

**Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland**

**Irish BSBI Newsletter No. 9, December 2018**

Hello Irish BSBI vice-county recorders (VCRs) and members,

Welcome to the Christmas 2018 Irish BSBI Newsletter! I hope this holiday season finds you well. Below is the usual smattering of news and updates. Happy Christmas! Maria

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### **RECORDER NETWORK NEWS**

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We heard some sad news at the AGM in September this year – the recently retired recorder for Longford, Seán Howard (also known as John Thomas Howard), passed away. Seán wrote ‘The Flora of Longford’ as his MSc thesis in Agricultural Science in UCD in 1986. It forms an excellent resource for those recording in Longford (including Sylvia Reynolds, who, along with Julian, took Longford ‘under her wing’ for a few years; and also Ciarán Bruton – see below). Seán had continued recording in recent years, even though his mobility was compromised, taking advantage of the canal towpaths to access nice habitat areas in Co. Longford. The flora was scanned as part of a recent project between BSBI, volunteer Shane Brien, and the National Botanic Gardens, and can be accessed here: <http://botanicgardens.ie/2017/08/01/flora-of-county-longford/>

This time last year I introduced three ‘VCRs in training’, and I am happy to say that in the interim all three have been nominated as VCRs by CFI. These are Eamonn Delaney, who will be joint VCR for east Mayo, and Eamon Gaughan and Aoife Delaney, both to be joint VCRs for Leitrim. Welcome on board guys – thanks for your great work so far, and here’s to many more years of botanical adventures with the BSBI!

I am delighted to say that we have a further group of ‘VCRs in training’ to welcome this year. As previously, for the moment all three are coming on board unofficially so you won’t see their names listed in the BSBI Yearbook, for example. They are testing out the role and in some cases, working with an existing VCR. So a very big welcome to:

- Ciarán Bruton, Longford (based in Galway)
- Cliona Byrne, joint Louth (based in Dublin)
- Kate Harrington, joint Louth (based in Dublin)

### **Vacancies/Retirements**

[See note above re trainee VCRs for both vacant VCs.]

H24 – Longford – vacant. Huge thanks are due to Sylvia (and Julian) Reynolds for their strategic and thorough recording in Longford in recent years.

H31 – Louth – vacant. Great thanks are due to John Faulkner for his tireless recording in Louth in recent years.

### **Volunteers**

The BSBI is of course almost entirely volunteer lead and driven, with the vice-county recorders forming the backbone of that volunteer network. Aside from the core job of plant recording however, there are volunteers who step up and offer other services, and help keep the BSBI ticking along. Huge thanks to all who volunteer their time, effort and/or expertise in any way!

Perhaps worth a mention are those who led or helped at workshops for/with the BSBI last year. Lynda Weekes, Richard McMullen, Paula O'Meara, Jim Ryan and Paul Green spring to mind, but there may be others who also volunteered their time. Many thanks to all who helped. Those who run trips for local groups, or manage email lists or social media accounts, deserve a pat on the back too of course - you guys have made a huge contribution to the growth of the BSBI community recently and we all greatly appreciate your efforts.

Looking to 2019, Shane Brien will be working on a project with the Irish Officer and Matthew Jebb, Director of the Botanic Gardens, and building on work begun at the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC), to digitise records made by R.L. Praeger in his book 'Irish Topographical Botany'. We will keep you posted on this, as, once finished, it will make a great resource.

### **Social media**

Our social media presence continues to be a central part of how we communicate and reach both existing and new audiences. We have nearly 2,000 followers on the Irish Facebook page. During the year I set up a new dedicated Irish BSBI Twitter account (previously I had used my own personal account). The twitter 'handle' is: @BSBI\_Ireland So it's a nice easy one to remember, and seems to have gone down well. There are now 468 followers of that account, a number I hope to grow over the coming year.

To follow us on Facebook search for @IrishSectionBSBI (or @BSBI2011 for the 'main' BSBI Facebook page). To keep in touch via Twitter you have two choices:

- @BSBI\_Ireland is the main Irish account
- @BSBIbotany is the main BSBI account across all countries.

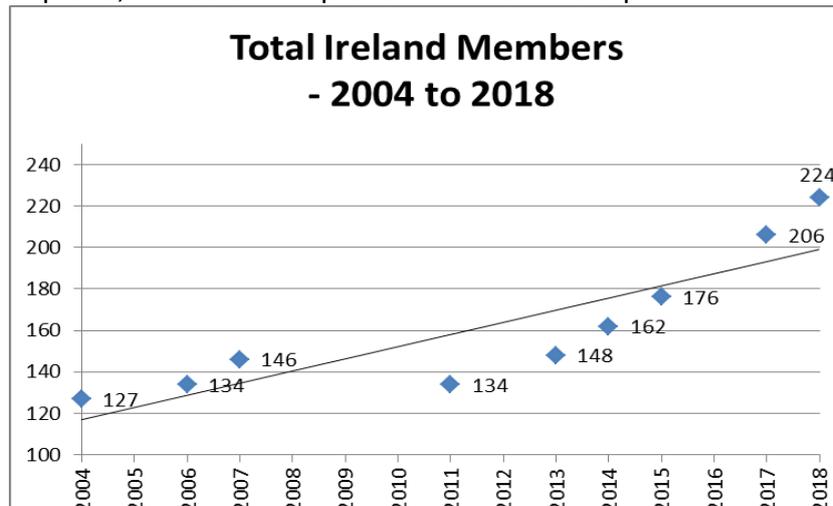
If you are a Twitter user I'd particularly encourage you to get involved in #wildflowerhour. It takes place from 8 to 9pm every Sunday evening on Twitter, and botanists post photos of plants they've seen during the week. There is often a theme (e.g. car park plants, plants with hairs, the winter 10 challenge), but any and all photos are welcome. More info here: <https://bsbi.org/wildflower-hour>

### **Irish BSBI Conference**

In 2018 we held the Irish BSBI Conference on Sat 24<sup>th</sup> March at the National Botanic Gardens. We had a great turn-out, and a fun and informative day. If you haven't already, please make sure to visit the Irish [conference webpage](#) – here you will find the majority of the talks, presentations, handouts and keys from both the 2018 and the 2017 conferences. It's a great resource! (Big thanks to Louise for putting the webpage together!) The amazing Jessica Hamilton, leader of the Kerry BSBI Local Group, wrote a great blog piece about the 2018 conference – read it [here](#). In 2019 the conference will again take place in the National Botanic Gardens, this time on **Sat 30<sup>th</sup> March**. Stick it in the diary, and keep an eye on the usual channels for info in the New Year.

## BSBI member numbers in Ireland

Here is a hasty snapshot of the membership numbers in Ireland for 2018. It is great to see the continuing increase, and this bodes well for the future of the organisation here. The challenge will be to keep members engaged and to facilitate learning at all levels – so that beginners can improve, and so that improvers can become experts.



## Scottish Botanists' Conference 2018

The 2018 Scottish Botanists' Conference - the new name for the Scottish Annual Meeting - took place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. With 175 delegates, it was the largest ever gathering of botanists in Scotland. You can see images from the event and read comments from the delegates on Twitter by clicking on the conference hashtag [#ScotBotanistsConf](#) (funny enough – first photo that pops up is of me!). You don't need to have a Twitter account to do this. You can also access most of the talks on the [conference webpage](#).

This year the Irish Officer attended, and gave a presentation on the BSBI in Ireland. It is always great to get the opportunity to share the sense of momentum and the achievements from Ireland, and like previous efforts, it was very well received.

## Funding

- We were delighted to once again be successful in 2018 in winning funding from the Environmental Recorder's Group (ERG) in Northern Ireland, which is administered by CEDaR. This money will be used to support recording in NI, with a particular focus on equipment and travel costs. These will be aimed at both BSBI VCRs and the Ulster BSBI Botany Group.
- While we are awaiting full confirmation, it looks likely that the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) will continue to support the BSBI in Ireland by funding the equivalent of over one day a week of Irish Officer time. This is a fantastic level of support, and means that so much more time can be dedicated to supporting botany and botanists in Ireland.
- We received funding from the Wildflower Society (WFS) again in 2018 to contribute towards the expenses of a fieldworker to carry out recording in some under-recorded areas. Paul Green was commissioned to do this work and has done a top-class job. Great thanks are due to Paul, and to the WFS also for continuing to be happy to support the BSBI where recording is most needed.
- We are hopeful to have a project focusing on aquatics to announce over the next month or so. The idea will be to put on a big last push on recording this oft-overlooked group across Ireland in 2019, as well as providing training on ID at a range of levels. More coming soon on this hopefully....!

## Copies of *Stace*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, available at discount

Advance notice! It is likely that we will have a limited number of copies of the new *Stace* (4<sup>th</sup> edition) available at a heavily discounted rate for VCRs early in 2018. We have re-directed a small amount of the Irish Officer funding from NPWS to this as we recognise that the book itself is expensive, and the postage to Ireland makes it even more so. Send me an email if you would like a copy once it becomes available (maria.long@bsbi.org).

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## FIELD MEETINGS

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As is becoming the tradition, the Irish Field Meetings Secretary, John Conaghan, presented a round-up of 2018 field meetings at the Autumn Meeting and AGM in September (visit: <https://bsbi.org/irish-autumn-meeting-agm>, where talks will go up shortly). John made a conservative estimate that over 11,000 plant records were collected at field trips this year. This is a fantastic achievement, and serves as a reminder of the importance of the field meetings not just as an opportunity to meet up, to learn botany, to visit nice areas – but as a crucial way of bringing in records.

In 2018, the longest field meeting of the year was held in Mayo, and a significant contribution to recording in these two huge vice-counties was made. You can read a great overview of this event by clicking on the link to a talk given on the event by BSBI's Communications Officer Louise Marsh at the Annual Exhibition Meeting in November (go to: <https://bsbi.org/annual-exhibition-meeting>). It is well worth checking out. You can also visit the [Irish webpage](#) and you'll find links to blog posts and twitter feeds from the Mayo event.



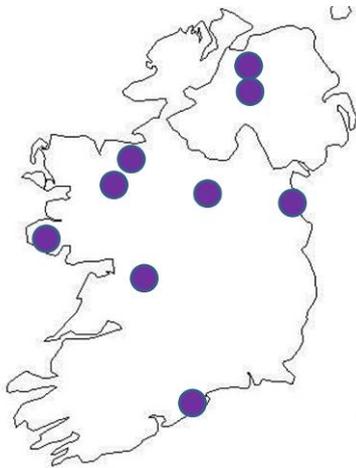
BSBI botanists leaving no stone unturned, and no cattle grate unexplored!

We had a number of training events this year. In conjunction with the NBDC we had two workshops lead by Richard McMullen on using Webb's Irish Flora (excellent workshops, always with great feedback) and a top-class workshop on aquatics by Lynda Weekes at Lavistown House, Kilkenny. There were also two two-day charophyte workshops in Westmeath, largely funded by NPWS, but with venue supplied by Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) (links below to further info on these). These were a huge success, with excellent feedback. We hope to offer a similar range of topical and relevant training in 2019.

The core field meetings for 2019 have already been set, but of course there will be many more added as we get closer to the next recording season (from the 'rough crew', the local groups, etc.). You can see field meetings at any point on the BSBI website (<https://bsbi.org/field-meetings>). Early in 2019 I will, as usual, make up a handy A4 flyer listing the meetings and send this around.

**Irish BSBI field meetings – core schedule – 2019 – summary:**

- 18, 19 May – Foxford, Charlestown – East Mayo – Eamonn Delaney, John Conaghan
- 25 May – north Longford – Longford – Ciarán Bruton
- 22 June – Monasterboice – Louth – Kate Harrington, Cliona Byrne
- 6 July – Youghal – West Cork – Edwina Cole, Finbarr Wallace
- 13 July (14 TBC) – west Sligo – Sligo – Jesse Tregale, Bridget Keehan, Róisín NigFhloinn
- 25-28 July – Connemara – West Galway – John Conaghan
- 3, 4 Aug – east Tyrone, Derry – Tyrone, Derry – Ian McNeill, Dave Riley, Sharon Spratt
- 10, 11 Aug – Slieve Aughty Mtns – SE Galway – Micheline Sheehy Skeffington



Our main recording event this year will be 4 days in Connemara in late July (25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>), led by local VCR John Conaghan. This is a stunning part of the country, and will offer something for everyone. We hope to entice botanists to come from far and wide, and plan to offer both recording and training for a variety of levels. We will probably aim to have a strong focus on aquatics. More details to follow in due course.

**ROUGH CREW NEWS**

The rough crew really out-did themselves in 2018 with a bumper packed schedule. At one point, Rory was leading a group almost every weekend! They tackled some mountains of course, but this year they focused on islands and had some great adventures. They chartered boats a number of times. The weather didn't always play ball, and sometimes Plan B was rolled into action. Rory will be giving a full run-down of the year at the Irish BSBI Conference on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (not to be missed!), but for now, you can find a taster of one of their adventures via a short video made by a small company called Wild Adventure Way. One of their staff is a BSBI enthusiast, and suggested filming parts of the trip to Inistooskert, one of the Blaskets. You can watch the short film here (and you don't need to be a Facebook user to view it):

<https://www.facebook.com/wildadventureway/videos/vb.882610898561379/291768688271596/?type=2&theater>

As always, just email Rory ([rlhodd@gmail.com](mailto:rlhodd@gmail.com)) if you would like to be added to the BSBI 'rough crew' email list. You'll get emails in advance of trips and hear other bits and pieces of news that way too. If you have an area in your VC that you think the rough crew could help out with, please get in touch with Rory.

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## LOCAL GRUOPS

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Cited by many as one of the main ways to grow and support botanical members, the local groups in Ireland continue to do really well. There are a raft of successful outings, many friendships made due to shared interests, and not to mention the valuable records collected. Here is a reminder of the main local groups, but please do get in touch if you would like to set one up, or to enquire if there are plans afoot in your area (there are a few areas with plans...). Contact any of the people below to be added to their email lists:

- Clare - contact VCR Stephen Ward ([sdward@eircom.net](mailto:sdward@eircom.net))
- Cork (3x VCs) - contact VCR Edwina Cole ([edwinacole@eircom.net](mailto:edwinacole@eircom.net))
- Down - contact VCR Graham Day ([gvd@cherrycottage.myzen.co.uk](mailto:gvd@cherrycottage.myzen.co.uk)) or visit Graham's [County Down webpage](#) for more info
- Dublin, east coast generally - contact Colm Clarke/ Kate-Marie O'Connor/ Cliona Byrne ([dublinbsbi@gmail.com](mailto:dublinbsbi@gmail.com))
- Galway (all three VCs) - contact Ciarán Bruton ([crnbruton66@gmail.com](mailto:crnbruton66@gmail.com))
- Kerry – contact Jessica Hamilton ([Jhbsbikerry@gmail.com](mailto:Jhbsbikerry@gmail.com))
- Ulster – contact Maria Long ([maria.long@bsbi.org](mailto:maria.long@bsbi.org))

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## ATLAS 2020

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### VCR day on validation

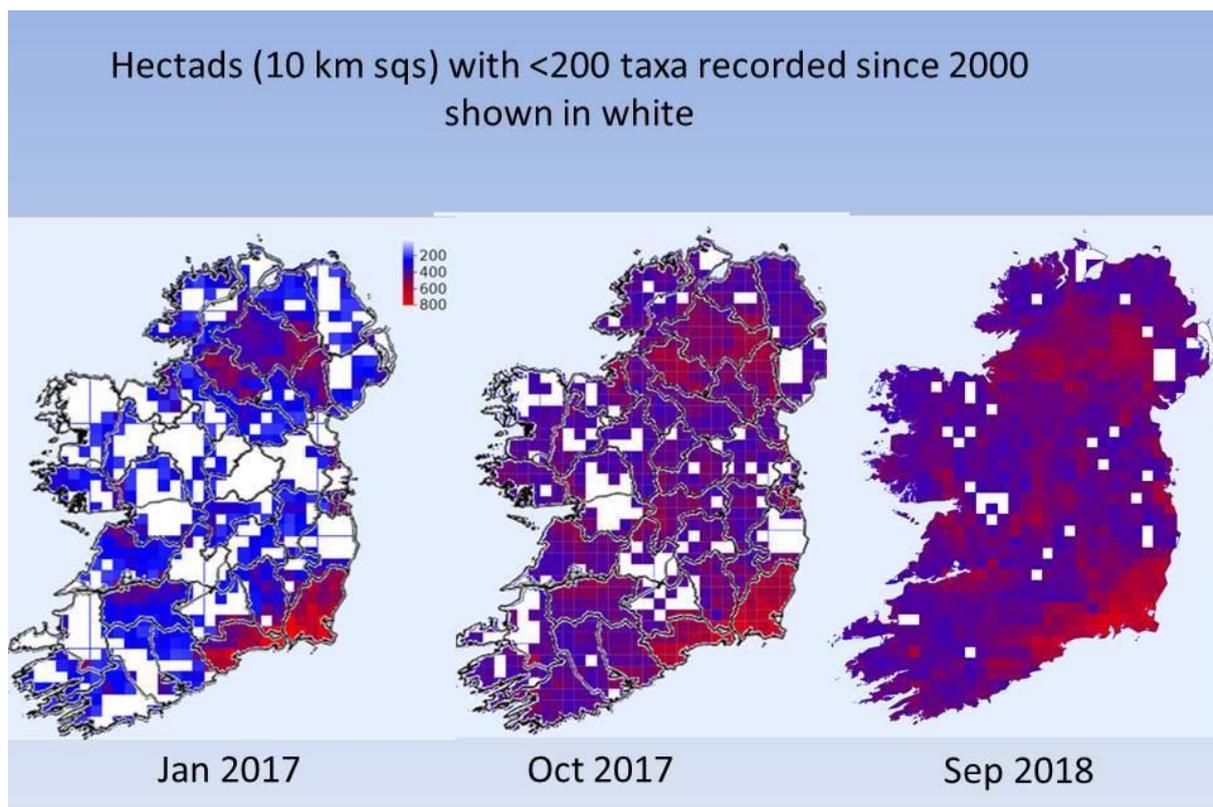
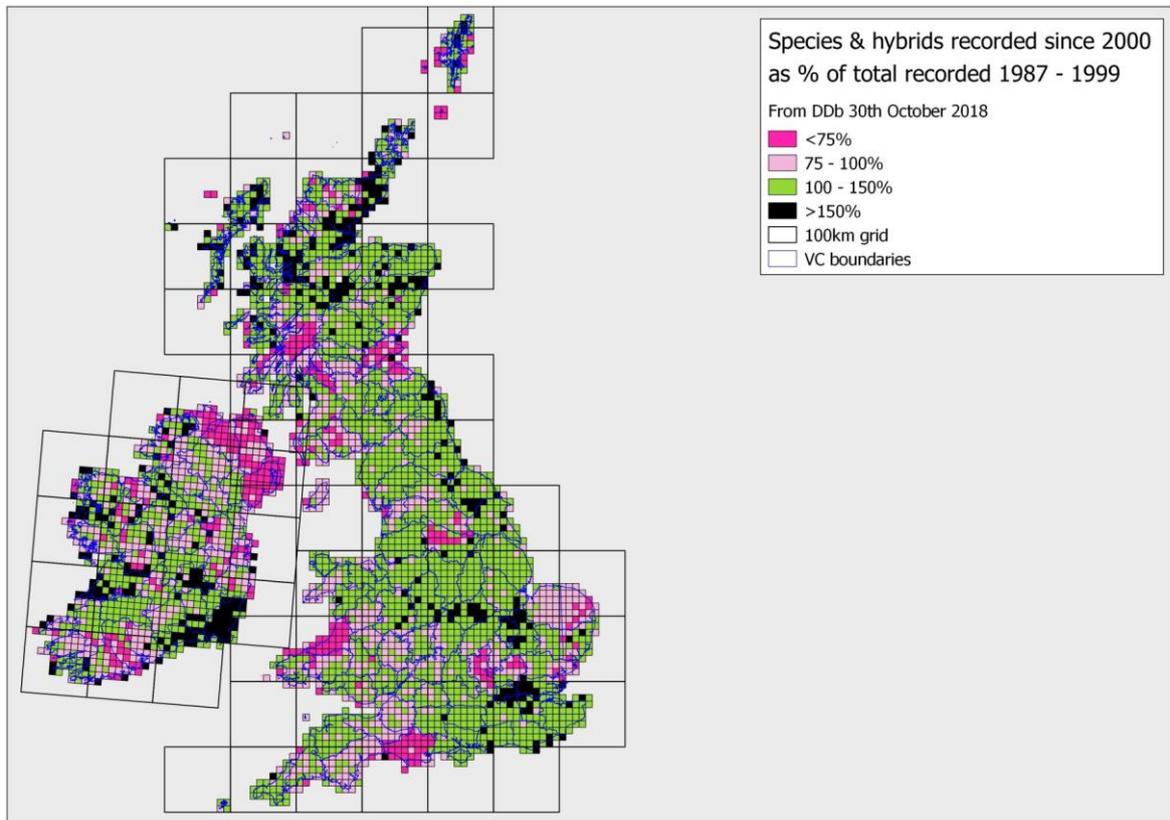
The Irish VCR day this year was fully focused on validation. Twenty-three VCRs piled into the excellent Teagasc computer room at the National Botanic Gardens, Dublin on Sat 8th of December. They spent all day working through the validation of their own data. They worked in small groups, and the facilitator for the day, the Irish Officer, elicited issues and themes as the day progressed, showing live on-screen demos, if/when useful, to the whole group. The day was purposefully unstructured (i.e. no set tasks to achieve), but worked well due to the enthusiasm of the VCRs who dived in and worked at whatever was most appropriate/needed for their own VC. Thanks to all who came, and especially those who played a strong role in helping others on the day. Thanks to Tom Humphrey for being on call at the end of email - it was great to be able to get instant answers to queries!

### Progress maps

The first map below was produced by Pete Stroh, the BSBI's Scientific Officer, and shown at the Scottish Botanists' Conference in November. It is a nice way to see how each area is progressing, relative to previous recording levels. The second set of maps were produced by Maria Long and Tom Humphrey, and show progress in Ireland in recent years in terms of getting hectads over a basic threshold of 200 taxa. We have been hugely successful in this exercise as the maps show, and this has been a very effective way to focus efforts across a vast area with very few botanists. Well done to Robert Northridge for his foresight in coming up with this idea, and for his tenacity and enthusiasm in following it through and supporting others to help achieve the aims. And note – some of the remaining white squares have been filled since I made this map!

### Records to the DDb

During 2018 a total of 203,182 records were sent to the DDb from Irish VCs. Great work all!



## Targeting certain groups of species

It is often useful to have targets when recording – how about keeping a special eye out for [Red List](#) taxa (do download and read the excellent Red List document if you haven't already – compulsory Christmas reading!), or alien plants listed on EU Directives? The latter list has been added to recently, and the most commonly encountered species in Ireland now includes: *Elodea nuttallii*, *Gunnera tinctoria*, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*, *Impatiens glandulifera*, *Lagarosiphon major*, *Ludwigia grandiflora*, *Lysichiton americanus* and *Myriophyllum aquaticum*.

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## OTHER PROJECT UPDATES

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### New Year Plant Hunt (NYPH)

This year the New Year Plant Hunt will run from Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Dec to Tue 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. Full information here: <http://bsbi.org/new-year-plant-hunt> Please do get involved – be it on your own, or with a group, or by organising a plant hunt. You can email me or Louise (louise.marsh@bsbi.org) or the NYPH team (nyplanthunt@bsbi.org) and we can help spread the word or put you in touch with others. Let's make sure that Ireland is well-placed on the NYPH maps and league tables once more this year!

### Rare plant monitoring project - NBDC

In 2017 the NBDC launched a small scheme on rare plant monitoring. Where recorders had submitted recent casual records of rare plants to the Centre, they were asked if they would be willing to visit their rare plant population once a year during its flowering period and to count the total number of individuals present. Úna Fitzpatrick of the NBDC has written a great newsletter about how the project ran in 2018, and I will attach it to the email version of this newsletter. Visit the [Data Centre website](#) for more info on the above, and much more besides (and this page for the project itself: <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/vascular-plants/plant-monitoring-scheme/>).

### Spring Flowers Project – NBDC and BSBI

In 2018 the [Spring Flowers Project](#) will run again. Please encourage people in your area to get involved – it's a lovely way to start the season, and it's a great way for new-comers to get into botanical recording.

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## OTHER NEWS IN BRIEF

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- For those of you who like trying out new apps, the BRC in the UK have launched a rare arable plants app. Find it here: <http://www.brc.ac.uk/app/rare-arable-flowers-app>
- I recently came across a book that some VCRs might find interesting and useful: 'The Herbarium Handbook' by Bridson and Forman, published by Kew (3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2010). It is full of useful information on pressing plants, and has very handy illustrated sections making it an easy-to-use guide.
- Apps won't be for everyone! But if you like old maps, have you seen this website?: <https://www.bordnamonalivinghistory.ie/maps/> There is a treasure trove of old Bog Commission maps to explore.



### Selected conferences in early 2019:

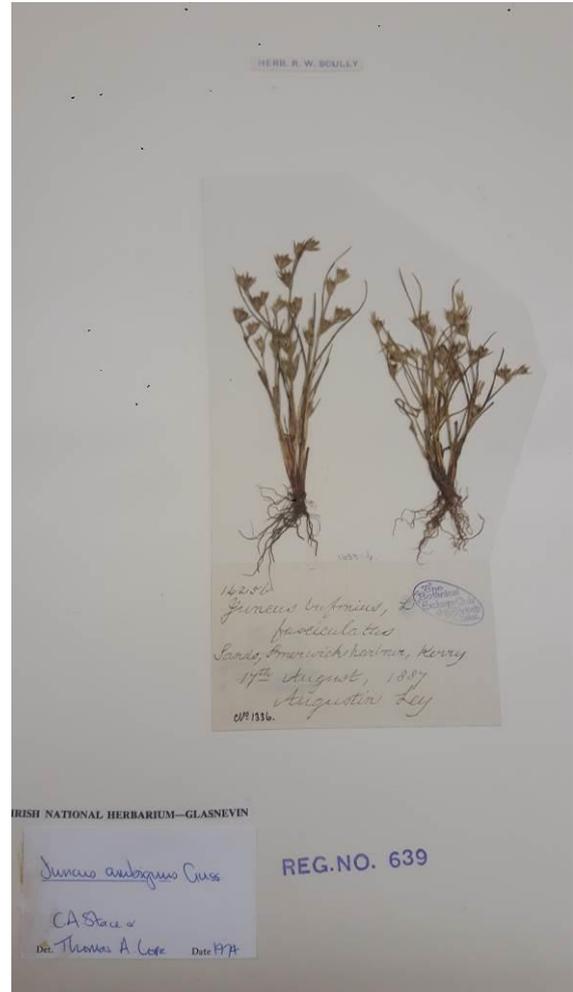
- i. '2<sup>nd</sup> Ecology and Evolution Conference' – organised by the Irish Ecological Association, this conference takes place between 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> January in Galway (GMIT and NUIG). Visit [here](#) to book a ticket.
- ii. 'New Horizons for Nature' – this will be a large conference aimed at all sorts of players in the world of nature and biodiversity in Ireland, and BSBI will have a stand. It takes place 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Feb in Dublin Castle. For more info and to book a place, visit: <https://www.biodiversityconference.ie/> Please get in touch if you would be willing to help out at the stall for a few hours.
- iii. 'Wading into Water: the Assessment and Management of our Aquatic Environment' – this year's Irish CIEEM conference takes place on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. Info here: <https://www.cieem.net/news/503/cieem-autumn-conference-2018>
- iv. 'Environ' – the ever popular ESAI (Environmental Science Association of Ireland) conference takes place this year in Carlow between 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of April (<http://www.esaiweb.org/environ/>)
- v. And don't forget our own!.... Irish BSBI Conference on 30<sup>th</sup> March, at the National Botanic Gardens. Information will be emailed directly to VCRs, but will also be available on the [Irish BSBI Conference webpage](#).

- **Be on the look-out for diseased Juniper – by Flora Donald**

I am currently working on a PhD focusing on Juniper. See photo below showing the different shades of juniper: healthy on the left, sickly (probably infected) on the right and killed by the disease in the middle with that very characteristic, evenly distributed, foliage bronzing resulting from sudden phloem blockage. I have very little information about Juniper distribution in Ireland and no records of *Phytophthora austrocedri*. Please keep your eyes peeled for sickly juniper, it would be good to know if the problem is really contained to GB or if it's started to spread. **Flora Donald**, PhD student, Population Ecology, CEH (Wallingford), Forest Research (NRS), University of Cambridge (Plant Science Dept). **Email:** [flodon@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:flodon@ceh.ac.uk)



- Have you heard of the Botanical Exchange Club? See the image below taken of a stamp on a specimen recently noticed by Aidan Diskin, a volunteer in the herbarium in the National Botanic Gardens. Aidan asked me if this was an old name for the BSBI by any chance, and I got to work to find out. Below the photos is a note from no less than the prestigious journal 'Nature', noting the name change.



The Botanical Society of the British Isles  
*Nature* volume 160, page 824 (13 December 1947)

**Abstract**

THE name of the Botanical Society and Exchange Club of the British Isles has been changed to the Botanical Society of the British Isles. New and extended facilities are being offered to members, including the privilege of consulting a panel of specialists. A Conference on "The Study of Critical British Groups" is being arranged in London during April 9–10, 1948. All inquiries should be addressed to the honorary general secretary, Miss M.S. Campbell, c/o Department of Botany, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.

Here are a few suggestions of articles and blog posts you might like to read:

- Did you know that the Irish BSBI conference and the 'rough crew' featured in the Irish Times this year, in an article by Michael Viney? You can read it [here](#).
- Here is a link to a blog post about the charophyte workshops run in 2018: <http://bsbipublicity.blogspot.com/2018/06/charophyte-workshops-in-ireland.html>
- I am also attaching the charophyte newsletter to the emailed out version of this newsletter, and you can view it here: <https://bsbi.org/charophytes>

- As always, I really do strongly encourage you to sign up for Louise's blog posts. Instructions, as a reminder: visit the page: <http://bsbipublicity.blogspot.ie/>, scroll down to very near the bottom of the column on the right hand side to the box called 'Follow by Email' and enter your email address, a pop up window will appear – though sometimes hidden at first, and just follow the instructions.
- The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) produces an interesting email newsletter 'Catchments Newsletter' which covers a variety of topics. Sign up [here](#).
- There's an exciting new publication on the scene called 'New Nature'. It is aimed at young people (but of course, anyone can enjoy it!), and has had contributions already from young BSBI members in Ireland. Read it here: <https://www.newnature.co.uk/>

Note from Rachael Conway from the Polli:nation project in Northern Ireland, showcasing what a difference a small change in management can bring about: "Donna [Rainey] and I found 20 lady's tresses orchids in a school ground I have been working with through the Polli:nation project. The school (Cambridge House Grammar, Ballymena) allowed a large area of short grass to grow and be managed as a meadow. It's quite an achievement and I would like to ... celebrate their efforts and encourage other schools to do the same."



- Would you like to be an [Identiplant](#) tutor? If so, visit this website to know more: <https://identiplant.co.uk/identwp19/>

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## TECHNOLOGY & MAPPING

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### Using 'tags' in the DDb – by Tom Humphrey

'Tags' can be used to add a general-purpose labelled value to a record. You can add a tag from the same menu where you choose to edit or validate a record. I've used them to mark subsets of records for various admin purposes, e.g.

- to mark Scottish records that should be sent to the NBN as part of SNH-funded work
- to mark taxa for inclusion in the next Atlas
- to assign British Museum herbarium barcode id's to a subset of occurrences

You can search for tagged records under 'more options'=>'attributes'=>'tag'

As you can see from the above examples, the uses are generally fairly obscure and special purpose. Recorders are welcome to use tags in other ways for local purposes. Possible uses might be to mark records for inclusion a future Flora or Rare Plant Register, or perhaps as an alternative way of indicating records of interest (or suspicion) without formally changing validation state.

The technical advantage of tags is that adding them doesn't count as an 'edit' to a record, so wouldn't block future re-imports of external revisions. Also, tags persist across edits - they are meta-data rather than part of the occurrence record.

### **Accessing county report section of DDb, for VCs other than your own – by Tom Humphrey**

Access to individual county report pages can be granted to any DDb user, by designating that they are 'recording in county' - i.e. not a VCR, but a significant contributor of records who would benefit from seeing the summary reports. This is usually set up based on a nomination by the incumbent VCR, but has also been used to allow people access to reports for some vacant counties. It may be worth publicising to VCRs that they can make available their My County pages to others on request.

### **Personal Data Reminder - by Jane Houldsworth**

If you keep a mailing list of local botanists or BSBI enthusiasts, or if you ever have under-18s attending meetings you run, here's some important information for you:

- BSBI now has a Personal Data Policy and a Safeguarding Policy. You should download both from the Governance page on the website and read them.
- GDPR applies to charities as well as commercial companies so don't forget to check that people are happy to receive emails from you. If you are holding people's email addresses for a specific event, rather than an ongoing mailing list, don't forget that you have to delete that information within six months of the event taking place.
- Please remember to always use the BCC option when sending out emails – even if people have agreed to be on your mailing list so you can keep them updated about botany in their area, they may not want everybody else on your mailing list to see their address.

### **Top tip...**

John Conaghan recently suggested that we could all think of adopting the policy of photographing our field cards at the end of every recording day. This is easily and quickly done on a smart phone, and could form an invaluable record of results, in the event of a card being mislaid or damaged. I think it's a great idea, and plan to start doing this myself.

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## **FINAL WORDS**

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As usual, I will send this newsletter out to all VCRs by post, and it will go by email also a little later (allowing you to click and follow links). I will also email it directly to others mentioned in it or contributing to it. And of course, it will be available on the [Irish webpage](#) soon. If you have any comments or feedback, or content for the next one, please send them my way!

So until 2019, and our next botanical endeavours and challenges – I wish you all a very Happy Christmas, and a great New Year!

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