

Annual Review 2012



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A glance through the following pages will show the Society has enjoyed another busy and successful year.

A lot of hard work has gone into promoting the BSBI to a wider audience. We had a presence at several local and national events, including Big Nature Day in London, Gardeners' World Live in Birmingham, the Birdfair at Rutland Water and the major conference we organised jointly with the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. This conference, celebrating biological recording over the 50 years since the BSBI published the first *Atlas of the British Flora*, was a rousing success. Many of the 25 presentations will be more widely available as papers in the *New Journal of Botany*.

Despite the disappointing summer weather, over 50 field meetings were held throughout the year with good coverage across Britain and Ireland and catering for a wide range of botanical skills.

In May, the Annual General Meeting in Reading approved that the Society should be reconstituted as a Company Limited by Guarantee. This was endorsed at the Special General Meeting held in Cambridge in November, as part of the Annual Exhibition Meeting. Also, it was resolved that in future the BSBI would be known as the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland. Details of the reconstitution are still being worked through, but should be completed by the AGM in June 2013.

We have continued to enjoy financial support through our partnership arrangements with the Country Agencies. This, coupled with the wise management of our legacy income, has allowed us to continue to expand our small staff team with the appointment of a part-time Officer for Ireland.

It is gratifying to report that, notwithstanding economic uncertainties, our

membership grew during the year - we are optimistic that the 3,000 barrier will be broken next year.

In addition to the usual full programme of events for 2013, we are launching a new Plant Identification course for beginners. We anticipate the launch of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland at our June AGM in Beaumaris, and we will announce the appointment of a Head of Operations - a new post to work alongside volunteers and paid staff, taking responsibility for the administrative operation of the Society as a whole.

Our success through 2012 is entirely due to the continued efforts of our small team of staff and the greater number of members who volunteer in so many different ways - honorary officers, vice-county recorders, referees, committee members, field excursion leaders, helpers and indoor event organisers. Thank you all.

Ian Bonner

March 2012



Plant Unit

The Plant Unit is the professional arm of the BSBI, with a remit to develop scientific uses of the BSBI's data and provide services to academia and the conservation sector and members of the Society itself.

Surveillance and Ash die-back

BSBI is currently at the forefront of developing ways to monitor the impacts of this disease, the effects of which could be on a par with those of Dutch Elm disease in the 1970s. We are working closely with bryologists and lichenologists to



develop a scheme that will attempt to measure long term impacts on both ground flora and epiphytes. This ties in very closely with our new 'habitat-based' surveillance scheme which we hope to launch over the next few years. For a whole range of habitats this will enable us to provide confident answers to such simple

questions as which species are declining or increasing in abundance and why. Ash dieback is just another potential 'driver' to add to an ever increasing list that already includes habitat loss, lack of management, eutrophication, pollution, climate change and invasive species (native or otherwise).

Monitoring our threatened flora

This was the last year (2012) of our flagship Threatened Plants Project (TPP) in which volunteers have been collecting vital information on some of our most threatened species. Over the last five years volunteers have visited thousands of

populations of 50 species chosen because their recent declines had been severe and often for reasons that are not understood. In 2012 we also began work on a new Red Data list for England, funded by Natural England. This follows the GB red list published in 2005 and one for Wales published in 2008 and will hopefully highlight the plight of species such as *Antennaria dioica* that are not considered to be threatened at a national level but which have undergone serious declines in England, especially in the intensively managed lowlands of the south and east.

Extending our reach

The Plant Unit team now comprises three national officers covering Scotland, Wales and most recently Ireland, following the appointment of Dr Maria Long who started working for us in the autumn. This is a very significant event for the BSBI, and we hope it provides our Irish counterparts with some much needed support and guidance as we head rapidly towards the end of the decade and the publication of the third national atlas of the British and Irish flora.



Making our data available

Possibly the most significant development over recent years has been the launch of the Society's own Distribution Database (DDb). This provides registered users with online access to the largest collation of botanical records ever assembled and in 2012 many recorders as well as research scientists and conservation partners signed up to use it. It is already proving an invaluable resource and is being improved all the time, mainly through exposure to users who can edit records and provide feedback on its content and functionality.

Training and Education

The training and education activities of the BSBI are still supported by the generous legacy of Allan Hamerschlag. The work of the committee and other volunteers enables the BSBI to continue spreading awareness and knowledge of plants and habitats by supporting botanical training and improvement of identification skills. Working with Meetings Committee, an ever-increasing number of field meetings are designated as training events, encouraging beginners and improvers by advertising the presence of a tutor to help with basic and sometimes more advanced identification skills.

In 2012, 39 botanists took the BSBI's Field Identification Skills Certificate test. Almost 200 botanists have now been awarded a certificate, helping to ensure a continuing supply of competent botanical field workers into the future. This award is increasingly recognised by employers, especially consultancies who also use this as a method of professional progression and reward.

Thirty six training grants and bursaries were awarded as well as two study grants of £1,000 each to a PhD student at Edge Hill University for research into *Tilia cordata*, and also to a Masters student at University of Birmingham for research into the use of axiophytes in conservation planning.

Perhaps one of the most exciting initiatives in 2012 was the development of a BSBI online plant identification course designed by committee member Brenda Harold. This is due for launch in 2013 in partnership with the Field Studies Council.

Encouraging an Interest in Plants

England

Despite the weather all the field meetings took place and were held safely. Twenty field meetings were held in total, including nine training sessions, one of which introduced coastal dune plants, sedges and grasses. Three recording

events were held in Wiltshire, Northumberland and Bridgwater Bay in Somerset, and eight general meetings ranging from Cornwall to Yorkshire. New members and beginners were specifically welcomed and invited to join four of these meetings.

It is true that botanists get to some unusual corners overlooked or ignored by others while some encounter unusual events. Travel between two Cornish sites in mid-May was delayed by the Olympic torch cortege and botanists were delighted to drive into Truro to find enthusiastic crowds apparently waiting to salute them! Visits to plant-rich sites included: part of the floodplain meadows in Leicestershire nestling in a suburban area of the county; starting an outing on the former rubbish tip in Essex; standing on a former mineral extraction site in Yorkshire; and visiting an unexplored corner of Lincolnshire, Grimsthorpe Park, near Bourne. Here, the objective was to explore areas of limestone grassland within the Park including the disused quarries and pits and the outing turned up two new records for the area. Owing to over-subscription last year Mike Porter ran another of his sedges workshops. Similarly in a little-worked corner of the New Forest those present were not only able to contribute current records but also heard about the area's history from local commoners. The year culminated in a trip to Rutland Water also known for its birds.

Our field meetings continued to facilitate exploration of all corners of England in the very capable hands of the leaders for whom we are most grateful for their expertise, enthusiasm and time.

Wales

The BSBI in Wales continues to benefit from the input and expertise of a Welsh Officer (funded mainly by Countryside Council for Wales) Dr Polly Spencer-Vellacott. Polly has taken maternity leave (her baby son, Jay was born on 6th November 2012) and during her absence, Polly's place is taken by



Paul Green who has settled in well and was able to take up the offer of office space at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

About 60 members participated in the 50th Welsh Annual General Meeting and Exhibition Meeting in mid-June at the Bryn Howel Hotel, Trefor, Llangollen. There were several choices of field visits to a variety of habitats such as Eyrarth Rocks for limestone, Cors Goch for bog, Marford Quarry, the Alyn Waters Country Park and Wrexham Industrial Estate as disused and reclaimed industrial sites. Unfortunately, Dr Goronwy Wynne was unable to deliver the keynote 50th anniversary speech, but Andy Jones, CCW botanist, ably stepped-in to talk about 'Kinds of Rarity'. The exhibitions revealed a variety of interesting specimens and photographs, including a large display of roses and a workshop provided by Dr Kate Thorne. Thanks go to all the contributors and field trip leaders and to the staff at Bryn Howel for making the meeting such a success. During the AGM, we were able to congratulate Trevor Evans on his award of MBE for services to nature conservation including the production of his Monmouthshire Flora. Trevor retires after 40 years as V.C. Recorder for Monmouthshire.

Two issues of the Welsh Bulletin were published during the year. The Bulletin is available to members living outside Wales for a small subscription which covers printing and postage costs.

Field meetings were spread over the Principality, in addition to the AGM, including the annual week long Carmarthenshire Recording and Monitoring Meeting at Glynhir Mansion, Llandybie, which was as successful as ever. An innovation this year was Sarah Stille's successful Recording Week at Caerdeon, near Barmouth. Thanks and appreciation must also go to these and all other field meeting leaders.

Progress continues with the production of Rare Plant

Registers in those vice-counties without one. Welsh Recorders and other members continue to provide data for the Threatened Plant Project and are considering their priorities with respect to the BSBI Recording Strategy.

We sincerely thank Gwynn Ellis for compiling *Welsh Plant Records* for publication in the BSBI Welsh Bulletin. He has carried out this task over many years, a task so daunting as to be unthinkable to many of us, but who now feels it is time to stand down. Stephen Coker has offered to take over from him and has produced a standard spreadsheet for Welsh Recorders to report new vice-county and hectad records which will streamline their collation into a form ready for publication.

Scotland

In September we welcomed the Scottish Officer, Jim McIntosh, back to his post after a sabbatical year on Tristan da Cunha and thanked Angus Hannah for standing in and seamlessly filling the gap. Shortly afterwards, the Scottish Natural Heritage grant which supports this post was confirmed for a further two years, for which we are very grateful.

During the year, there was an emphasis on vice-county Rare Plant Registers and a Recorders' Workshop at Kindrogan Field Studies Centre in March provided the impetus for many to start production. By the end of the year Angus himself had posted one for Bute on the website and several others were in the pipeline. Andy Amphlett produced a detailed on-line Checklist of the plants of the Cairngorms National Park, providing the basis for a Rare Plant register to follow. The topic of data provision and access to data came to the fore during the year and BSBI contributed to a Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum. Responses were also made to new forest expansion proposals and to SNH consultations on SSSI designation guidelines and a revision of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.



There was full occupancy of the VC recorder network throughout the year. Barbara Hogarth resigned from vc90 Angus to follow more specialised botanical interests and was replaced by joint recorders Robin Payne, Theo Loizou and Mark Tulley.

A full and well-attended programme of field meetings covered much of Scotland. Those lucky enough to attend the Coll week at the very end of May basked in warm sunshine whilst most of the country shivered and soaked. Twenty-two tetrads were recorded and many older records updated. The annual Scottish recording week took place in Kirkcudbrightshire and provided 6,000 records for about 26 tetrads in the vice-county. Dr Margaret Bradshaw ran another *Alchemilla* workshop, this time at Ullapool. Limestone habitats close to the village and further up the coast at Inchnadamph were visited and good numbers of the rare *Alchemilla glaucescens* were seen and counted.

Volunteers continue to help with the programme of SSSI Site Condition Monitoring which we undertake on behalf of SNH. Fieldwork was completed that resulted in excellent reports for Morrish More and Sunart SSSIs, whilst another two site reports are eagerly awaited.

The BSBI and Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh were delighted to welcome over one hundred delegates to our two day conference: *A Great leap forward – Biological Recording since the 1962 Atlas of the British Flora* in September. The sessions demonstrated an extraordinary diversity of scientific and conservation endeavour based on BSBI data. We were pleased to get so much positive feedback after the event. Arguably, the most poignant comment was “Happy to hear so much appreciation for amateur data-gatherers!”

The Scottish Annual Meeting in November was held for the first time at SNH’s Battleby Conference Centre, near Perth. Despite (or perhaps because?) the event was held outside Edinburgh over 120 members attended. They enjoyed a great variety of exhibits and talks including one by Jim McIntosh on his survey on Tristan da Cunha.

Towards the end of the year, we began to address the problem of low membership numbers in Scotland. A sub-group of the Scottish Committee was formed

with the remit of promoting the Society to a wider public. Plans are well under-way for two identification workshops for beginners.

Ireland

The appointment of the first BSBI Irish Officer, Dr Maria Long, was an historic and welcome occasion for Irish members. Although only part-time, two days a week, the appointment is for two years. Maria is based in the National Botanic Gardens, and she has been busy meeting the vice-county recorders to ascertain their needs.

The Irish AGM, held in the National Botanic Gardens in Dublin, had a botanical recording theme and included workshops on MapMate (Polly Spencer-Vellacott), the Distribution Database (Tom Humphrey) and *Rosa* (Declan Doogue) all of which were well attended and enlightening. Polly also gave a talk on her experience as the Welsh Officer followed by an introductory talk on the role of the Irish Officer from Maria. A talk on Early Irish Botany by Declan Doogue was followed by a field meeting to Bull Island which rounded off the weekend nicely.

Eleven other field meetings were held extending from Rathlin Island, Co. Antrim to Hook Head, Co. Wexford, providing members with a wide variety of habitats to visit. This included two training meetings with a special emphasis on grass and sedge identification.

Irish Botanical News No. 22, edited by Paul Green, was published in March with a front cover colour photograph of *Epipactis palustris*, Marsh Helleborine, in recognition of the on-going survey of this plant. 2012 also saw the publication of the long awaited and splendid *Flora of County Fermanagh* by Ralph Forbes and Robert Northridge.

From January to October 2012 Committee for Ireland was led by our Chair, Prof. Brian Rushton, whose level-headed advice and good sense have been invaluable. Brian takes a well-earned rest from CFI and we thank him and wish him well in whatever he chooses to do, hoping that it might include a future role in CFI or if not in some other part of BSBI. Gerry Sharkey had kindly agreed to take over.

Publicity and Outreach

A part-time Publicity and Outreach Officer (Louise Marsh) was contracted from June 2012 to assist with developing a PR and communications strategy for BSBI and to strengthen our engagement with the public and with the media. This initiative led to BSBI participating for the first time at a number of well-attended outreach events including the prestigious Birdfair at Rutland Water (where Professor Clive Stace gave a keynote lecture on 'Birds and Berries') and Gardeners' World Live at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. We are grateful to the many volunteers who contributed their time to help with presenting exhibits, demonstrating aspects of plant identification, and promoting the benefits of BSBI membership.

In view of this success, the Society will be participating in a similar range of events in 2013, and also aiming to further enhance its external profile via the website, a Publicity & Outreach Blog and by establishing stronger links with media organisations to promote BSBI contributions to botanical research, training and plant conservation. It is becoming clear that many current members, and potential new ones, value opportunities to engage on a local scale with more experienced botanists to improve their knowledge and skills and to begin to contribute towards local recording schemes. Many such local groups, whether officially affiliated to BSBI or not, are developing web pages that are accessible from the main BSBI website and increasing numbers of members are actively promoting the society at local and regional outreach events.

Botanical Publications and BSBI Online

Journals

Volume 2 of the *New Journal of Botany* was issued in two parts during 2012. The high standard of Vol 1 was maintained with a series of 13 articles on a wide variety of topics. It is anticipated that future volumes will contain articles from BSBI conferences rather than separate proceedings being issued. *NJB* is independently

published by Maney Publishing. We thank Richard Gornall and Louise Marsh, along with the other members of the international editorial board, for their work in maintaining the success of *NJB*.

BSBI News continues to maintain its varied mix of interesting articles and news items in the three issues published during the year. Our indefatigable editors, Trevor James and Gwynn Ellis, have our grateful thanks for all their hard work. This year there were 244 pages, slightly up on the 236 pages of 2011. Readers will no doubt notice the increase in colour pages full of excellent photographs, as well, as the particularly striking cover images. The editors would like to remind members that they welcome contributions from any member, whether or not they have submitted material before.

The third regular publication is the annual *Year Book* which contains not only all the information about committees, county recorders, referees etc. but also field meeting reports and obituaries.

Books

No new handbooks were published during the year but work is progressing on *Viola* (Violets) and *Oenothera* (Evening-primroses). Handbooks on Gentianaceae and *Salix* (Willows) have been started and work on two new titles has been approved by Publications Committee - *Alchemilla* (Lady's-mantles) and *Euphrasia* (Eyebrights). The Plant Crib was also reprinted during the year.

Publications Committee also awards grants towards the publication of local floras. During 2012, grants were given to *Ferns, Clubmosses, Quillworts and Horsetails of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Flora of Worcestershire, Flora of Devon and Flora of Limerick*.

Membership

Two long-standing members of Publications Committee stood down during 2012. Mary Briggs, former Secretary of the BSBI, had been on the com-



committee since the early 1970s and, in recent years was the editor for Obituaries in *Watsonia* and the *Yearbook*, and David Pearman (past President of the Society) who first came to the committee in 1994 also retired. We thank them for their outstanding dedication over the years. Joining this year were Louise Marsh who is Editorial Assistant to NJB and Chris Liffen who has taken over Obituaries from Mary.

Summerfield Books

Our book sale agents have been a regular exhibitor at meetings such as the Annual Exhibition Meeting and the AGM. The excellent range of books has been welcomed by members and we thank Paul O'Hara and his team for all their hard work. All the books can be obtained from their website www.summerfieldbooks.com where members can receive discounts on BSBI publications and some other selected titles also.



Financial Report

The Society, through the diligence of its offices and staff and the generosity of members and supporters has built up reserves of £1.3 million, achieving operating surpluses in the last few years. The challenge for any charity is to achieve a balance between retaining reserves to meet the needs of future generations, and using them, pursuing current needs. A charity's current needs can of course include investing in infrastructure to grow its membership base and the scope of its activities which in the longer term mean that the charity will grow.

Therefore, as anticipated in last year's financial report, in 2012 we embarked on a number of well-planned initiatives which have enhanced the Society's standing, outlook, and the delivery of its charitable aims. These included the recruitment of an Irish Officer who is supporting our work throughout the island of Ireland. This initiative is completely unfunded by any government agency and is something of which a voluntary charity should be proud. We have also engaged a Scientific Officer to support the work of the Head of Research and an enhanced Publicity and Outreach function to promote our purpose and message more widely. This has resulted in a deficit before investment gains for 2012 of £33,358 (2011 surplus, £22,426) demonstrating proper application of our funds towards our charitable purposes.

This pattern of development will continue in 2013 and accordingly a budget has been set anticipating a possible deficit of approximately £90,000. This deficit will include the appointment of the new Head of Operations (HoO), a post whose function will include looking at the totality of our operations; improving our efficiency; continuing to grow our membership; and making sure that we are maximising the income and grants available to us to support and grow our activities for the future. We consider this to be a justified use of a small part of our resources in furtherance of our activities. We hope that HoO will help us develop a business plan for the future development of our activities in line with Charity Commission expectations and look forward to sharing this with you in due course.

Although we managed to spend more money than we earned on botanical activities we still made an overall profit for the year. Our investments – now managed on a discretionary basis by our new stockbrokers – recorded a gain of £71,350 during the year (2011, loss of £54,202), resulting in an overall surplus for the year of £37,992 (2011, deficit, £31,776). In addition, generous legacies and donations – £47,476 in 2012 (2011, £31,782) once again made a significant impact on the financial out-turn and the ability of the Society to ‘go the extra mile’. People tend to give more to a charity that spends money in furtherance of its goals than one which merely sits on a cash hoard.

The other major development is the change in status of BSBI. This originated with me as treasurer because of the risks we all faced from operating through an unincorporated body but has far wider implications and the President has already commented on these.

Lastly we are minded to leave subscriptions unchanged for a further year: however if you can afford it please consider rounding up your subscription. We are trying not to make price a barrier in these hard times, but please consider giving us more if you can. Also these results would not be possible at all without the effort of all our volunteers. While we may have recruited more people to help us on a paid basis, you, our volunteers remain the secret of our success and long may it be so. So thank you everyone, staff and volunteers alike! A great year!

Antony Timmins
Honorary Treasurer
20 March 2013



SUMMARISED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2012

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT ON SUMMARISED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

I have examined the summarised financial statements of Botanical Society of the British Isles for the year ended 31 December 2012.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and the recommendations of the Charities SORP. My responsibility is to report to you my opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements, within the Annual Report, with the full annual financial statements.

My report on the charity's full annual financial statements describes the basis of my report on those financial statements.

Opinion

In my opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full annual financial statements of Botanical Society of the British Isles for the year ended 31 December 2012.

E E Irvine FCA

WMT

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20 March 2013

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31st December 2012

	2012	2011
Incoming Resources	£	£
<i>Voluntary Income</i>		
Subscriptions & Donations	75,318	74,746
Core Grants	101,178	99,946
Legacies and Development Fund Donations	47,476	31,782
Investment Income	51,236	45,318
<i>Charitable Activities Income</i>		
Botanical Survey and Interpretation	61,997	79,189
Botanical Education	26,252	8,303
Botanical Publications and Website	13,457	24,059
Total incoming resources	376,914	363,343
Resources Expended		
<i>Cost of Generating Funds</i>		
Membership Administration, Publicity and Investment Management	29,118	19,134
<i>Charitable Activities</i>		
Botanical Survey and Interpretation	238,341	211,489
Botanical Education	44,766	14,050
Botanical Publications and Website	74,302	74,893
Governance Costs	23,745	21,351
Total resources expended	410,272	340,917
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Resources		
General Funds	(33,197)	22,667
Restricted Funds	(161)	(241)
Total net (outgoing)/incoming resources	(33,358)	22,426
<i>Other gains and (losses)</i>		
Gains/(losses) on investments	71,350	(54,202)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	37,992	(31,776)

Summary Balance Sheet

31st December 2012

	2012	2011
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Investments - at Market Value	1,228,840	1,153,823
Current Assets		
Stocks	17,805	19,556
Debtors, prepayments and accrued income	56,948	84,545
Cash at bank and on deposit	124,270	89,734
Current Liabilities		
Creditors, accruals & deferred income	(95,758)	(53,545)
	1,332,105	1,294,113
Represented By		
Endowment Funds	338,060	320,307
Restricted Income Funds	6,216	6,377
Unrestricted Funds	987,829	967,429
	1,332,105	1,294,113

The summary accounts are extracted from the full Annual Accounts that were approved by Council on 20 March 2013. The full Annual Accounts have been subject to an Independent Examination and this report was unqualified. A copy of the full Annual Report and Accounts will be supplied on request to the Administrative Officer. The full Annual Report will be submitted to the Charity Commission and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator after the Annual General Meeting.

Thank you

The Society gratefully acknowledges grants from the Countryside Council for Wales, Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage. The Society wishes to thank all those members who have served, both nationally and regionally, as officers, on committees, as editors and indexers, in leading and arranging meetings and as assistant secretaries and as minuting secretaries; also members who have participated in surveys, prepared reports and read papers. BSBI would especially like to thank its network of Vice-County Recorders and Referees which underpins so much of its work. BSBI has Recorders for each of the 153 main units into which naturalists have traditionally divided Britain and Ireland. With subdivisions such as the Isles of Scilly and the individual Channel Islands and with joint recorders for some counties, this encompassed some 180 members as at December 2012. To support all members engaged in recording BSBI has a team of 107 referees covering many of the more difficult or critical plants, and subjects such as local names and medicinal uses of British plants. Many of these volunteers have served for very many years, and, whilst these are only a selection, the society notes the death of Geoff Battershall (Caernarvonshire, 1996), Margaret Long (Jersey, 1996), Eric Philp (Kent, 1970), George Swan (Northumberland, 1961) and the retirements of Trevor Evans (Monmouth, 1971) and Barbara Hogarth (Angus, 1993).

Without the contribution of all these, the work of the Society would not have been possible. With the exception of those who work for the Society within grant-aided projects, or assisting the Treasurer in financial and related administration every other duty is performed by volunteers. We are particularly grateful to the late Dr Eric Chicken, who kindly left over £24,000 to the Society.

BSBI is indebted for the continued support from its many partners:

Biological Records Centre, CEH, Wallingford

British Antarctic Survey

Countryside Council for Wales

The Field Studies Council (in particular Kindrogan and Preston Montford Field Centres)

Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Linnean Society of London

Manchester Metropolitan University

National Biodiversity Network Trust

National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin

Natural England

Natural History Museum, London

Plantlife International

Pricewaterhousecoopers

Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Royal Welsh Agricultural Society

Scottish Natural Heritage

Society of Antiquaries, London

Summerfield Books

The National Museums and Galleries of Wales

Ulster Museum, Belfast

University of Birmingham

University of Edinburgh

University of Leicester

University of Reading

The Society is also very grateful to its staff and principal contractors who have continued to support its volunteer network and to promote BSBI at all times: Kevin Walker, Alex Lockton, Bob Ellis, Gwynn Ellis, Jim McIntosh, Quentin Groom, Tom Humphrey, Alan Hale, Angus Hannah, Polly Spencer-Vellacott, Clive Lovatt, Maria Long, Peter Stroh and Paul Green.

The Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI) is open to anyone who is interested in the flora of Britain and Ireland. From its earliest days (1836) it has welcomed both professional and amateur members. The Society's recording activity is carried on under the direction of the Society's Council and Records Committee through 180 Vice-County Recorders and a panel of Referees distributed across Britain and Ireland. It has 2,887 members and ten full or part-time paid staff aided by others on contracts. The Society maintains, and is in the process of merging, several major databases, covering a total of 9,700 plant species and has over twenty-five million items of data now in its Distribution Database. The Society's notable recent achievements include The New Atlas of the British and Irish flora (2002). Jointly with the Biological Records Centre, it was the data provider underpinning the Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain (2005).

BSBI's objects are:

- To promote the study of, and interest in, the British and Irish vascular plant and charophyte flora;
- To support, encourage, carry out and participate in research into the taxonomy, ecology, biogeography and conservation of the British and Irish flora; and
- To co-operate with Continental and other botanists in matters of mutual interest and concern.



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