



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

Notice is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of members of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland will be held at 2.00 p.m. on Saturday 25 November 2017 in the Flett Lecture Theatre of the Natural History Museum, London.

Agenda (with new officer profiles)	pages 1 – 5
Summary of resolutions	page 5
Proxies	page 5

AGENDA

1. *Chair's welcome, apologies for absence and opening remarks.* The Chair, **Ian Denholm**, will introduce those present beside him, drawing attention to the recent change of Honorary General Secretary - **Chris Metherell** retiring from the Board of Trustees ahead of taking office as President - and **Delyth Williams** being appointed from amongst the Trustees in accordance with the Articles of Association.

The Chair will then announce apologies for absence and describe the content and conduct of the meeting and the members' participation in it.

2. *Approval of the Minutes of the last AGM.* Members will be asked to approve the minutes of the third AGM of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, held on 26 November 2016.
3. *Annual Review.* After a report by the Chair on the activities and outcomes during the year under review and of more recent achievements and future plans, members will be invited to adopt the fourth Annual Review of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, covering the year ended 31 March 2017, as distributed to members with the September 2017 issue of *BSBI News* and available to download on the '[About BSBI](#)' page of the Society's website.
4. *Annual Report and Accounts.* A presentation will be given on the Annual Report and Accounts and other financial matters. Members will be invited to adopt the fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, covering the year ended 31 March 2017.

Summary accounts with a financial report formed part of the 2017 Annual Review distributed with the September 2017 issue of *BSBI News*. The full 2017 Annual Report and Accounts, from which the summary was compiled, is on the [BSBI](#) and Charity Commission websites and includes an un-modified report by the Society's Independent Examiners.

5. *Independent Examiners / Auditors.* By reference to company and charity law, and BSBI's

Articles of Association, an audit of the 31 March 2018 Annual Report and Accounts will be required if it is requested by the members or Trustees, or if the Society's gross income for the year or its net assets at the year-end exceed statutory thresholds.

The Trustees propose the re-appointment of WMT LLP of St Albans, acting through Elizabeth Irvine FCA, as Independent Examiner or Auditor, whichever is required. The Trustees also seek approval to fix the remuneration of the Independent Examiner or Auditor.

6. *Confirmation of President and retirement of President-elect from the Board of Trustees.* The Chair will explain that **Chris Metherell**, currently a Trustee, who became President-elect at the 2016 AGM, automatically becomes BSBI President at the close of the 2017 AGM. Constitutionally, the BSBI President is also Chair of Council and to preserve independence, he will retire from the Board. As earlier explained, he has handed over the office of Honorary General Secretary, a position reserved by the Society's Articles of Association, to a member of the Board of Trustees.
7. *Retirement and election of Trustees.* After a long and distinguished service to the Society **David Pearman** is retiring from the Board of Trustees. As earlier indicated, **Chris Metherell** is also retiring from the Board of Trustees to preserve independence in the office of President. After these two retirements the Board is left with six Trustees.

Ian Denholm retires by rotation and has indicated his willingness to serve for a further term, as nominated by **Delyth Williams** and **Sarah Whild**. The members are invited to re-elect **Ian Denholm** as a Trustee for a further term.

With the unanimous approval of the Board of Trustees, five new Trustees are proposed by **Ian Denholm** (Chair of the Board) and **Delyth Williams** (Honorary General Secretary) and each has consented to serve if elected. Profiles are given below in alphabetical order of surname. Subject to agreement at the meeting, the proposal to elect the five as Trustees will be taken together. Their appointment would leave the Board with 11 members (maximum 12).

John Faulkner

John Faulkner obtained a PhD from Oxford University on the biology of *Carex*, and then joined the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland working on crop agronomy and genetics. His interest in wildlife conservation led to him becoming the first chair of the Ulster Trust for Nature Conservation, and subsequently taking up a senior position in the Department for Environment for Northern Ireland. He has been a member of BSBI since 1987, serving as the Society's Irish Field Meetings Secretary from 2006 to 2014, and more recently as Chair of the BSBI Committee for Ireland. He has been BSBI Vice-county Recorder for Co. Armagh since 1991, and is joint author of the definitive *Natural History of Ulster* (2011). John has served as BSBI President since November 2015 and will relinquish this post at the 2017 AGM.

Alastair Fitter FRS

Alastair Fitter is a botanist and ecologist and Emeritus Professor of Ecology at the University of York, where he was formerly Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research. His research focused on the ecology of roots and mycorrhizal symbioses, and on the biological impacts of climate change in relation to both carbon cycling and flowering phenology. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2005. He has written a number of natural history guides, some jointly with his father Richard Fitter, including two editions of *The Wild Flowers of Britain and Ireland* (2003 and 2013) illustrated by Marjorie Blamey. He is currently Chair of the Trustees of the Yorkshire Arboretum and a trustee of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

Sandra Knapp

Sandra Knapp obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Botany from Pomona College, in Claremont, California and her PhD in 1986 from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. She is a specialist on the taxonomy of the nightshade family, Solanaceae, and has spent much time in the field collecting plants. She came to the Natural History Museum, London, in 1992 to manage the international project Flora Mesoamericana - a synoptic inventory of the approximately 18,000 species of plants of southern Mexico and the isthmus of Central America. She is also the author of several popular books on the history of science and botanical exploration, including the award-winning *Potted Histories* (2004). She is the author of more than 200 peer-reviewed scientific papers and actively involved in promoting the role of taxonomy worldwide. Dr. Knapp is Vice-President of the International Association of Plant Taxonomy and an elected member of the councils of Fauna and Flora International, the Global Plants Initiative, Organization Pro-Flora Neotropica, and the Tropical Biology Association and she is on the editorial board of several high profile taxonomic journals. In 2009 she was honored by the Peter Raven Outreach Award by the American Society of Plant Taxonomists for her work in public engagement with science and the UK National Biodiversity Network's John Burnett Medal for her work in biodiversity. In 2016 she was awarded a Linnean Medal by the Linnean Society of London, for service to science.

Christopher Miles

Christopher Miles has an MSc in plant taxonomy and a PhD in bryology, both from the University of Reading. He retired in 2017 as area manager in Southern Scotland for Scottish Natural Heritage after 18 years in that role and a total of 24 years with SNH. His geographical area covered the Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway, and encompassed the delivery of protected site work, development advice, support for land management through agri-environment programmes or management agreements and the management of National Nature Reserves. Prior to moving to Scotland in 1993 he spent seven years as Conservation Manager for the Essex Wildlife Trust. He has been BSBI Vice-county Recorder for Dumfriesshire since 1996 and served for several years as a member of BSBI's Scottish Committee, including a period as Chair. In June 2017 he became a Director of the Southern Uplands Partnership - a community-based charity promoting the conservation of the environment of the South of Scotland and its people.

Anthony David Thomas

After serving as Warden and Director of Studies at field centres run by the Field Studies Council (FSC) in Snowdonia and at Slapton Ley, Devon, Anthony Thomas was appointed Chief Executive and Director of FSC in 1984 and served in these roles until 2009. He has extensive experience of chairing and participating in Education Boards and Committees. Current appointments include Chair of the Geographical Association's Field Studies Working Group, Member of Executive of Council for Environmental Education, Chair of Council of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Chair of RSPB's Communications Committee, Member of Council for the Royal Geographical Society, and Chair of Executive for the Forest Education Initiative. Anthony was awarded an OBE for services to education in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2007.

8. *Retirement and election of Members of Council.* **Martin Godfrey, Trevor James and Matt Parratt** retire by rotation and are available for re-election. All three have indicated their willingness to serve for a further term as a Member of Council and their re-election has been proposed by **Chris Metherell** and seconded by **Delyth Williams**. The members are invited to re-elect these three Members of Council for a further term.

Two additional Members of Council have been validly nominated and have consented to serve if elected. Subject to agreement at the meeting, the proposal to elect them both as Members of Council will be taken together.

Mark Duffell has been proposed by **Sarah Whild** and seconded by **Chris Metherell**. Mark has been a member of the BSBI Training & Education Committee for over seven years, and is a committed field botanist keen to develop and champion the field skills needed for future generations of botanists. He runs a consultancy specialising in botanical surveying and training, teaching for a range of universities, organisations and charities. The Institute of Horticulture's Young Horticulturist of the Year 2001, he is currently the BSBI referee for Garden Shrubs. He lives in Shropshire and is actively engaged in recording for the Shropshire Botanical Society.

Anne Haden, has been proposed by **Susan Synnott**, BSBI Vice-county Recorder for Sark and seconded by **Tim Wright**, Chairman of the Botany Section of the Société Jersiaise. Anne has been Secretary of the Botany Section of the Société Jersiaise for five years and became BSBI Vice-county Recorder for Jersey in 2013 following her retirement from teaching.

9. *Election of Honorary Members.* Two members have been nominated with the approval of the Board of Trustees. The members are invited to elect the following as Honorary Members.

Bob Ellis, recently retired as BSBI Projects Officer, has been proposed by **Chris Metherell** and seconded by **David Pearman**; see his tribute in *BSBI News* for September 2017, pages 67-68.

Trevor James, Receiving Editor of *BSBI News* since 2008, author of the *Flora of Hertfordshire* (2009) and joint Vice-county Recorder for Hertfordshire has been proposed by **Ian Denholm** and seconded by Gwynn Ellis; see his tribute in *BSBI News* for September 2017, page 10.

- 10. Permanent Standing and Country Committees.* A vote of thanks will be proposed for retiring and continuing members of the four Permanent Standing Committees and the three Country Committees.
- 11. Journal, Newsletters and BSBI Handbooks.* A vote of thanks will be proposed for the work of the Editor and Editorial Board of the *New Journal of Botany*, the editors of and contributors to *BSBI News*, the *Irish Botanical News*, *BSBI Scottish Newsletter*, and the *Welsh Bulletin*, and to the authors and editor of *Violas of Britain and Ireland*, BSBI Handbook no.17, published in March 2017.
- 12. Any Other Business.* As notified to the Company Secretary and approved by the BSBI President and Honorary General Secretary before the commencement of the meeting.

SUMMARY OF FORMAL RESOLUTIONS

1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM held on 26 November 2016.
2. To adopt the 31 March 2017 Annual Review.
3. To adopt the 31 March 2017 Annual Report and Accounts.
4. To re-appoint WMT LLP, acting through Elizabeth Irvine FCA, as Independent Examiner or Auditor, as the case may be.
5. To allow the Trustees to fix the remuneration of the Independent Examiner or Auditor.
6. To re-elect **Ian Denholm** as a Trustee to serve for a further term of three years.
7. To approve the motion for election of five named Trustees through a single resolution.
8. To elect **John Faulkner, Alastair Fitter, Sandy Knapp, Chris Miles** and **Anthony David Thomas** as Trustees.
9. To re-elect **Martin Godfrey, Trevor James** and **Matt Parratt** as Members of Council.
10. To approve the motion for election of two named Members of Council through a single resolution.
11. To elect **Mark Duffell** and **Anne Haden** as Members of Council.
12. To elect **Bob Ellis** and **Trevor James** as Honorary Members.

PROXIES

Any member wishing to vote by proxy should submit a request to do so in writing (including by email) to the Company Secretary at any time in advance of the meeting. The proxy should indicate how to vote on each resolution, or that votes should be in favour of all resolutions.

By Order of the Board

4 November 2017

Dr C. M. Lovatt, Company Secretary

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