

Lanarkshire Botany

Newsletter update, May 2019



2019 progress

Team 77 has got off to a flying start: **100** monads (map squares) already have fresh data added, and **342** different species have already been recorded.

But I'm sure there are readers out there who are really bored by endless statistics!

Therefore, for the remainder of this season, the front page of this newsletter update will carry just one vital statistic - namely, how many refinds are still to be accounted for across Lanarkshire.

As at the end of December 2018, the total number of species yet to be refound in respective hectads was:

606

The hope is that, by dint of some committed fieldwork, this number can be reduced to zero by December! At the time of going to press (10th May 2019) the total still outstanding has been cut to:

559

Big thanks to everyone who has contributed by plant-hunting. If you would like to be involved, perhaps just in your local area, please be in touch and we'll send you the relevant list of things to look for.

Stellaria holostea (Greater Stitchwort)

Recently refound on the banks of the Kelvin near Torrance, in hectad **NS67**.



Outings Programme

The next instalment of our Outings Programme, covering the months of June and July, is being circulated with this newsletter.

So we can now look forward to excursions to Biggar; New Lanark & the Falls of Clyde; Possil Loch (north); and the wooded banks of the Clyde at the David Livingstone Memorial, Blantyre.

In addition, we will be providing manpower for an ambitious day of recording in Renfrewshire, to assist our neighbours in extending their own Atlas 2020 data coverage.

Do join us whenever you can - you will be made very welcome.

Photo Project

We are delighted with the growth of our photo library of Lanarkshire's flora.

In due course all this material will be presented in a new website to celebrate, and to assist in identifying, our vice-county's plants. Work on this web project is ongoing and we hope to launch it in 2020.

Many common plants have yet to be photographed: if you would like to help with this, please contact Peter Wiggins and ask for the list. The more photographers we have, the more comprehensive our library will be.

Peter's email address is:

pswiggins@gmail.com

A Lanarkshire botanical treasure

Clive Stace, in editing his recently-published and definitive "New Flora of the British Isles" (fourth edition), contacted us to ask whether *Primula juliae* was still to be found in Lanarkshire. (Ours is the only wild population known in the British Isles.)

The answer was affirmative, but we did not have any photos of the species in flower.

This has now been rectified, and we therefore proudly present (. . . drum roll . . .)



Primula juliae (Julia's Primrose)

In full flower by Camps Reservoir on 5th May 2019.

Factoid

The total number of species in the BSBI record for Lanarkshire is **1,887**

BSBI Training

Following the success of her recent workshops on identifying plant families and learning to identify grasses, Dr. Faith Anstey is holding a new workshop on "Identifying Sedges & Rushes". This will be of interest to many field botanists who are less familiar with these classes of plants.

The workshop will run on Saturday 20th July from 10am - 4.30pm at Mugdock Country Park and is an ideal way for people to make a start on learning some of these 'difficult' but beautiful and fascinating species.



**IDENTIFYING
SEDGES
& RUSHES**

SAT 20 JULY 2019
10am – 4.30pm
Mugdock Park,
Milngavie
Led by Dr Faith Anstey

This is a brand new workshop on identifying common sedges and rushes the easy way - by their field characters, rather than using microscopes or wading through lengthy keys.

**BOOKING
IS ESSENTIAL**
£20 Full-time students
£30 Non-students

A basic knowledge of wildflower ID is the starting point for getting the most out of this workshop. A copy of the new booklet on identifying sedges & rushes will be yours to take away.

To book: bsbi.org/scotland
Info: faithanstey@gmail.com

 Image by Bill Boyd © BSBI

Please note that there is a charge for this BSBI event and advance booking is essential.

To book, go to: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/botanicalsocietyofbritainireland/237541/>

. . . or for further information, contact Faith Anstey herself at: faithanstey@gmail.com

Take the plunge, go on!

(You'll even get a free copy of Faith's booklet "Start to Identify Sedges and Rushes".)

New publication

Angus Hannah, BSBI Recorder for the Clyde Isles (Arran, Bute and the Cumbraes) has recently published his eagerly-awaited Isle of Bute Flora.

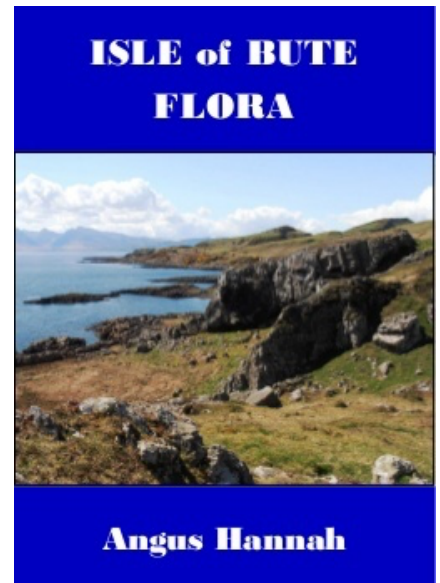
This major work, the first ever flora for Bute, compiled from twenty years of intensive fieldwork on the island, catalogues over 1,000 species and will appeal to all with an interest in botany, from the professional ecologist to the armchair enthusiast.

With a full introduction to the island, historical reference material, discussion of habitats, over 500 distribution maps, lots of photographs, and a wealth of more scientific detail, it's a book which will provide much learning for all readers.

Angus, in addition to his commitment to the botany of the Clyde Isles, is himself an active and familiar member of 'Team 77' - having given a lot of his time and effort in recent years to advancing the Lanarkshire record and always being on hand to offer advice, encouragement and the occasional photo-identification!

We are delighted to commend and promote his Flora here.

The supplier, for this and all botanical literature, is Summerfield Books: <https://www.summerfieldbooks.com>



Another recent refind



Lamium maculatum (Spotted Dead-nettle) was found almost simultaneously by two different team members in two different locations on the banks of the Clyde.

It was found in April both on the riverbank in Dalmarnock and farther upstream at Bogleshole Bridge near Rutherglen.

In both cases, it was growing almost under a railway bridge. Could there be a connection?

More detail on refinds

For those who want a more detailed update on our refinds progress, here it is - buried on the back page.

<u>Hectad</u>	<u>Needed at Start</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Still needed</u>
NS56 Glasgow (north-west)	114	11	103
NS57 Summerston, Possil Loch, Forth & Clyde Canal	90	5	85
NS65 East Kilbride & Blantyre	93	3	90
NS66 Glasgow (east)	61	12	49
NS67 Bishopbriggs to Moodiesburn	25	15	10
NS73 Lesmahagow (west)	14	-	14
NS76 Coatbridge & Airdrie	22	-	22
NS77 Mollinsburn & Luggiebank	42	-	42
NS84 Clyde Valley & Lanark (west)	33	-	33
NS94 Lanark (east) to Carstairs	20	-	20
NT03 Biggar and Coulter area	92	1	91

Our outings programme is geared to maximising our impact on these figures!

Keep in touch

Email correspondence on Lanarkshire botany is always busy. You are welcome to get in touch at any time with questions or any other matter concerning field botany in this big geographical area.

If I can't provide an answer myself, I'll refer you on to someone who can!

Also, if you know anyone who would be interested in receiving the programme of outings and occasional newsletters, please ask them to get in touch. Our network continues to expand steadily.

11 of our 55 contacts have already been on at least one outing this season, including one 'first timer'.

And remember, all Lanarkshire newsletters and details of our outings are also available on the excellent BSBI website. Just go to:

<https://bsbi.org/lanarkshire-v-c-77>

Michael Philip (BSBI recorder, VC77)

email: botany@opus44.co.uk

Picture credits:

Stellaria holostea

Michael Philip, River Kelvin near Torrance, 4th May 2019

Primula juliae

Peter Wiggins, at Camps Reservoir, 5th May 2019

Lamium maculatum

Peter Wiggins, by the Clyde near Rutherglen, 14th April 2019