not* a prerequisite). However, the books will be limited to one of each title to each address.

Scottish Officer 2005 Annual Report

I have published a short 'glossy' Annual Report of my activities in 2005. You are very welcome to have a copy. If you would like one, again please contact my Admin. Assistant, Jane Jones, as above. Please note that it is also available to download from the BSBI Scottish WebPages.

Jim McIntosh,
BSBI Scottish Officer
Telephone: 0131 248 2894 or 0791 7152580
E-mail: j.mcintosh@rbge.ac.uk

Scottish Vice-County Recorder Vacancies

Easternness - VC 96

The old county of Inverness is divided into two – Westernness and Easternness Watsonian Vice-counties. Even with this split Easternness is still one of the largest of all Scottish Vice-counties. It is enormously varied, including coastal, riparian, semi-natural woodland, moorland and montane habitats. These montane habitats hold several important populations of rare species such as *Carex lachenalii*, *Carex rariflora*, *Saxifraga rivularis*, *Salix lanata* and *Phyllodoce caerulea*. Fen habitats host *Carex buxbaumii* and *Carex chordorrhiza*, whilst the woodlands provide habitat for *Moneses uniflora* and *Linnaea borealis*.

The present Vice-county Recorder, Margaret Barron has been 'in post' for some 26 years and would now like to retire. We are indebted to Margaret for these years of sterling service to the BSBI.

We do have interest from a local member who would be happy to take it on – but only in partnership with a joint recorder. As he is already a VCR in another field, he would prefer to concentrate on the fieldwork rather than paperwork side of the job. We are therefore looking for a keen botanist to take up the post, who would be happy to work in partnership and is reasonably physically fit. Highly desirable skills would include competency with computers, particularly e-mail, the internet and MapMate (but training and support will be provided).

Dunbarton - VC 99

The Vice-county of Dunbarton, although centred on the modern Local Authority area of West Dunbartonshire, and entirely including it, is much bigger. It includes much interesting hill ground to the north west culminating in Ben Vane and Ben Vorlich (its highest point at 941m). Its western boundary is formed by Loch Long and the Clyde estuary, whilst its eastern boundary is Loch Lomond. To the south-east there is a significant urban area. Its key features are Loch Lomond, and its islands, and surrounding Atlantic oakwoods, the River Leven and the Clyde Estuary. It holds important populations of *Callitriche palustris*, *Carex elongata*, and *Rumex aquaticus*.

Alison Rutherford has been Vice-county Recorder since 1987, and has indicated she would now like to retire. The BSBI is very grateful to her for her invaluable contribution over the past 19 years. Her retirement will create a vacancy which we would like to fill.

We are looking for a keen and physically fit botanist. Highly desirable skills would include competency with computers, particularly e-mail, the internet and MapMate (but again training and support will be provided).

The principal VCR task is, of course, the collection, validation and maintenance of vascular plant records within the Vice-county on behalf of the BSBI. For full details of what a Vice-county Recorder's job entails, or if you are interested in either vacancy, please contact me, Jim McIntosh, by e-mail to j.mcintosh@rbge.ac.uk or by post to BSBI Scottish Officer, RBGE, 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR.

Plantlife Scotland

"Living Roots" Project

Living Roots is a new Plantlife Scotland initiative, giving people and organisations an opportunity to get involved in helping to conserve Scotland's wild plants. There are three survey elements to the project, offering different levels of involvement to suit everyone:

Single Species Survey

Every year, Plantlife runs a simple survey to record specially chosen plants across the country. In 2006, the survey will focus on three of the worst non-native, invasive species, *Fallopia japonica* (Japanese Knotweed), *Impatiens glandulifera* (Himalayan Balsam) and *Crassula helmsii* (New Zealand Pygmyweed). They are all easy to identify and the records generated will help Plantlife

map these plants across the UK.

Common Plants Survey

The Common Plants Survey requires a bit more time and is suitable for those who already have, or would like to develop, some plant knowledge. Surveyors are allocated a random 1km grid square close to their home, which they visit at least annually to look for 65 common plant species. Plantlife provides a list and identification guide for these species, along with comprehensive instructions for completing the survey.

Flora Guardians

Plantlife's dedicated volunteers, or *Flora Guardians*, help us look after rare plants and/or threatened habitats close to where they live. We will also be recruiting people to survey the extent and spread of invasive non-native species on vulnerable sites. *Flora Guardians* are committed to monitoring species or habitats on an annual basis and are fully trained by Plantlife. Their records provide us with an early warning system for any adverse changes in habitat quality and species quantity.

For more information on any of the above activities, please contact:
Su Cooper, Plantlife Scotland Volunteers Co-ordinator, Balallan House, Allan Park, Stirling, FK8 2QG. Tel: 01786 479382. E-mail: suzanne.cooper@plantlife.org.uk

Notice regarding the Scottish Annual Meeting, 4th November 2006

By rotation this should have been held in Glasgow. For a considerable time the West of Scotland venue has been the University of Glasgow, but the booking fee quoted this year is a considerable increase on that previously paid and the College Club will not be available in November for the evening meal.

No other local suitable venue has been located and it has been decided that the event will be held at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, where the Management and Staff are happy to host the event.

Notice regarding the BSBI Field Meeting on Mull in July 2006

Lynne Farell has asked that a note be included in the Newsletter to notify members that only four places remain available for the Mull trip.