

# The BSBI Scotland Year

## BSBI Scotland Annual General Meeting 2018



Ian Strachan, BSBI Chair of the Committee for Scotland

## Draft minutes of the BSBI Scottish AGM held at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh on 4 November 2017.

Robin Payne welcomed everyone as Chair to the AGM.

**Minutes of the AGM held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2016** had been circulated and were approved (proposed Ro Scott, seconded Ian Strachan).

**Committee for Scotland** - There were three vacancies on the committee. Three new members had been proposed: Aileen Meek (proposed Ian Strachan, seconded by Liz Lavery), Lindsay Mackinlay (proposed by Liz Lavery and Ian Strachan) and Alan Walker (proposed by Hamlyn Jones and John Holland). Changes to committee membership were all approved. Ian Strachan is taking over from Robin as Chair, and Robin is to be Secretary for his remaining year. Details of the 2017-18 Committee are given below.

**Scottish Officer report:** Jim McIntosh presented his annual review.

Highlights:

- Christmas lunch at RBGE – a popular annual event.
- Scottish Recording Conference – residential weekend held at Kindrogan in April. Two one-day conferences planned for April 2018 in Edinburgh and Strathpeffer.
- 5 million records had been transferred to the NBN Atlas Scotland – a major step forward.
- Plant Families Id workshops - 36 beginners enjoyed two workshops in Irvine & Glasgow. New Grass Id workshop very popular – sold out with 21 participants.
- Recording week held in Torridon. 16 botanists surveyed over 60 monads in a week.
- Rough Crew idea has got off the ground in Scotland with productive weekend in Glen Affric thanks to Adam Fraser & Trees for Life.
- Huge amount of Atlas 2020 recording by VCRs & members across Scotland.
- VCRs – Jay MacKinnon has been appointed following retirement of Jackie Muscott (West Lothian). Ken Butler, former recorder for Caithness, sadly died in October.
- Jim also doing wider support work across UK and Ireland e.g. eNews. SNH funding expires at end of March, hoping it will be renewed.

**Chairman's report:** Robin presented a brief report for the year.

- The Scottish Newsletter had been published in the spring, for which Angus Hannah was thanked as editor. Council had agreed to continue funding for at least another year.
- Everyone had been shocked by the untimely death of Eric Meek who had served on the committee since 2014. As well as his ornithological role he had made a major contribution to BSBI work in Scotland, helping John Crossley in Orkney, but also more widely on the TPP and Atlas 2020 as a 'VCR without portfolio'.
- The proposed golf course at Coull Links was deeply concerning because of the botanical interest there. Support for the 'Not Coull' campaign was a matter for individuals, but the deadline for representations to Highland Council was 17 November.

**Field meetings:** Angus spoke briefly about the programme for 2018, which included Haddington, Wigtownshire, Invergarry and Drymen, also joint BSS meeting at Strathpeffer. He invited further proposals, preferably by 14 November. Several field meeting reports for 2017 awaited.

Robin expressed thanks to the committee, BSBI staff, VCRs and other members for their contributions and efforts over the year, with particular thanks to Jim, Angus, Andy Amphlett and Steven Bungard.

Ian Strachan  
March 2018

### BSBI Scottish Committee 2017-18

Voting members (10): Ian Strachan (Chair), Sandy Edwards (Vice-chair), Robin Payne (Secretary), Angus Hannah (Field Secretary), Faith Anstey, Natalie Harmsworth, Liz Kungu, Aileen Meek, Lindsay Mackinlay, Alan Walker.

Non-voting: Iain MacDonald (SNH), Davie Black (Plantlife), Dan Watson (NTS).

Attending: Jim McIntosh (Scottish Officer)

At the AGM on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018, Sandy Edwards, Robin Payne, Angus Hannah and Faith Anstey retire and are not eligible for re-election. Nominations for the committee, signed by two members normally resident in, or recorders for, a vice-county in Scotland and with the written consent of the candidate, who must also qualify as above, should reach the Secretary by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

# BSBI Committee for Scotland 2018-19

Ian Strachan (Chair)

Lindsay Mackinlay (Vice-chair)

Natalie Harmsworth

Liz Kungu

Alan Walker

Aileen Meek (Meetings secretary)

## **Nominations:**

**John Crossley:** proposed by Ian Strachan & Robin Payne

**David Elston:** proposed by David Welch & Ian Francis

**Liz Lavery:** proposed by Aileen Meek & Robin Payne



# BSBI in Scotland in 2018

Jim McIntosh, BSBI Scottish Officer's Report.



10 slides highlighting the BSBI's work in Scotland in 2018:

The Scottish Government has a target of planting 15,000 ha of Scotland pa, every year, by 2025.

While we support the effect of mitigating climate change, we are concerned that notable habitats and plant species may be damaged by planting. So it was great to be invited by Forest Enterprise Scotland, along with BBS, BLS & BMS, to supply all our rare plant data – which we did. So it can be used to inform forestry proposals and operations – in the National Forest Estate and in the wider countryside.

# BSBI Christmas Lunch



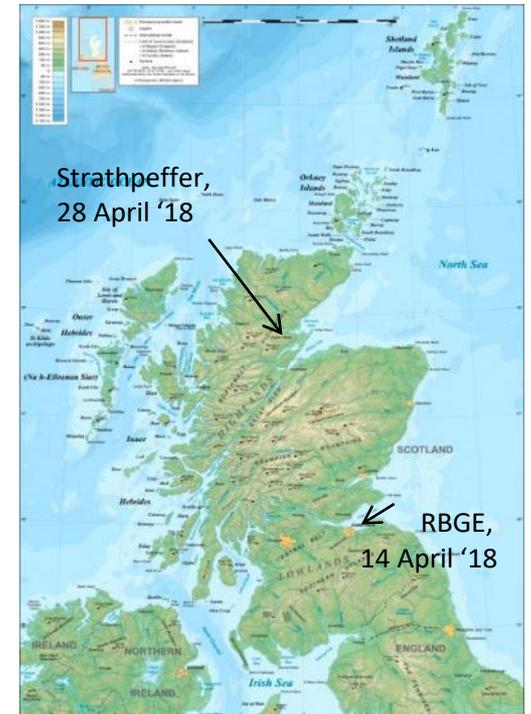
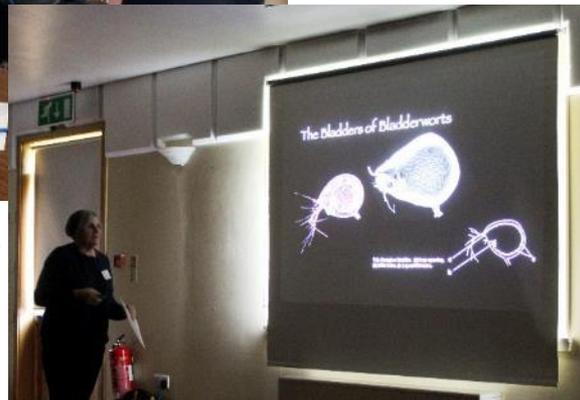
Increasingly popular annual event - with 23 members last year. A chance to meet up with old friends and chat! This year's BSBI Christmas Lunch on Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Dec at the Water of Leith Bistro

# Scottish Recording Conference(s)

- Two one-day events held in April – attended by 48 in total
- Sessions on Atlas, post Atlas projects and Local Groups
- ID Workshops on Deergrass & Bladderworts
- Round up of short reports from the County Recorders



Recording Conference at Strathpeffer in 2018,  
Duncan Donald



We will hold a single one day Recording Conference in spring next year at RBGE.

# Id Workshops for beginners

**SATURDAY  
19 MAY 2018**  
Barony College  
Dumfries  
10am – 4.30pm

**SATURDAY  
26 MAY 2018**  
Mazeland Park  
Aberdeen  
10am – 4.30pm

**IDENTIFYING  
WILD FLOWER  
FAMILIES**

Learn to identify wild flowers through their families. Build your confidence in using keys. Expert tutors from the Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland lead these accessible and popular workshops.

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

For more information and booking, see the website below and contact us on 01463 200000 or email [enquiries@bsbi.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bsbi.org.uk)

On 23 Jan, in the Glasgow area, we are running a second-year workshop: **IDENTIFYING COMMON GRASSES**. Suitable for all those who are new to the subject, it will cover how to look for grasses in the field and a course.

**FIELD MEETINGS**  
Especially for participants based in the south of Scotland, we are organising a series of field meetings to help you identify wild flowers in the field. No charge for the day, but booking essential.

**SATURDAY 28 JULY SATURDAY 4 AUGUST**  
St Leonards Park, Musselburgh, Midlothian  
Riverside near Monkton, south of River Tyne, Perthshire

Both field meetings will be led by Ruth Anstey. Further details from: [faithanestey@gmail.com](mailto:faithanestey@gmail.com)




**IDENTIFYING  
COMMON  
GRASSES**

**SAT 2 JUNE 2018**  
10am – 4.30pm  
Holyrood Education  
Centre, Edinburgh

**SAT 23 JUNE 2018**  
10am – 4.30pm  
Mugdock Country Park,  
Milingavie, Glasgow

Information and booking for Edinburgh: [enquiries@bsbi.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bsbi.org.uk)  
Information and booking for Glasgow: [enquiries@bsbi.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bsbi.org.uk)

**BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**

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

Participant Fee £25  
Full-time Students £17

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




2018 was the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the Plant Family training initiative. 29 beginners enjoyed our two workshops in Aberdeen & Dumfries. Plus we held two equally popular Grasses workshops. Thanks are due to volunteers; Faith Anstey, Chris Miles & Aileen Meek and the many tutors. Plans are afoot for more workshops in 2019...

# Wigtownshire Recording Week



In June we held an Atlas 2020 Recording week. We hired a volunteer cook, a remote big house and stuffed it full of botanists. Every day we split up into small groups and surveyed different areas. Coming home to tea & cake (or beer) and family style meals and specimens to look at afterwards. Lots of recording, learning & fun!!

# Invergarry Recording Week



In July we held another recording week – this one near Invergarry in East Inverness-shire. With a similar number of botanists (14). Next year planning a similar event near Loch Ness in Easternness.

# MSB Seed Collecting



We've been helping the Millennium Seed Bank collect seed in Scotland. The target is to collect seed of all native UK species by 2020. Our colleagues here at RBGE have made a huge contribution – and we have given them our data to help them. I was given the really very difficult task of collecting Blue Heath seed - difficult because it grows in very remote places. In August I did a 22 mile round trip in August only to find that the seeds weren't ripe. So went back in October!

# Local Groups



Two new groups began in Scotland 2018 – one in Fife & one in East Lothian which formed after the Haddington Field meeting in June. Meanwhile the new Local Group in Lanarkshire – Team 77 - is going from strength to strength. They have 53 members, had 33 field meetings and collected 10,000 records in 2018! The best way to improve and maintain your ID skills is to get out with other botanists and there is no better way to do that than to join a local group. Details on BSBI Scotland page.

# Alpine Field Meeting



Ever since I can remember, John Holland, has organised a one-day Alpine Fielding Meeting – gathering useful records (especially for Atlas 2020) from mountains across the central Highlands. This year we went up the remote Corbett, Stob a' Choin, at Inverlochlarig near Balquidder in glorious weather. We split up into two groups (to cover as much ground as possible) and between us made 355 records, renewing some records of species that hadn't been seen for many decades.

# Scottish Officer News

- SNH Funding was renewed for a further year back in April.
- We also have got funds to digitise SNH's Site Condition Monitoring rare plant data – which will be a major project for me this winter.
- We are very grateful to SNH, RBGE, and the BSBI's members and donors.



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

# Scottish Recorder News



Sadly just heard that Carl Farmer, one of our Argyll recorders, has resigned. Will advertise both vacancies in BSBI News.

After the Recorder for Stirling, Phil Sansum, relocated to work in Devon, we advertised and that led to Matt Harding's appointment.



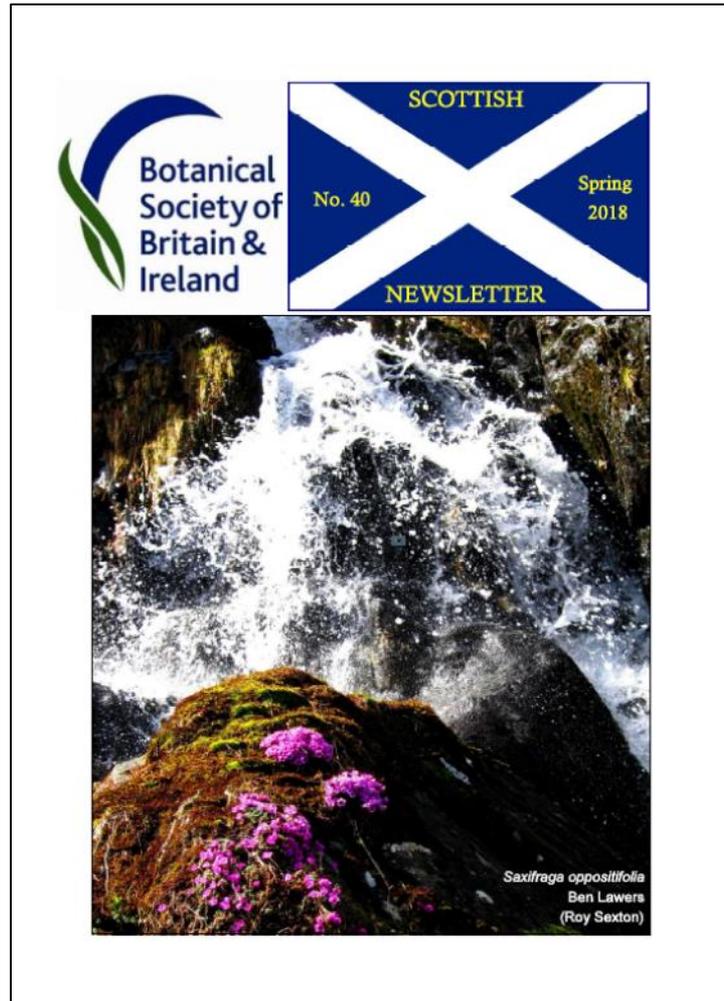
However after Michael Braithwaite's retirement 4 years ago we still haven't succeeded in filling his post.

Newly appointed Recorder for North Aberdeenshire & Kincardine – David Elston.



**BSBI**  
**Committee**  
**for Scotland**  
**Chairman's**  
**Report**





The 40<sup>th</sup> edition of Scottish Newsletter was published this spring - thanks to its new editor, Angus Hannah, and all those who contributed and helped. Angus would welcome articles of interest to fellow botanists for the 2019 edition by the end of February, please.

# Walter Scott MBE

## 1940-2018



VCR for Shetland 1961-2015, Walter Scott sadly died in February.



The proposed new golf course at Coul Links near Dornoch will, 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 organisation, but we, like many of our partners, were so dismayed by this proposal and its impact on rare plants and habitats that we responded to the planning consultation with a letter of objection. Members also signed a petition for the case to be 'called-in' which has been successful. A public local inquiry will be held early next year.

# Field Meetings - 2018

We are still waiting for several field meeting reports. It would be good to get these shortly so they can be included in the forthcoming BSBI News.

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

# Field Meetings – 2019 dates

- Whitebridge Recording Week, Easternness, 22-29 June
- BSBI / BSS Alpine Field Meeting to Ben Cruachan 30 June
  
- Aileen Meek, is the new field meeting secretary



Recorders, please do get in touch with Aileen if you'd like get BSBI members to help you in the final year of Atlas 2020 – it's a great way to help cover the ground and plug holes in your Atlas coverage!

