

The BSBI Scotland Year

BSBI Scotland Annual General Meeting 2017

Robin Payne, BSBI Chair of the Committee for Scotland



MINUTES OF BSBI SCOTLAND AGM
Saturday, 5th November 2016
At SNH Battleby, Redgorton near Perth

1. Welcome

Chairperson, Robin Payne, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Jackie Muscott, David Welch.

3. Minutes of 2016 AGM

Stephen Bungard proposed the minutes of the 2015 AGM; Ian Evans seconded, as a true record of the business.

4. Jim McIntosh (JM), Scottish Officer's Report

The Scottish Officer's report is appended. JM highlighted the successful Plant Families workshops organised by Faith Anstey and the recording weeks held in Ayrshire and Shetland. He drew attention to the publication of the 'Flora of Lanarkshire', the 'Dumfriesshire Rare Plant Register' and made mention of the recently published 'Mountain Flowers' by Michael Scott.09

JM explained that the major part of his job is supporting volunteers while the slightly lesser part is supporting Site Condition Monitoring.

JM extended a sincere thank you to all volunteers with special mentions for outstanding contributions during the year.

Vice-county Recorders were advertised for in Berwickshire, Lanarkshire, Caithness and Shetland and vacancies were eventually filled in Lanarkshire, Caithness and Shetland. The new Recorder in Lanarkshire is Michael Philip. New Joint Recorders in Caithness are Margaret and Francis Higgins and new Joint Recorders on Shetland are local man Paul Harvey and Alex Prendergast.

JM reiterated that his funding remains at 50% from SNH, 50% from BSBI support in kind from RGBE. He extended sincere and grateful thanks for this support.

Scottish Newsletter

Many thanks were passed on to Angus Hannah for his work on the newsletter. With reference to the future format of the newsletter, the majority of replies favoured an online copy but would like to have a published hard copy available too.

The Yearbook will provide field meeting reports to read.

Recorders' Conferences

Vice-county recorders had the opportunity to attend one or both one day conferences held in Strathpeffer and Edinburgh in April. These included major sessions on Atlas 2020, MapMate, BSBI Database, a fantastic talk on Stoneworts by Nick Stewart and one on the Millennium Seedbank.

2017 Field Meetings

- Dandelion Workshop, Bute, Clyde Isles 5-8 May
- West Cowal, Argyll Recording Week 18-24 June
- Torridon, West Ross Recording Week 9-16 July

5. Thanks

Chair Robin Payne, also extended thanks to Andy Amphlett for sterling recording work and helping volunteers, and to Angus Hannah, Stephen and Eric Meek. Many sincere thanks given to JM too, who works extremely hard in, and outside of, Scotland.

Thanks were passed on to the Committee for Scotland. An invitation was issued to nominate members to serve on the Committee. There are vacancies to fill, including the role of Secretary.

6. Election to the Committee for Scotland.

No proposals have been made for persons to be elected to the Committee therefore no voting took place. Nominations are invited for vacancies including post of Secretary.

7. AOCB from AGM

Robin Payne explained where and when the Committee for Scotland meets to clarify for any prospective Committee members.

Aileen Meek
November 2016

Nominations for the BSBI Committee for Scotland

Alan Walker – Proposed by Hamlyn Jones and John Holland

Lindsay Mackinlay – Proposed by Liz Lavery and Ian Strachan

Aileen Meek – Proposed by Ian Strachan and Liz Lavery

BSBI Committee for Scotland 2017-18

Ian Strachan – Chair

Robin Payne – Secretary

Angus Hannah

Sandy Edwards

Faith Anstey

Natalie Harmsworth

Liz Kungu

Alan Walker

Lindsay Mackinlay

Aileen Meek

All due to retire this time next year
– so plenty of opportunity for
others to join the Committee!

Just appointed today.

BSBI in Scotland in 2017



Jim McIntosh, BSBI Scottish Officer's Report.

Ten slides picking up some of the highlights of the BSBI's work in Scotland in 2017:-

BSBI Christmas Lunch



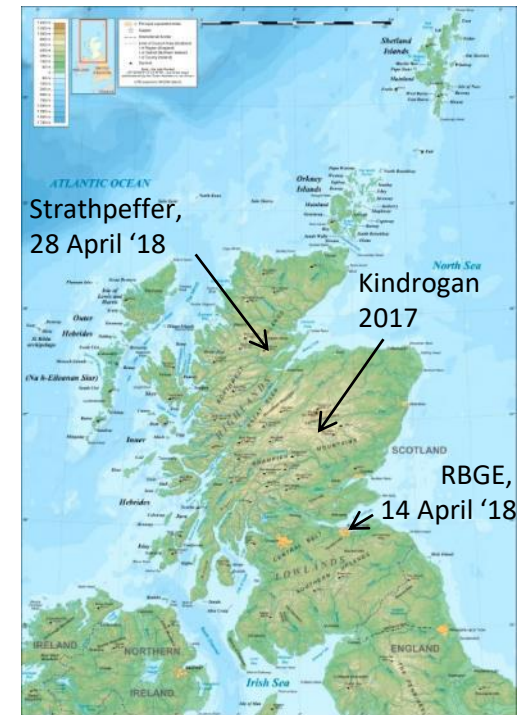
Increasingly popular annual event at RBGE - with 25 folk attending last year.
Watch out for advert for this year's Christmas Lunch which will be on Tuesday 12th December.

Scottish Recording Conference

- A residential weekend was held at Kindrogan in March
- Major sessions on MapMate, Atlas 2020 and the BSBI Database

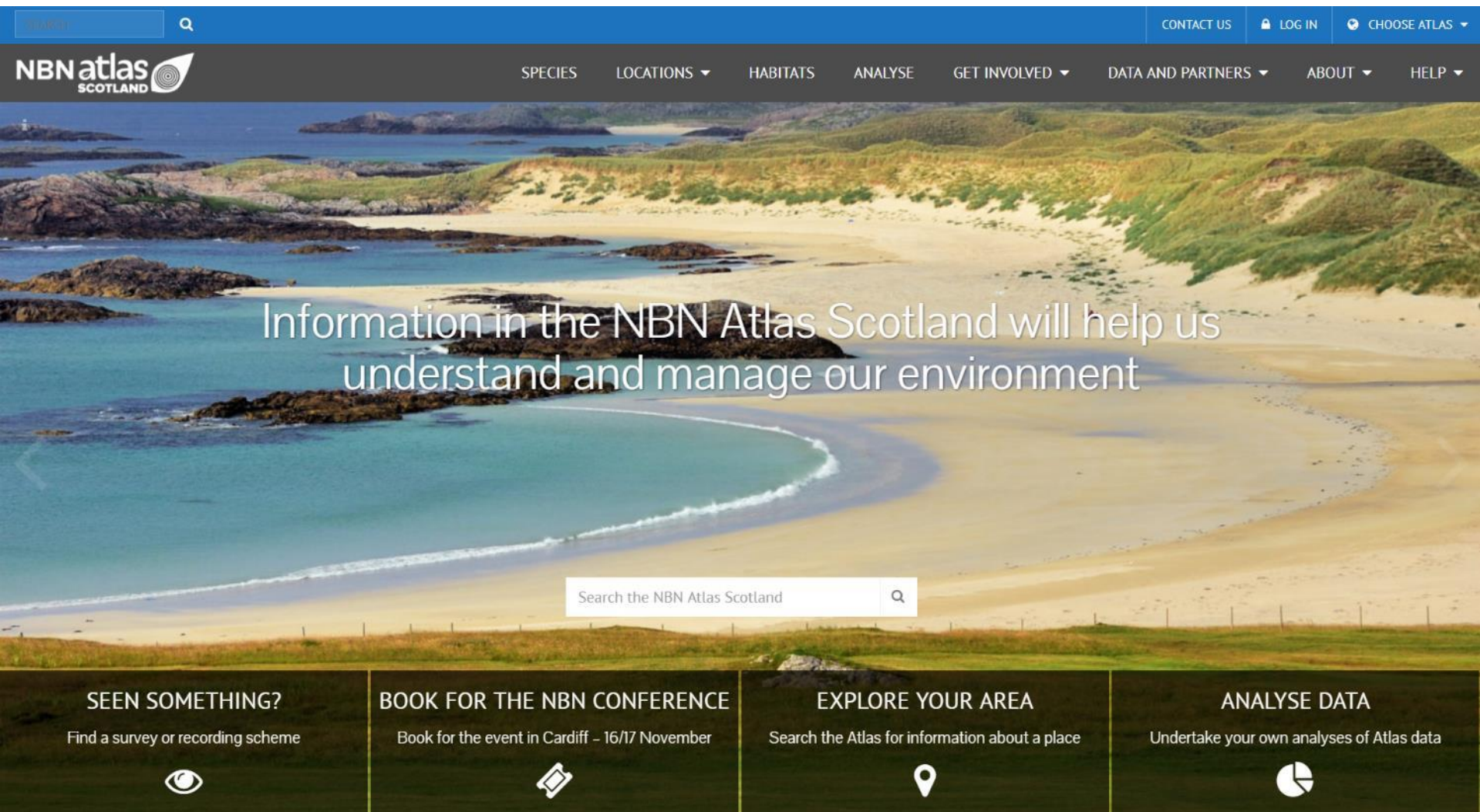


Recording Conference at Kindrogan in 2017



Two one day recording conferences are planned for April' 18. The same programme will be repeated (to minimise travel). Everyone interested in recording is welcome! (Not just VCRs.)

5M BSBI records on NBN Atlas Scotland



The screenshot shows the NBN Atlas Scotland website. At the top is a blue navigation bar with a search input field, a magnifying glass icon, and links for CONTACT US, LOG IN, and CHOOSE ATLAS. Below this is a dark grey header with the NBN atlas SCOTLAND logo and a menu of links: SPECIES, LOCATIONS, HABITATS, ANALYSE, GET INVOLVED, DATA AND PARTNERS, ABOUT, and HELP. The main content area features a large background image of a coastal landscape with a sandy beach, turquoise water, and green dunes. Overlaid on this image is the text: "Information in the NBN Atlas Scotland will help us understand and manage our environment". Below the text is a search bar with the placeholder "Search the NBN Atlas Scotland" and a magnifying glass icon. At the bottom, there are four dark green rectangular buttons with white text and icons:

- SEEN SOMETHING?**
Find a survey or recording scheme
Icon: an eye
- BOOK FOR THE NBN CONFERENCE**
Book for the event in Cardiff – 16/17 November
Icon: a calendar
- EXPLORE YOUR AREA**
Search the Atlas for information about a place
Icon: a location pin
- ANALYSE DATA**
Undertake your own analyses of Atlas data
Icon: a pie chart

We supplied 5 million BSBI Scottish records to the new NBN Atlas Scotland. A great step forward in making our data freely available to conservationists, researchers, land managers and botanists!

Plant Families Id Workshops

**SATURDAY
13 MAY 2017**
Eglington
Country Park,
Ayrshire
10am – 4.30pm

**SATURDAY
20 MAY 2017**
Glasgow Museums
Resource Centre,
Nithill
10am – 4.15pm

**IDENTIFYING
WILD FLOWER
FAMILIES**

Learn to identify wild flowers
through their families.
Build your confidence in
using keys. Dr Faith Anstey
and BSBI tutors lead these
highly acclaimed workshops.

Participant Fee £25
Full-time Students £17
BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

For more information and booking,
see the website www.bsbi.org.uk/academy/identify
or contact: info@bsbi.org.uk

On 15 July in Edinburgh we are
running a new workshop:
**IDENTIFYING
COMMON GRASSES**
Suitable for all who are confident
in identifying wild flower families.
Look out for details on the
website and elsewhere.

FIELD MEETINGS
Especially for participants (past and present)
of the workshops and for anyone who is interested
in improving their skills and confidence in
identification in the field. (No charge)

SUN 11 JUNE 2017 **SAT 1 JULY 2017**
Havers Garmock **Lapworth,**
Bristol, Avonshire **Reading**
Lancaster, Em. McInerney **London: Faith Anstey**
faithanstey@gmail.com

Plantlife



**IDENTIFYING
COMMON
GRASSES**

SATURDAY 15 JULY 2017
10am – 4.30pm
Holyrood Education Centre
Edinburgh

If you have a good basic knowledge
of plant ID (perhaps from attending an
Identifying Wildflower Families workshop)
but feel somewhat intimidated when
it comes to grasses, this second-level
course promises to help.

Dr Faith Anstey and BSBI tutors will offer
expert guidance, helpful worksheets,
plenty of hands on study and a fieldwork
session in the afternoon.

Concentrating
on the 20 grasses
you are most likely to
come across regularly in
neutral grassland, this
workshop will give
you a flying start at
grass ID.

Participant Fee £25
Full-time Students £17
BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

For more information and booking,
see the website www.bsbi.org.uk/academy/identify
or contact: info@bsbi.org.uk

Plantlife



A total of 36 beginners enjoyed our two PF Id Workshops in Irvine & Glasgow this year.
Faith Anstey's new Grass Id workshop very popular – sold out with 21 participants.

Scottish Recording Week: Torridon



In July we held a recording week in Torridon, West Ross. These events are great for gathering records, mutual learning – and great fun! 16 botanists surveyed over 60 monads in a week .

Rough Crew – Glen Affric



At long last we got the Rough Crew idea off the ground in Scotland and had an excellent weekend in a very remote (but deluxe) bothy in Glen Affric thanks to Adam Fraser & Trees for Life.

Atlas 2020



The biggest highlight of the year was the huge amount of Atlas 2020 recording VCRs & members are doing across Scotland. These photos are taken by me while recording in my VC (Mid-Perths).

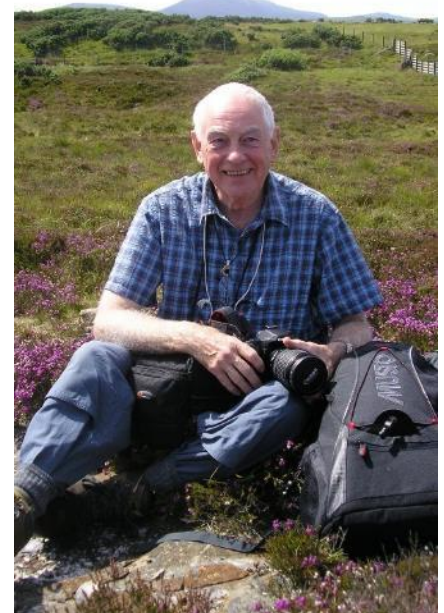
Scottish Recorder News

After Jackie Muscott's retirement last year we filled the West Lothian vacancy:
Jay MacKinnon has been appointed.



However after Michael Braithwaite's retirement 3 years we still haven't succeeded in filling his post.

Retired Recorder for Caithness, Ken Butler, sadly died last month.



Scottish Officer News

- Now doing a lot of support work across UK & Ireland – e.g. [BSBI eNews](#)
- Also support for MapMate users on phone & using remote desktop
- Support the Irish Officer – Steering Group & help out at Irish conferences
- SNH Funding expires in 5 months – and we hope they will renew!
- We are very grateful to SNH, RBGE, the BSBI and its members and donors.

BSBI eNews – November 2017



From Jim McIntosh, Senior Country Officer, jim.mcintosh@bsbi.org

BSBI Welsh Officer

It is a real pleasure to return as BSBI Welsh Officer. I would like to thank Polly on behalf of the BSBI for the sterling job she did over her six-year term as Welsh Officer. Last time, I was based in Cardiff and had an office space in the National Museum Wales. This time, I am going to work from home, at Pembroke Dock (see address below). I plan to work from Wednesday to Friday one week and from Monday to Wednesday the next, then repeat. My main role will be helping Welsh VCRs, surveying rare species across Wales, arranging workshops and recording meetings for Atlas 2020. I look forward to catching up with everybody!

Address: 11 Co Op Lane, Pembroke Dock, Pembrokeshire, SA72 6XL
Mobile: 07772 111113, Landline: 01646 689199

[Paul Green](#), BSBI Welsh officer

BSBI Plant Records

A Scottish County Recorder asks "I've been in the habit of sending an annual submission of new VC records to Mike Porter, aiming for a 31st October deadline. This was to enable the VCCC to be updated, and for records to be published in the NJB, if accepted. However, I notice that, in the [DOB](#), new VC records are annotated with '1st'. Could the VCCC be kept up to date automatically from the [DOB](#), using these annotated records?" And I'm sure many of you must be wondering about the same thing.

I asked Tom Humphrey about this and he responded "The '1st' annotations in the [DOB](#) shouldn't be regarded as equivalent to the well-checked published lists. The automated note is largely intended to highlight that a record may need scrutiny - while the record may be valid it might equally be a data entry or taxon ID error. There are plans to allow records in the [DOB](#) to be annotated as well-checked and verified first records. Those marked records could tie-in with the list of records published or used for a future edition of the VCCC. The details of how this will work has not yet been finalised."

So, for the moment, please continue to send in new county records as you have in the past.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

Atlas 2020 Data Entry



Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh



Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

BSBI Committee for Scotland Chairman's Report





Centaurium littorale (Seaside Centaury) [photo Sandy Edwards]

The Scottish Newsletter was published this spring as usual - thanks to its editor, Angus Hannah, and all those who contributed and helped. Angus would welcome articles for the 2018 edition.

Eric Meek



It was a great shock to hear that Eric Meek had died in February. He was a great contributor to the BSBI (acting like a VCR without a VC) and will be greatly missed by many in the BSBI.

Coul Links

I'd like to say something about the proposals for a new golf course at Coul Links near Dornoch which, if approved, cause the destruction of a significant part of the dune, dune heath and dune slack habitats at the Loch Fleet SSSI. The BSBI is not normally a campaigning conservation NGO, being at heart a plant recording body. BSBI did give evidence against the Trump development further south at Foveran and many of you will be equally appalled at the proposal to destroy part of another dune SSSI. BSBI has been supplying plant records to reinforce the case for this site and I would urge all of you who are concerned about this application to make those concerns known to Highland Council. Remember to make it clear in the first sentence of any email that you are making a formal objection. Google Coul Links to find the objectors site www.notcoul.com

Field Meetings - 2017



Angus tells me that we are still waiting for several field meeting reports. It would be good to get these shortly so they can be included in the new publication (to be called "BSBI News").

Photo: *Lycopodium lagopus* by Ian Strachan (a 2016 Photo Comp entry)

A photograph of a tree branch with yellowing leaves against a clear blue sky. The leaves are in various stages of yellowing, with some still green at the base and others fully yellow. The branch is dark and thin, with several leaves attached. The background is a solid, bright blue sky.

Field Meetings – a few 2018 dates

- Haddington, East Lothian 8-10 June
- Wigtownshire Recording Week, 23-30 June
- Invergarry, Westernness Recording Week, 9-15 July
- Drymen, Stirling, 17-19 August

(All lead by Scottish Officer & local recorder)

