BSBI: Who We Are and What We Do

The Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland is for everyone who is interested in the wild plants of Britain and Ireland. We have welcomed both professional and amateur members since 1836, and the Society remains the biggest and most active organisation devoted to the study of botany in Britain, Ireland, the Channel Isles and the Isle of Man.

BSBI’s objectives are to:
— promote the study, understanding and enjoyment of British and Irish wild vascular plants and stoneworts;
— support, encourage, carry out and participate in research into the taxonomy, ecology, biogeography and conservation of the British and Irish flora; and
— co-operate with Continental and other botanists in matters of mutual interest and concern.

BSBI has a long and influential publications history, including plant distribution Atlases, Handbooks and the scientific journal, ‘New Journal of Botany’. Our research, training and outreach programmes benefit botanists across Britain and Ireland, whether beginners or experts. BSBI pioneers new approaches to data collection and distribution mapping, and has become one of the world’s largest contributors of biological records – our database currently holds over 35 million records. BSBI’s distribution mapping projects record new plant arrivals and changes in the distributions of British and Irish wild and naturalised plants.

These achievements are only possible thanks to our many volunteer members, whose records are validated by BSBI’s network of volunteer county recorders and specialist referees, and to our voluntary officers, committee members and trustees, who are responsible for the governance of the Society. Senior trustee positions include the President, Honorary General Secretary and Honorary Treasurer.

BSBI also has 14 members of staff and contractors who support our volunteers and keep the Society active and functioning smoothly.

This Annual Review includes messages and updates from many of these staff members and volunteer officers, telling you about our activities and achievements during 2013, starting with a message from BSBI President Ian Denholm.

Previous Annual Reviews have always covered a calendar year but this one spans fifteen months, from the start of 2013 to the end of March 2014, and covers the activities of our previous incarnation and of the new society. In future, Reviews will encompass twelve month periods from the end of March to the start of April.

This has been a challenging, but ultimately worthwhile, transition period for our trustees, volunteer officers, and our talented and highly motivated members of staff. In 2013, we welcomed Jane Houldsworth to BSBI as our new Head of Operations. Jane comes to us with a very relevant background in organisations supporting conservation and environmental stewardship, and will lead the coordination and management of many of the Society’s activities.

Finally, you will note from the Review that we have also had a busy year recording plants, training botanists, bringing important projects to fruition and initiating new ones that promise to keep BSBI members occupied for many years to come!”

Message from the President

“This has been an exciting time to be President of BSBI, and the past two years have seen some major changes. We have become a Company Limited by Guarantee but we retain our charitable status and aims. The need for this came from our increasing number of staff, research contracts and the profile of our activities. The biggest change to anyone outside BSBI has been a change to our name from the Botanical Society of the British Isles to the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland – a subtle change but an important one that reflects our geographic coverage in a more appropriate way. Presiding over later stages of this rebirth has given me the singular honour of being the last-ever President of the ‘old’ BSBI, and the first-ever President of the ‘new’ one!”
BSBI Staff, Science and Projects

The BSBI staff complement reached its largest size yet this year, and now stands at 14 full-time or part-time employees or contractors. This increase is helping us to provide more effective support to BSBI recorders, volunteers and members in general, as well as ensuring efficient management of the Society and use of financial support from external sources.

BSBI Staff:

Jane Houldsworth  Head of Operations
Kevin Walker  Head of Science
Bob Ellis  Projects Officer
Gwynn Ellis  Membership Secretary
Paul Green  Welsh Officer (job share)
Quentin Groom  Data Support
Tom Humphrey  Database Officer
Alex Lockton  Website and Network Officer
Clive Lovatt  Administrative Officer
Maria Long  Irish Officer
Louise Marsh  Publicity and Outreach Officer
Jim McIntosh  Scottish Officer
Polly Spencer-Vellacott  Welsh Officer (job share)
Peter Stroh  Scientific Officer

As ever, a dedicated team of volunteer expert recorders, supported by BSBI staff, have continued to provide data of the highest quality, vital for a wide range and number of scientific and conservation projects. This year’s achievements include:

The Threatened Plants Project (TPP)
Survey and digitisation by BSBI volunteers for this flagship project finished in 2013 – a mammoth effort with well over 4,000 populations of the 50 species surveyed across Britain and Ireland. The data are being analysed with the aim of publishing the results in 2015.

Survey of Plants & Lichens associated with Ash (SPLASH)
Late 2013 saw the launch of a new project to measure the potential impacts of ash die-back on the ground flora and epiphytes associated with ash trees in Britain and Ireland. BSBI played a key role in the development of this project alongside partners in the British Bryological Society and the British Lichen Society. It is being advertised in BSBI publications and via social media, and information for interested recorders is on the dedicated webpage: www.bsbi.org.uk/splash.html

National Plant Monitoring Scheme
The year also saw the further development of a new habitat-based plant surveillance scheme for Scotland, England and Wales, with funding from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). BSBI is currently working closely with Plantlife and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) towards a full launch of the project in 2015.

England Red List
As part of a contract with Natural England, BSBI has been working closely with statisticians at CEH to undertake data analyses and assessments for the new England Red List. Work is now almost complete and has provided some extremely important results, particularly with respect to species declines in lowland England. As expected, it has shown that species such as Drosera anglica (Great Sundew) are threatened in England, but less expected are dramatic declines in some very widespread species such as Campanula rotundifolia (Harebell). This work will be published in 2014.

Atlas 2020
There are only six field seasons remaining before publication of the next Atlas, which will include all areas of BSBI’s geography, and so this key project is under detailed scrutiny to ensure that coverage will be as good as we can make it. A working group has been established to steer this project through its final stages. Further intensification of recording effort will be seen in 2014.

Irish Species Project
BSBI’s Committee for Ireland has launched a two-year project to record and study eight species of conservation concern in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. This project uses a similar sampling approach and methodology to the TPP and aims to revisit some historic localities and collect information including population size, habitat quality and management, and current or perceived threats.

BSBI Data
Alongside all this recording activity, our in-house database of plant records (the DDb) has continued to go from strength to strength. The number of records it contains increased by 1.4 million in 2013. This is despite work to remove duplicated records. In addition, we now have more than 300 registered users, including many from partner organisations involved in land management and conservation, such as Forest Enterprise Scotland, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales (formerly the Countryside Council for Wales), RSPB, Plantlife, Kew, Scottish Natural Heritage, as well as many university-based researchers. The utility of the database has been substantially improved and this work has been facilitated by Tom Humphrey, our database manager, relocating to CEH premises in Wallingford, Oxfordshire.

Primula veris Cowslip.
Training and Education

We had a record number of grant applications in 2013 and awarded 45 Training Grants, Plant Study Grants and Conference Bursaries.

Our ‘Training the Botanical Trainers’ course ran for the fourth time and had more than 30 attendees. Botany tutors came from around Britain and Ireland to share their expertise and spend a day discussing how to teach botany using a plant family approach.

Perhaps our most exciting event was the new partnership with Brenda Harold and the Field Studies Council to launch the ‘Identiplant’ online plant identification course. Take-up was beyond all expectations and the course filled almost immediately.

Field Identification Skills Certificates (FISCs) ran twice in Shrewsbury and both were fully subscribed. Most participants are consultants who use the qualification as an endorsement of their botanical field skills – a useful personal marketing tool in the jobs market – but FISCs are open to anyone to take, whether amateur or professional botanists, beginners, improvers or experts.

Our meetings and events, held across the whole of Britain and Ireland, enjoyed record attendance and offered botanists at all skill levels opportunities for recording, training, networking and contributing to botanical research.

BSBI Field Meetings

In 2013, BSBI field meeting leaders rose to the challenge and again provided an excellent and varied programme across BSBI’s geography. Fifty-one field meetings were held in total, including:

— 22 training meetings, including three in Scotland aimed at beginners in plant identification.
— workshops on topics such as dandelions, lowland willows, sedges, grasses, brambles and ferns, the last in conjunction with the British Pteridological Society.
— week-long recording meetings based at Llandybie and Caerdeon (both in Wales), and on Islay in Scotland. On the latter, a stunning 6,200 records were collected across the island and good coverage was achieved in 36 of its 180 tetrads.
— 11 field meetings throughout the Republic and North of Ireland - one particularly hot day investigating coastal plants ended with participants going for a swim in the sea!
— many new leaders contributed to meetings in England, and BSBI members were able, with permission from landowners, to reach areas previously inaccessible to botanists.

Huge thanks and appreciation go to the individuals and committees involved in making the Field Meetings Programme such a success.

England

November’s Annual Exhibition Meeting, held at the Natural History Museum (NHM) in South Kensington, was extremely well attended and provided a stimulating mix of exhibits, talks, tours of the NHM herbarium as well as a great opportunity for catching up with old friends and meeting new ones.

We also updated our guidance notes, designed to help anyone leading or organising a BSBI Field Meeting.

Wales

BSBI activities in Wales continue to benefit from the input and expertise of not just one Welsh Officer but two: Polly Spencer-Vellacott and Paul Green, who now job share. Paul takes responsibility for rare plant monitoring while Polly deals with administration and vice-county recorder support, though some of their work is split on a north/south basis. Links with the recently created Natural Resources Wales (NRW) continue to be developed.

The 51st Welsh Annual General Meeting and Exhibition Meeting was held directly after the BSBI Annual General Meeting at The Bulkeley Arms Hotel, Beaumaris, Anglesey. Thanks go to all the field trip leaders and most especially to outgoing President Ian Bonner and his wife Pippa for all their hard work in organising the event.

Two issues of the Welsh Bulletin were published during the year. The Bulletin is available to members living outside Wales for a small subscription, which covers printing and postage costs. Progress continues with the production of Rare Plant Registers in those vice-counties without one and full coverage is expected soon.

Scotland

Efforts have continued to increase BSBI membership in Scotland, and in May we took part in the Scottish Birdfair at Hopetoun House alongside Plantlife and a wide range of conservation NGOs. The bitterly cold weather affected attendance but plenty of visitors enjoyed the BSBI stand and plant identification competition.

Scots

A new guidance sheet has been produced for leaders of Training/Outreach meetings, to complement and flesh out our Guidance for Leaders of Field Meetings. Both documents are available on the BSBI website, along with the BSBI Code of Conduct and notes on Safety in the Field.

Identifying plants using handlenses and keys.
Outreach work also included two successful Plant Family Workshops aimed at those new to plant identification, which were held in Edinburgh and Glasgow, as well as a follow up series of four evening or short day excursions. Both proved to be instant sell-outs and indicate the high level of interest in learning how to identify plant species. Organising these workshops and developing the teaching materials proved to be a major task, and Faith Anstey and Ruth McGuire worked very hard to achieve this. We intend to build on this with an expanded programme in 2014.

Work continues on the development of Rare Plant Registers (RPRs) across Scotland. Although most RPRs are vice-county based, a register was produced for the Cairngorms National Park. Andy Amphlett, a BSBI volunteer, analysed records from the six vice-counties which fall within Britain’s largest national park. The result is a tool that will help the Park Authority to develop initiatives to conserve the most threatened species.

The Scottish Annual Meeting returned to the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) in November. A record 148 people attended this increasingly popular event. Roderick Corner’s images and description of the East Greenland Flora rounded off a busy day. BSBI acknowledges with thanks the support we receive from RBGE in hosting this event and continuing to provide our Scottish Officer Jim McIntosh with office facilities.

Ireland

Last year marked the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Irish branch of BSBI and celebrations culminated with a Members’ Conference on 29-30 March 2014 in the National Botanic Gardens Glasnevin, Dublin. Linked to this event, BSBI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National University of Ireland, Galway, aimed at developing joint research and training initiatives.

Twenty-six BSBI members attended the Irish AGM, which was held in Killarney, and thanks are due to Caroline Mhic Daeid for her help in organising the event. In his opening address, BSBI President Ian Denholm outlined the new status of the Society, including its name change which was warmly welcomed. Ian also used this occasion to present Ralph Forbes and Robert Northridge with the President’s Prize (chosen by former BSBI president Ian Bonner) for their Flora of Fermanagh (2012).

During 2013, the Committee for Ireland was pleased to accept an invitation to be a full partner in the new Vascular Plant Red List for Ireland along with the Northern Ireland Environmental Agency, National Parks and Wildlife Services and other interested parties. The webpage for Ireland is up and running thanks to the Irish Officer, Maria Long, who also circulated a second Newsletter for Vice County Recorders. Irish Botanical News, Number 23, edited by Paul Green, was published in February. Sylvia Reynolds’ excellent Flora of County Limerick was published in May and, during the launch, a surprise presentation of the National Botanic Garden’s Gold Medal was made to the author in recognition of her contribution to Irish botany.
Publicity and Outreach

The pilot phase of BSBI’s Publicity and Outreach initiative, launched in June 2012, continued throughout 2013, building up the infrastructure necessary to support our outreach activities and raise our media profile.

Highlights of 2013 included BSBI’s contribution to the launch of the State of Nature report, held at the Natural History Museum, London and presided over by Sir David Attenborough; and exhibiting for the second time at British Birdfair, the world’s largest wildlife event, where we were awarded Best Stand by a conservation organisation. We are grateful to the many volunteers who contributed their time and enthusiasm to help with presenting exhibits and promoting the Society at seven national outreach events and within their local area.

A promotional video was made at British Birdfair, which can be viewed on the Publicity page of our website. The video features Ian Denholm talking about BSBI’s growing network of local botany groups. These groups flourished in 2013: the interactive map on the BSBI website shows that an increasing number of local groups have their own webpages where details of local meetings and resources can be shared.

We continued to build our media profile during 2013 and now have an extensive list of media contacts (print, broadcast and specialist press) to whom we can distribute press releases about BSBI activities. We also contributed towards several radio and television programmes, including the ‘Wild Things’ series on Channel 4, and continued to build our profile on social media. The BSBI Publicity Blog – since renamed ‘BSBI News & Views’ – proved popular, attracting more than 40,000 page-views in its first year, and our Facebook page continued to attract interest and helped us reach a different audience. The year closed with the launch of an official BSBI Twitter account and a third New Year Plant Hunt. Our new social media platforms and growing network of local groups made this Plant Hunt the most successful yet, and we were able to engage and enthuse a new audience. By the end of March 2014, almost 2,000 organisations and individuals were using the BSBI Twitter account to keep up with the latest botanical news from BSBI and partner organisations. The account can be accessed at twitter.com/BSBIbotany or by clicking on the Twitter icon on our homepage.

Periodicals

This year New Journal of Botany (NJB), with the support of Maney Publishing, increased to three issues per year, and was made Maney’s Journal of the Month in July 2013. This led to a fourteen-fold increase in downloads of NJB papers during the promotion, with increased international interest. The recent Volume 3 included papers from the highly successful 2012 Mapping Conference in Edinburgh.

BSBI News continued to be issued three times a year and was, as always, packed full of articles providing an insight into members’ interests. The editors, Gwynn Ellis and Trevor James, continued to ensure a high standard and varied range of articles. Also put together by volunteers, the Year Book contains information about BSBI and its officers, committees, vice-county recorders and referees, as well as comprehensive field meetings reports and obituaries.

Books

Several new identification handbooks are now nearing completion: Oenothera (Evening-primroses), Viola (Violets) and a new edition of Docks and Knotweeds are almost ready for print. Charophytes, an older publication, was reprinted. Work is progressing well on Handbooks for some more challenging taxa, namely Alchemilla (Lady’s-mantles) and Euphrasia (Eyebrights).

We remain a contributor to many other publications, most notably local Floras, for which grants may be awarded to authors. Four grants were approved for The Flora of Northamptonshire and the Soke of Peterborough, Flora of Derbyshire, The Flora and Vegetation of Shropshire and the Berwickshire Botanical Site Register.

Summerfield Books

Summerfield Books has been a regular exhibitor at Society events this year, selling the latest botanical publications. It continues to expand the range of natural history titles, as well as field equipment. Don’t forget that BSBI members receive a discount on all BSBI handbooks and other selected titles too. Visit summerfieldbooks.com for more details.

Botanical Publications

Periodicals

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## Financial Summary

**BSBI SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**
For the fifteen months ended 31 March 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>15 months ended 31 March 2014**</th>
<th>12 months ended 31 December 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incoming Resources</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions and Donations</td>
<td>95,840</td>
<td>75,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Grants</td>
<td>97,508</td>
<td>101,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacies and Development Fund Donations</td>
<td>72,436</td>
<td>47,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>58,731</td>
<td>51,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable Activities Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botanical Survey and Interpretation</td>
<td>104,793</td>
<td>61,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botanical Education</td>
<td>19,588</td>
<td>26,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botanical Publications and Website</td>
<td>18,807</td>
<td>13,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>467,703</strong></td>
<td><strong>376,914</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

|            |                                 |                                 |
| **Resources Expended** |                                 |                                 |
| Cost of Generating Funds |                                 |                                 |
| Membership Administration, Publicity and Investment Management | 64,942                          | 29,118                          |
| Charitable Activities |                                 |                                 |
| Botanical Survey and Interpretation | 334,388                          | 238,341                         |
| Botanical Education | 34,054                           | 44,716                          |
| Botanical Publications and Website | 129,598                          | 74,302                          |
| Governance Costs | 60,639                           | 23,745                          |
| **623,621** | **410,272**                      |                                 |

|            |                                 |                                 |
| **Net Outgoing Resources** |                                 |                                 |
| General Funds | (155,684)                        | (33,197)                        |
| Restricted Funds | (234)                           | (161)                           |
| Total Net Deficit before Gains on Investments | (155,918)                        | (33,358)                        |

|            |                                 |                                 |
| **Other gains** |                                 |                                 |
| Gains on Investments | 135,671                          | 71,350                          |
| (Deficit)/Surplus for the Period/Year | (20,247)                          | 37,992                          |

*During this period there was a change of the legal entity in which the activities were carried out. The Botanical Society of the British Isles transferred its assets and operations to the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland as at 31 October 2013. Both entities are known by the same abbreviation, BSBI. The summary of financial activities presented here is a consolidation as if the activities had continued within the same legal entity. Accordingly, in the form presented here, the summary has not been subject to independent scrutiny.

**BSBI SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET**
As at 31 March 2014 31 March 2014 31 December 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31 March 2014</th>
<th>31 December 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments – at Market Value</td>
<td>1,266,044</td>
<td>1,228,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks</td>
<td>14,218</td>
<td>17,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtors, Prepayments and Accrued Income</td>
<td>78,921</td>
<td>56,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank and on Deposit</td>
<td>69,823</td>
<td>124,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors, Accruals and Deferred Income</td>
<td>(117,148)</td>
<td>(95,758)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1,311,858</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,332,105</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Represented By** |                                 |                                 |
| Endowment Funds | 375,385         | 338,060            |
| Restricted Income Funds | 5,984        | 6,216              |
| Unrestricted Funds | 930,489         | 987,829            |
| **1,311,858** | **1,332,105** |                                 |

*This non-statutory summary balance sheet includes the balance sheet of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland as its 31 March 2014 management accounts has not yet been subject to independent scrutiny. Cash at bank includes £10,156 in bank accounts still in the name of the Botanical Society of the British Isles (£8,435 as at 31 October 2013). The comparative amounts are from the balance sheet of the Botanical Society of the British Isles as at 31 December 2012 as presented in the Annual Review 2012.

Net assets transferred from the Botanical Society of the British Isles to the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland as at 31 October 2013 comprised the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1,344,828</th>
<th>1,344,674</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investments – at Market Value</td>
<td>1,344,828</td>
<td>1,344,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks</td>
<td>14,224</td>
<td>14,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtors, Prepayments and Accrued Income</td>
<td>87,751</td>
<td>87,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank and on Deposit</td>
<td>2,121</td>
<td>2,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors, Accruals and Deferred Income</td>
<td>(94,270)</td>
<td>(94,270)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1,344,674</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,344,674</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,344,674</strong></td>
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The Annual Report and Accounts of the Botanical Society of the British Isles made up to its reporting date of 31 December 2013 were approved by the Society’s Council on 23 July 2014 and have been filed with the Charity Commission and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. They were subject to Independent Examination and the report on them was unqualified. A PDF is available on the BSBI website at [www.bsbi.org.uk/about_bsbi.html](http://www.bsbi.org.uk/about_bsbi.html) and hard copies can be requested.

The Annual Report and Accounts of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland made up to its reporting date of 31 March 2014 will be posted on the BSBI website, and filed with the Charity regulators and at Companies House after independent scrutiny and approval by the Board of Trustees.
Treasurer’s Report

Steady as she goes!
The continuing transformation of BSBI has occupied much time and some expense over the 15 months covered by this report, but we all feel it has been worth it. Our goal was to keep all that is good about the BSBI, as a truly unique scientific group encompassing academics, professionals and amateurs in one place, while at the same time modernising its structure. We needed to modernise to become the kind of organisation which can command and manage the resources needed in the 21st Century to continue to play and develop the central role in UK and Irish botany, which is at once our heritage and our destiny.

We are well on the way. Stage 1 was to change from basically a member’s club into a Company Limited by Guarantee and at the same time create a proper Trustee body and advisory Council. This is nearly all done. It hasn’t been painless as we need to deal at the moment with two Charity regulators on the island of Great Britain (Scotland and England and Wales) plus keep an eye on the situation on the island of Ireland where there are two separate jurisdictions (although mercifully a still somewhat simpler charity regime in each). Inevitably there has been an avalanche of paperwork and registrations including the complete overhaul of our direct debit system. We need to thank Clive Lovatt and Gwynn Ellis for all this. In both cases they have managed to create a new system while managing our day to day needs. Well done chaps!

Stage 2 was basically a review of our Strategy and Operations led by Jane Houldsworth, our new Head of Operations, in conjunction with our Head of Science, Kevin Walker. That was completed shortly after the period under review and is presently being considered in detail by the Trustees – at heart it is about better identifying what our membership in particular and botany in general need from us, how we can use our resources better and how we organise ourselves to make it easy to attract further resources. Stage 3 is identifying new funding for our work in the light of pressures on Central Government now that we can demonstrate our new and improved structure and strategy to funders. That is very much underway and there are promising signs. Between them, stages 2 and 3 will enable us to undertake projects such as the forthcoming Atlas 2020 plus put further resources into much needed training of field botanists. Thank you Jane and Kevin and all who have contributed to that.

Our results
Usually this document provides you with certified extracts of the full annual accounts for the charity. This year presents difficulties as activities were divided into a 10-month period in the Botanical Society of the British Isles, and a five-month period in the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, which has adopted 31 March as its accounting date for various practical reasons. For simplicity, non-statutory accounts are presented in consistent form here as if there had been no change of legal status.

The basic position is that we managed to do very well with our investment portfolio and that, together with some generous legacies and donations, has enabled us to go some way towards balancing our budget while undergoing a period of change and before accessing the additional funding we are aiming for. We are particularly grateful to Sir David Dupree, Professor George Swan, Dr Richard Pankhurst and Joan Duncan for remembering us in their wills.

In more detail the 15-month accounts show that we spent £155,918 more than we earned in carrying out our charitable activities. After investment income capital gains and legacies this figure reduced to £20,247, somewhat less than 2% of our reserves. As indicated in the 2012 Annual Review we had anticipated spending £90,000 for the calendar year 2013, which would have been £112,500 for the 15 month period. That figure had been arrived at before establishing direct and ancillary costs of the reorganisation, the strategic review and certain other investments we made in field staff, training etc. We anticipate that next year will show a similar position as we are continuing to invest some of our funds in broadening our activities – mindful that this is the best way of attracting other funders to help us and that it is our duty as a charity to use our funds for our charitable purposes not simply accumulate them.

We are very grateful to the late Allan Hammerschlag that the Society’s reserves are strong enough to enable us to invest this kind of money in our future.

Antony Timmins
Treasurer
The Society gratefully acknowledges grants from Natural Resources Wales (formerly Countryside Council for Wales), Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage.

The Society also wishes to thank all those members who have served, both nationally and regionally, as officers, on committees, as editors and indexers, in leading and arranging meetings, and as assistant secretaries and minuting secretaries; and the many members who have participated in surveys, prepared reports and read papers.

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Many of these volunteers have served for very many years, and, whilst these are only a selection, the society notes the sad deaths during 2013 of Peter Sell, Richard Pankhurst, Eric Philp, Dick Brummitt, Jack Donovan, David Dupree, Nigel Hepper, Paul Jarvis, Peter Sell and Tony Smith.

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