

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

Note from Jane Houldsworth (BSBI Head of Operations) and David Pearman (BSBI Trustee)

From Jane: Alex Lockton's employment at BSBI ended at the end of March. I would like to thank him for his years of service, which David Pearman describes below.

If you have any questions which you would usually take to Alex perhaps you could direct them as follows:

- For edits/ additions to the website please contact Jane Houldsworth or Louise Marsh (jane.houldsworth@bsbi.org or louise.marsh@bsbi.org).
- For botanical data please contact your BSBI Country Officer (Scotland: jim.mcintosh@bsbi.org, Ireland: maria.long@bsbi.org, Wales: polly.spencer-vellacott@bsbi.org, England: pete.stroh@bsbi.org) or Quentin Groom qgroom@reticule.co.uk.
- For general questions please contact Louise Marsh (louise.marsh@bsbi.org).

The recorders conference will go ahead on the first weekend in September in Shrewsbury. Details will be announced in due course on the BSBI website and in the monthly e-newsletter to recorders.

From David: As Jane has noted above by the time that you read this Alex will have stepped down from his post. Alex first came to us as a contractor but more recently as an employee and off and on has been with us for nearly 20 years. The BSBI owes him a great debt for all his enthusiasm, for his ideas and initiatives and for the contacts that he built up and fostered. My role, if there was one, was to try and meld these initiatives into the possible and ensure funding from within and from without.

His roles ranged from organising the Recorders' conference and newsletter to the Website, and the digitising of masses of our archives, but it was as our 'Co-ordinator' that many would have known him best, since he arrived not long after the first PCs and saw so many of the vice-county recorders and members through to competence. His initiatives have included the axiophyte concept, the concept and development of the Distribution Database, the development of Herbaria@Home and, of course, he has contributed a great deal of his own botanical data.

We wish him well.

BSBI eNews

I am taking over from Alex Lockton as editor of the monthly BSBI *eNews*. It is read by BSBI Recorders, Referees, Staff and Committee members. I'd be really pleased to have short contributions from anyone on topics of interest and relevance to fellow readers. It is generally published on the 1st of each month, so contributions should ideally arrive around the 21st of the preceding month. Please send them to me, Jim McIntosh, jim.mcintosh@bsbi.org

We are sending this edition of BSBI *eNews* out to all BSBI Recorders, including Recorders Emeritus, Referees, and all others on the BSBI mailings spreadsheet, which Alex previously used for *eNews* distribution. If you'd prefer not to receive the monthly *eNews*, or would like me to use an alternative or new email address, please get in touch. Previous *eNews* at least as far back as 2011 are on the new VC Recorders' Dropbox folder, to which you are very welcome to have access – just drop me a line.

BSBI Atlas 2020 Progress

Just short of **1,000,000** records have been added to the BSBI DataBase (DDb) for 2015. This is an **amazing** achievement made all the more impressive by the fact that of the 153 Vice-counties, one third apparently contributed fewer than 300 records. Or, in some cases, none at all! There are many and varied reasons for this of course – such as the VC has yet to complete 2015 digitisation and send it to the DDb, perhaps because help is required with digitisation, or the Recorder is changing recording program, or the VC is vacant, etc.

However, it may be that some records digitised in 2015 did not, for whatever reason, make it to the DDb. To ensure that your records have made it safely, it would be useful if you could check that all the records you've entered for last year have actually arrived. You can do that very easily by logging onto the DDb, and clicking on the 'my county' or 'my mapmate' links and comparing the figures given for 2015 with those at your end.

By the way if there is a major discrepancy and you use MapMate then the answer is always the same – you must Reset your Sync Record (Replication>Special>Reset Sync Record), having first checked that the filters are set correctly for your sync partner (the hub) and then re-synch. If you need any help with any of this please contact your Country Officer.

Finally, a message from Pete Stroh; it would be hugely appreciated if anyone still entering 2015 data could make a final push to clear the decks and then forward your records to the DDb. Spring has sprung, but it does occasionally rain in April, so it's not too late! This will greatly help me, but more to the point will allow you to use a fully up to date DDb for Atlas 2020 coverage planning!

Atlas 2020 VC Coverage maps

You can now see how Atlas 2020 progress is shaping up in your Vice-county by looking at the map in one of these folders: [Maps for GB](#) and [Maps for Ireland](#). (The GB folder is 30MB and that for Ireland is 10MB, so if you have a slow connection, they may take a few moments to download.)

In each of the folders there is a "Read me" document that gives further details. But in a nutshell, there is one map for each VC in GB and Ireland that shows the number of taxa recorded post 1999 per tetrad. They were created by Andy Amphlett using data downloaded from the DDb on 31st March 2016 and will be periodically updated.

Irish BSBI Conference 2016

A very successful and enjoyable conference was held at Glasnevin Botanic Gardens, Dublin in mid-March, thanks to Maria Long, the BSBI Irish Officer, and members of the Committee for Ireland. There was a series of interactive workshops and a number of great talks. Several of which are available on the [BSBI Ireland](#) page to download and view.

New Journal of Botany

The latest issue of New Journal of Botany has now been published and BSBI members can access it via a link on the [BSBI homepage](#) to the members-only section of the BSBI web site or go direct using www.bsbi.org.uk/NJB. If you add it to your Favourites Bar, and allow your browser to remember your logon details, it will be very simple to return to it in future. Please email njb@bsbi.org.uk if you have forgotten the username and password.

Membership List & Yearbook

The BSBI Membership list will no longer be printed in the Yearbook, but will be available as a pdf in the same members-only section. Back issues of the Yearbook are also available electronically in the members-only section, which is handy if you are caught short without the paper copy.

BSBI Publicity

If there are any local recording, training events or Bioblitzes taking place in your vice-county this year, it would be great to publicise the BSBI at them, and may even bear fruit in the discovery of previously undiscovered botanists in your county. We can send you BSBI material for distribution or display if you wish. To enquire about BSBI membership prospectuses, BSBI bookmarks, leaflets on learning about plants, display copies of BSBI News and New Journal of Botany, the BSBI pop-up banner or range of BSBI posters (from general botany to Atlas 2020 to forthcoming BSBI Handbooks), please contact: louise.marsh@bsbi.org

State of the World's Plants symposium, 11 – 12 May 2016

You might be interested in this symposium at the **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew**. For more information, including the program and booking information, please visit the symposium [website](#).