



Recorder eNewsletter

- for the botanical recording community

October 2022

Atlas 2020 nominated for award

BSBI's Atlas 2020 project has been nominated for a prestigious [Nature of Scotland Citizen Science Award](#). The winner will be decided by a public vote; you have until **4 October** to vote for us and give a huge thumbs-up and a great big thank you to everyone who recorded plants for Atlas 2020.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

Recorders' Meeting

There are a *few* places left for the Recorders' Meeting at FSC Preston Montford from Friday to Sunday **28-30 October**. This meeting is open to anyone who records for the BSBI, whether a County Recorder or not. The detailed programme is still being drawn up, but we hope to include sessions on: aquatic non-native invasive species, Atriplex & Oraches, Euphrasias, Cotoneasters, non-native ferns, grasses, "questions that the referee gets asked about orchids", special botanical sites and a computer workshop. For booking and more information see [Recorders' Meeting](#).

[Jonathan Shanklin](#), Chair, BSBI Committee for England

Autumn Conferences

The [Scottish Botanists' Conference](#) will be held at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh on Saturday **5 November**. Our special guest speaker, Clifton Bain will give the main talk entitled *Rainforests and Peatlands: Travels around Scotland's most threatened habitats*. In addition to an interesting variety of short talks and an exhibition there will be workshops, the Scottish AGM, the Photographic Competition, Summerfield Books, a conference dinner and a celebration to mark my retirement!

This year's [British & Irish Botanical Conference](#) (the new name for the Annual Exhibition Meeting) will be held at the Natural History Museum in London on Saturday **19 November**. The programme has the theme of '*A Festival of Plants*'. Chris Preston will present the main talk on the *Alien Plants of Britain & Ireland*. There will be a great variety of short talks, including those on plants in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales; the exhibition, exhibitors' flash talks, herbarium tours and an ID help table.

Everyone is *very* welcome to both conferences – which will be face-to-face. Please let anyone who might be interested know and encourage them to attend. Both events rely on exhibitors to generate botanical interest – so *please* consider exhibiting your most interesting botanical findings!

Booking is essential: [Scottish Botanists' Conference](#) and [British & Irish Botanical Conference](#).

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

Book for the BSBI Annual General Meeting

This year's [AGM](#) will be held online on Thursday **17 November**; it will be preceded by short talks. Everyone is welcome to attend but only members can vote, and you will need to book in advance using [this booking link](#). More information [here](#).

[Louise Marsh](#), BSBI Communications Officer

The Irish Autumn Meeting

The BSBI Irish Autumn Meeting took place on Saturday 24 September at the National Botanic Gardens Glasnevin. It was great to meet up again and fifty members enjoyed listening to an excellent programme of talks, participating in workshops and walking in the gardens on a lovely autumn day.

Recordings of all the talks are now available on the [Irish Autumn Meeting](#) page - and I'd strongly recommend viewing them! Thanks are due to all the speakers and organisers and to the National Botanic Gardens for such a great day!

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

Aquatic Plant Project

One of the talks given at the Irish Autumn Meeting, was an [Introduction to spiky-rosette aquatics](#) by Nick Stewart. Afterwards, Nick led groups to look at aquatics in the ponds in the gardens and the following day he took a group to look at aquatics along the Royal Canal in Dublin.

These were the final events of a very successful BSBI [Aquatic Plant Project](#) in 2022 and we would like to thank *everyone* who helped organise and lead them; we would also like to thank the National Parks and Wildlife Service for their generous funding and their tremendous support for the project.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

BSBI Projects for 2023

We are unable to organise any *new* BSBI-wide projects next year, due to the BSBI Science Team's focus on finishing off and launching Atlas 2020 in 2023 and, after that, developing our new Science Strategy from which projects will follow. So, there is no plan for another atlas yet and routine recording should carry on as normal. The next iteration of the Local Change initiative is due in 2024 and we will be considering that (or something similar) along with other projects once the strategy is in place.

So project options in 2023 include: our main monitoring project, the [National Plant Monitoring Scheme](#), country projects like [SHARP](#) in Scotland, [RPP](#) in Ireland & [LORE](#) in England, local initiatives like Checklists, [Axiophytes](#), [Rare Plant Registers](#) and [Floras](#) or other local projects and private passions!

[Kevin Walker](#), BSBI Head of Science

NPMS: autumn update

If you have been out monitoring your plot this summer for the [National Plant Monitoring Scheme](#), now is the time to submit your data and there is lots of help on hand if you run into any problems. Also, an interesting volunteer opportunity has also arisen with the NPMS – a desk-based data verification role; Martin Harvey (UKCEH) will be leading an online [training session](#) on 4th October to give an overview of what is involved. More information [here](#).

[Louise Marsh](#), BSBI Communications Officer

Feedback to members & landowners

Members will be interested to have feedback on what plant species were recorded on a field excursion. Similarly, land owners or managers are often very interested to see which species occur on their land. Generally, it is good to at least let them know about any rarities and explain why they are important, so they are not inadvertently damaged.

MapMate users can produce such lists very easily by using the data entry window with only the date and, if necessary, grid reference, or taxon name (of the rarity) set up and then use Function F5 to generate a full list of records with those attributes. The list will include both Scientific (currently Stage 3) *and* Common Names and can easily be copied and pasted into Word or Excel and emailed.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

When MapMate data fails to reach the BSBI Database

When you think data from MapMate has failed to reach the database, the solution is always the same. You need to reset sync and resend all the data in your MM to the hub again. To do that click “Replication”, go to the Special menu and choose “Reset Sync Record”. And then click the “Synchronise” button and follow the instructions as normal. This will not result in duplicates of previously sent data at the database.

The problem is not a fault with your MapMate. It is the procedure it uses to send data. The key thing to remember is that sending data is *always* a two-step process: **First** you must create the sync file and then **second**, you must send it. In fact, it is so easy for data to go astray if that procedure isn’t followed strictly every time, that I recommend that *everyone* resets sync periodically and syncs to the hub / DDb. Now would be a good time to do it! Or just after you've finished entering this season’s data.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

Field Meetings

Could everyone who led a meeting in 2022, please write up any outstanding meeting reports now? Or, if you are busy, ask a volunteer who was on the meeting to draft one which you can top and tail. Please send them to your Country Field Meetings Secretaries (FMS), by the end of October.

The Country FMS will also welcome offers for meetings in 2023. They can be designed to appeal to anyone of a number of BSBI member interests. They could be aimed at beginners or members who have never been on a BSBI meeting before, or to visit nice places and see nice plants, to look at our urban flora or to concentrate on “difficult” species, or help with local recording initiatives. See the [Leading BSBI Meetings](#) guidance on the [field meetings & indoor events](#) page.

If you also let me have outline details (where and when) by 1 November, I can include them in the traditional poster at the British & Irish Botanical Conference.

[Jonathan Shanklin](#), BSBI Field Meetings Secretary

BSBI Nominations and Awards

[Trustees](#) have just launched two new BSBI Awards to recognise outstanding contributions to botany at either national or local/ regional level. Nominations open on 1st October and close on 31st December. More information [here](#). You’ll need to be a BSBI member to make a nomination, or to be nominated. This is a great way to acknowledge the contributions of those people who really go that extra mile to inspire and encourage their fellow botanists.

[Louise Marsh](#), BSBI Communications Officer

Winter Talks Programme

A winter talks programme is being planned. I’d love to hear from you if you are interested in giving a botanical talk, or if you know anyone who might give a talk that would be of interest to BSBI members.

[George Garnett](#), Winter Talks Organiser

Volunteering opportunities

If you are a BSBI member, there are opportunities for you to apply to [join a BSBI standing committee](#) or to [become a BSBI trustee](#). If you have an academic background and/ or experience of journal publication, you might want to consider applying to [become the new Editor-in-Chief](#) of *British & Irish Botany*, our scientific journal – you don't necessarily need to be a BSBI member to apply for this role, or for many of the other volunteering opportunities listed on our [volunteering page](#).

[Louise Marsh](#), BSBI Communications Officer

BSBI News: for members and non-members

The [latest issue of BSBI News](#) has just been emailed out (to members who have opted in to paperless membership) and posted out (to members who prefer their copy on paper). Digital versions are also available via the password-protected [members-only area](#) of the BSBI website, where you will also find links to all this month's news items for members.

[Louise Marsh](#), BSBI Communications Officer

Recorder eNewsletter

Recorder eNewsletter is aimed at all BSBI recorders, referees, members and supporters involved with recording. It has 450 subscribers and you can subscribe or view it on [BSBI Recorder eNewsletter](#) webpage. I'd welcome short contributions from anyone on topics of interest to fellow readers. Recorder eNewsletter is generally published at the beginning of each month so contributions should reach me at the beginning of the preceding week. I'd also be pleased to have feedback.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Senior Country Officer