

BSBI

2010

Scottish Newsletter

No 32



Trifolium fragiferum

BSBI SCOTTISH NEWSLETTER

Number 32

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Editorial

Scottish Newsletters are exchanged with the Botanical Society of Scotland *BSS News*, the *Welsh Bulletin* and the *Irish Botanical News*. It is always useful to see how others 'do it'.

We despatch 70 to members living furth of Scotland. Most of these have opened an account, but some receive complimentary copies on account of their position in the Society. This year, for the first time we will be sending a copy across the Atlantic, to a member living in Canada.

In the last edition I asked if other members had seen unusual habitats for 'Meadow' Saxifrage. Two members kindly informed me of sites such as wall tops, as a rock-ledge plant on the coast and on a hill summit at 1393 ft.

As 2010 has been designated International Year of Biodiversity I thought it appropriate to ask our Scottish Officer for a report with relevance to the BSBI in Scotland. I was delighted to learn that it was forming so much a part of our own 2010 syllabus.

The subject for the front cover was chosen to compliment the article on *Trifolium fragiferum* by David Pearman. It has been drawn by my daughter Elspeth Lindsay, mainly from a photograph which we took at Borth, Cardiganshire (VC 46) in 1973 and partly from a specimen which we collected in Anglesey (VC 52) back in 1966. Neither of us has seen Strawberry Clover in Scotland!

The list on page 39 is put in as a space filler, but I hope of some interest. I had started it some time ago, thinking of possible cover illustrations. It is appreciated that there will be others (any offers?). Daughter EL immediately said, "Altnaharra Sedge"- but the book I am quoting gives String Sedge for *Carex chordorrhiza*.

I am grateful to John Hawell for proof reading, Gwynn Ellis for supplying the address labels and Jackie Muscott for organising the photocopying and despatch of the Newsletter. Please let me have items by the end of February. Now that I have a new computer, I am no longer able to accept submissions by floppy disc. CD is fine, but my daughter Lorna now kindly acts as recipient for E-mails as below.

Lorna.macpherson@ntlworld.com

Peter Macpherson, "Ben Alder", 15 Lubnaig Road, Glasgow G43 2RY

**Chairman's Report at the
BSBI Annual Meeting, Perth, 7 November 2009**

CHRIS MILES

The Scottish Committee held three meetings over the past year. As well as the not insignificant task of organising the annual meeting and the field meetings we discussed a range of other issues.

We continued with others to press for action on *Phytophthora* control by Scottish Government as part of the approach to invasive non natives. Lindsay Mackinlay NTS has drafted an article which will appear on the web site and in January's newsletter.

David Welsh was invited to give a quick update to the meeting on the situation regarding the Menie Golf Course development in which he noted the slow progress with the scheme to date and the strict conditions that would need to be adhered to as the scheme progressed that should secure the main populations of vulnerable plants.

The Committee had given its support to Mark Watson who has been championing the Plant Talk Scotland forum. Mark gave a quick introduction to the site at the meeting.

The Committee agreed that the principle of sharing records between BSBI and Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) was highly desirable for at least two reasons. Jeff Waddell, FCS ecological advisor, was himself generating interesting new records on FCS land that VCRs would welcome. The FCS target of increased planting across Scotland required a better relationship and flow of information to ensure botanically sensitive areas were flagged up before they were damaged.

The Committee agreed the principle of recruiting a volunteer to work with Jim as a publicity officer. Anyone interested in helping promote BSBI activity should contact Jim at the Botanic Gardens.

We considered a number of changes to the VCR network over the year. One issue discussed and agreed is that the process of recruitment of new VCRs should be consistent. We agreed that we needed to set out clearly the steps to be followed in what must be an open and fair process.

Elaine Bullard had retired after 46 years as VCR for Orkney. John Crossley has now taken this role. Jeff Waddell and Alastair Ross have resigned from Easter-

ness. This leaves a joint recorder vacancy to join Sarah Smyth. Douglas McKean has indicated his desire to retire from Midlothian after 30 years. This vacancy will be advertised although we already know of someone who is interested. Douglas indicated his willingness to continue to identify specimens. Jill Smart became joint recorder with Dave Lang in Ayrshire. Duncan Donald became recorder for Wester Ross. After a long vacancy we are hoping to appoint someone to South Aberdeenshire.

The Committee noted that 2010 is International Year of Biodiversity and we need to think about the opportunities this gives for promoting the work of BSBI. As the President has already mentioned there will be a major conference at the RBGE in 2012 to mark 50 years from the publication of the first Atlas.

BSBI/BSS Scottish Annual Meeting, 2009

CHRIS JEFFREE

The Scottish Annual Meeting on 7th November, 2009, was held in the Queen's Hotel, Perth and was very well attended. Even with 106 delegates the conference room was large enough to have space to set out stands for posters and exhibits. Summerfield Books were in attendance as usual, offering a large number of new and irresistible botanical books plus a range of other tempting products, such as LED-illuminated hand lenses.

The delegates were welcomed to the meeting by **Chris Miles, Chairman of the BSBI's Scottish Committee**, and then **Michael Braithwaite, President of BSBI**, outlined BSBI activities during the year. The Spring Conference in Berwick-upon-Tweed, focusing on alien trees and shrubs, had been a success, and a report about the establishment of alien trees in the countryside is now available on the BSBI website. He announced an intended 2010 spring visit to Kindrogan to talk about Rare Plant Registers.

Several new books have been published in the BSBI Handbook series, No. 12, *Fumitories*, by RJ Murphy and No. 13, *Grasses*, by Tom Cope and Alan Gray in addition to No. 11, *Water Starworts of Europe*, by RV Lansdown that appeared in 2008. *Fumitories* breaks the mould by being published in full colour on glossy paper, and is most attractive. *The Vegetative Key to the British Flora*, by J Poland & EJ Clement was reported to have sold 2800 copies already. The eagerly-anticipated *Service Trees, Rowans and Whitebeams*, by Tim Rich and colleagues, is in draft and expected in 2010. A conference is planned for Edinburgh to celebrate the *New Atlas of the British flora* and the 50-year anniversary of the original Atlas. Mr. Braithwaite looked forward to the *next* atlas and encouraged delegates to get out and square-bash at the tetrad scale.

Deborah Long, Conservation Officer of Plantlife Scotland, reported that Plantlife was under some financial constraint but were continuing with their surveys of Twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*) and the impacts of juniper management. Many of their publications can be downloaded as pdf files from <http://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/plantlife-saving-species-publications.html> and include a new management guide, *Managing seashores for*

Sea Loch Egg Wrack (2009). In April, 2009, Plantlife launched a new survey of Sea Loch Egg Wrack or Wig Wrack (*Ascophyllum nodosum* ead *mackayi*), a distinctive golden-brown seaweed that grows unattached in sheltered sea-lochs. Species dossiers are detailed reports on species which are part of Plantlife's endangered species conservation programme, 'Back from the Brink'. Plantlife has published a new report called: *The Ghost Orchid Declaration*, in response to the recent declaration that the species is extinct. This is intended to be a call-to-arms to governments, Members of Parliament, conservation organisations and the general public to ensure that we do not lose any more of our irreplaceable flora. The declaration can be downloaded from their web site. Plantlife organises a range of walks and fungal forays aimed at people without specialised knowledge, advertised through the BSBI website.

Chris Jeffree, President of Botanical Society of Scotland, summarised the Society's activities during 2009. Membership had remained steady, with some welcome increase in student membership, and the Society's finances are healthy, although the new journal is likely to make demands on the budget for a year or two yet. An interesting and varied programme of lectures in Edinburgh, organised by Maria Chamberlain, had noticeably increased attendance at the meetings, and the BSS is focusing on ways to increase participation further.

The new journal, *Plant Ecology and Diversity*, has now been selected for listing in the 2011 *Journal Citation Reports* and *Science Citation Index Expanded*. *PED* will have an Impact Factor from 2011, which is seen as vital for its survival and success as a scientific journal. *PED* articles are now listed on *Web of Knowledge* and, just as gratifying, so are articles from the *Botanical Journal of Scotland*, the archive back to Volume 1 (1844) of the *Transactions of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh* having been scanned by *PED*'s publisher, Taylor and Francis, and made available on the Informaworld website. See <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~db=all~content=t793409773>

It is twenty years since the last BSE Student Symposium was held, a series that provided students with the opportunity to present the results of their research in a supportive, low-pressure meeting of their peers. Thanks to the enthusiasm and energy of Alex Twyford the series has now been resurrected. The BSS Student Symposium held on the 22nd September, 2009, at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh was a great success, with sponsorship from RBGE, Dynamic Earth and the Scotch Whisky Experience. Thirty-one delegates from 11 institutes attended a packed day of talks covering a wide range of botanical topics, from ecology and evolution through to molecular studies. The symposium highlighted the current focus of Scottish research institutes on the topical issues of climate change and habitat degradation, whilst also covering potential routes to maintain Scotland's biodiversity. The symposium shows the promising diversity of current whole-plant botanical research in Scotland. Abstracts of the meeting's talks, submitted by the presenters at the symposium, can be downloaded from the BSS website. Alex is currently working to obtain external funding to support a larger-scale meeting in 2011.

The Society's programme of research meetings has continued with a joint AAB/BSS International meeting in Grantham in December, 2009, on 'Positive Plant Microbial Interactions in Relation to Plant Performance and Ecosystem Function'. A 3-day international research meeting on 'Phenology: Plant ecology and diversity' is planned for 7th – 9th April, 2010, at the Scottish Agricultural College, Edinburgh. The meeting aims to

cover a broad range of topics from observational phenological recording, to understanding of the mechanistic basis of the timing of flowering and the ecological implications of climate change. These meetings provide scientific papers for *Plant Ecology and Diversity*, and help to ensure its success. Plans are underway to re-introduce the *Transactions of the Botanical Society of Scotland* as an electronic journal. The plan is to provide members with some of the features of the *BJS* and its predecessor, *TBSE*, which cannot be catered for in either *BSS News* or *PED*. These include less formal scientific reports and opinion papers, field reports of local and Scottish species records or vegetation surveys, extended abstracts, papers and illustrations from the BSS Lecture and Field Meeting programmes, and papers from the Student Symposium. A new BSS website is under development, which will have a more professional look and feel, and will provide members with more facilities including the capability to pay their membership subscriptions online and the capacity to host the new *Transactions*.

After the coffee break, **Jim McIntosh, BSBI Scottish Officer**, gave his Annual Report, the first of the new 3-year Scottish Officer project which began in 2008. A full programme of field meetings was organised across Scotland during 2009, including a series of four beginners' meetings at Arthur's Seat, Shewalton Sandpit, Whitehills and Whitlaw Mosses, that were attended by a total of 70 people.

BSBI's work on the production of Rare Plant Registers has been pushing ahead, promoted by a weekend workshop in Kindrogan in April, a report of which is in preparation. One RPR was produced for VC 90 (Angus), and another, for VC 106 (Easter Ross), was updated. A series of workshops is planned for March-to-August, 2010, to promote better understanding and better recording of under-recorded groups. Despite their importance to Scotland's landscape and economy, conifers are rather poorly understood by botanists and consequently under-recorded, so there will be two conifer workshops in March to be run by Cameron Crook and Jim McIntosh. A weekend *Alchemilla* Workshop led by Margaret Bradshaw is planned for 17th – 18th July in Glen Clova (VC 90) where the VCR has recently found *Alchemilla glaucescens*. The group will also look for *Alchemilla wichurae* and other species on The Cairnwell, 933 m, Glenshee. On 7th August Jim will lead a workshop 'Introduction to Sedges' (sedge-beginners welcome) at Whitlaw Mosses (VC 80), a series of basin mires with a diverse sedge flora including *Carex paniculata* and *C. diandra* (Greater and Lesser Tussock-sedge), *C. lasiocarpa* (Slender Sedge) and *Carex limosa* (Bog-sedge).

The Threatened Plant Project launched by BSBI's head of research in 2008 had continued, with Narrow-leaved Helleborine (*Cephalanthera longifolia*), Frog Orchid (*Coeloglossum viride*), Maiden Pink (*Dianthus deltoides*), Heath Cudweed (*Gnaphalium sylvaticum*), Opposite-leaved Pondweed (*Groenlandia densiflora*), Tubular Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe fistulosa*) and Wood Bitter-vetch (*Vicia orobus*) selected for study in 2009. TPP is to continue and species for 2010 will include Corn Marigold, Holly Fern and Sibbaldia.

Site Condition Monitoring of SSSIs is a significant part of the Scottish Officer's remit, the aim being to re-find previously-reported species and populations, and noting evidence of regeneration or decline. Jim is currently responsible for SCM of 33 sites, a third of SNH's vascular plant monitoring programme. New SCM surveys were undertaken on Carn Gorm and Meall Garbh, St. Cyrus and Kinnabar Links, Sunart and Upper Solway

Flats, together with follow-up work on the 2008 surveys at Glen Strathfarrar and Tulach Hill. A contract was obtained, through the Scottish Project, to extract the 22,500 species records from the 1999 - 2005 SCM reports. These data will shortly be available to VCRs via the BRC Vascular Plant Database and the NBN Gateway.

The project to computerise the Scottish BSBI Vice-county records has now been running for five years, and some 500,000 records have been digitised, with about 200,000 to go to reach the target. This is a remarkable achievement. The work, which is funded by SNH and the Esmé Fairbairn Foundation, is the first step towards producing checklists and floras and the data feed into the BSBI Maps scheme webpages which update the maps in the New Atlas. The data will be available to conservationists online via the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Gateway, helping them to monitor and conserve rare plant populations. Jim noted that some of the hardest datasets have been left to the end, but nevertheless hopes that all important datasets can be computerised.

Robin Payne, SNH policy and Advice Manager spoke on SNH's perspective on the SCM programme. He noted that there are one hundred and fifty SSSIs designated for their vascular plant assemblages, and that their monitoring is split between SNH and commercial contractors with 32 sites being monitored by volunteers. SCM is the way government finds out whether the protected-areas system is working or not. SCM data can be fed directly into the developing suite of Rare Plant Registers. BSBI receive £35k from SNH in grant support for BSBI's work on SCM. The synergistic association of SNH with BSS, RBGE and BSBI Scotland has resulted in it being referred to as 'the Scottish Model'. There will be a third cycle of SCM, probably focusing on sites where populations are seen as particularly threatened or at risk. Robin thanked BSBI members for their help on the programme so far.

Heather McHaffie described some of the current projects at the RBGE, which is taking a lead on Target 8 of the 'Global Strategy for Plant Conservation'. The aim is to bring at least 60% of the UK's threatened native species into *ex-situ* collections and propagate them at the National Botanic Gardens of Scotland with the objective of re-introducing at least 10% of the species back into their native habitats.

With the discovery of *Fumaria reuteri* in Cambeltown and later in Kirriemuir and St. Cyrus, near Montrose, the six Scottish species of *Fumaria* have increased to seven, which will be the subject of a workshop on 9th June, 2010, at RBGE. The species was previously only known from the Isle of Wight and southern England.

RBGE runs a 'Certificate in Field Botany' course that provides students with basic plant ID and survey skills for field botanical recording in a 60-hour course of eight taught sessions. The individual modules can be tailored to suit the needs of any user group, with a general botanical slant, or a focus on local floristic elements, specialist habitat types or taxonomic groups, fungi, lichens or survey techniques such as the UK National Vegetation Classification (NVC) system. Options include a 7-day residential field course on the Isle of Eigg and a 14-day residential 'Tropical Botany Field Course' at Las Cuevas Research Station in Belize.

Species Action Framework provides funding from the Scottish Government for studies

of a small number of plant species. Currently these are *Pyrola media*, *Platanthera bifolia*, *Melampyrum sylvaticum* and *Salix lanata*. *Salix lanata* occurs in only thirteen areas, the very fragmented distribution resulting in problems with seed set and viability. Populations in Corrie Sharroch that had been deer-fenced for 18 years have shown little regeneration, mainly due to competition from ungrazed vegetation.

Alistair Godfrey reported on *Calamagrostis purpurea* (Scandinavian Small-reed), a UK nationally rare species, recorded in only six localities in Scotland, and which appears to be declining. It is an apomict derived by hybridisation between *C. canescens* and *C. epigeos*. Our plant is subsp. *phragmitoides*. The plant may be under-recorded so Alistair urged us to look out for it. He demonstrated the type of habitat in which to search, especially winter-flooded willow carr.

Kevin Walker discussed how to make the field records of the Threatened Plants Project available to end users, and urged that more work be done to address the question of how best to archive the data. Paper records can still be interrogated today, but it is important to consider how the paper backlogs of data get passed on from one VC recorder to the next. Rapid changes in digital media standards and hardware make it uncertain whether digital records made 20 years ago will be readable now. Equally, current digitised data may not survive into the future unless a strategy is adopted to ensure its survival.

In the ‘**What does the panel think**’ session, Alex Twyford asked the panel what the BSBI was doing to engage the interest of the next generation of botanists. Jim McIntosh replied that the BSBI have tended to rely on the BSS to inspire young Scottish botanists, but the BSBI generally has seen more young botanists coming to field meetings. An integrated approach is needed from SNH, Planlife Scotland, BSBI, BSS and RBGE – the Scottish model again! – to raise awareness. It was reported that Caithness has a website for the county with a biodiversity thread featuring plants, moths and cetaceans, that serves to involve young people who are otherwise isolated, either geographically or socially. The suggestion was raised that local recording centres might be set up so that schools could become involved with local recording and plant identification. Mark Watson drew our attention to Plant Talk Scotland, a blog for people interested in Scottish Botany, that can be accessed at <http://bsbiscotland.easyphpbb.com/index.php>

To close the meeting, **Richard Ennos, University of Edinburgh**, gave a lecture entitled: *Evolutionary interactions between plant taxa, and their implications for conservation*. Richard noted that there are few Scottish endemics, because of the glacial tabula rasa, but there are some, and these probably evolved *in situ*. The Arran Whitebeam, *Sorbus arranensis*, is apomictic, forming clonal populations from viable unfertilised seed, and results from a fertile cross between *Sorbus aucuparia* and the Rock Whitebeam, *Sorbus rupicola*. He made the case for conservation not only of the threatened plants, but also of the evolving systems that gave rise to them.

Acknowledgement. This report has been modified, with permission from author & editor, from the original version which appeared in *BSS News* No. 94, March 2010.

Draft Minutes of the BSBI Scottish AGM held at the Queen's Hotel, Perth, at 12 noon on Saturday 7th November 2009

Welcome

The Chairman, Chris Miles, welcomed all to the BSBI Scottish AGM.

Apologies

Apologies were received from David Hawker and Morven Murray.

Minutes of AGM 2008

The minutes of the 2008 AGM (published in the Scottish Newsletter 2009 No. 31) were approved as a true record of the meeting.

Business arising

None that was not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Chairman's report

The Chairman delivered his report on the activities of the Scottish Committee and the work of the BSBI in Scotland. (For a full account see the article on page 3). As part of his report he called on David Welch VC 91 and 93, Kincardine and N. Aberdeenshire, to give a brief update on the Trump Golf Course development on the Menie Estate, Aberdeenshire, and Mark Watson to introduce the electronic discussion forum "Plant Talk", which may be accessed through the BSBI website.

Scottish Newsletter report

Peter Macpherson reminded members that the deadline for submissions for the Spring 2010 newsletter is the end of February. These include reports, articles, notices of future meeting etc. It is best to send these to Peter Macpherson electronically, either as attachments by e-mail or on a CD by post.

Regarding the last issue, thanks were expressed to John Hawell for proof reading, Gwynn Ellis for the supply of labels, and Jackie Muscott for photocopying and dispatch.

The Chairman thanked Peter Macpherson for his preparation of the Newsletter.

Field Meetings 2009 and 2010

Mark Watson reported that eight successful field meetings had taken place in 2009 with a mix of educational and more advanced approaches. These included a range of habitats, including montane, bog and island. Thanks were expressed to all the leaders. The 2010 programme is almost finalised and will shortly appear on the BSBI website and the "Plant Talk" electronic forum site and in the

forthcoming year book. Island meetings to Orkney and Uist are included. A joint meeting with BSS is planned for Ben Vane, Dunbartonshire.

Scottish Committee Nominations

Jane Jones, Mark Watson and Chris Miles were re-elected as committee members. Lindsay Mackinlay had come to the end of the three year term of office as a Committee member. He did not wish to be re-elected because of lack of time. He was willing to provide reports for the National Trust for Scotland to the committee.

AOCB

There was no other competent business and the meeting was formally closed.

Dot Dahl December 2009

BSBI Scottish Committee 2009 / 2010

Dr CJ Miles (*Chair*), Dr BR Ballinger (*Vice-chair*), Mrs D Dahl (*Hon. Sec.*), Mrs JR Jones (*Treasurer*), Dr MF Watson (*Field Secretary*), Mr MC Robinson (*Exhibition Secretary*): Mr LW Gaskell, Mr A Godfrey, Mrs Elizabeth Lavery. Representing SNH- Mr R Payne ; Botanical Society of Scotland- Mr K Harding; Plantlife- Dr D Long. Written reports from National Trust for Scotland- Mr LA Mackinlay. Attending- Mr JW McIntosh BSBI Scottish Officer.

At the AGM on 6th November 2010 Alistair Godfrey will retire and is ineligible for re-election. Nominations for the Committee, signed by two members of the Society 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 under noted at Easter Ballindalloch, Comrie, Crieff, PH6 2LY by 30th September, 2010.

Dot Dahl (Hon. Sec.) dotdahl@talk21.com

Scottish Annual Meeting 2009 – Exhibit Abstracts

In Vice-county Order

***Cotula alpina* (Hook.f.) Hook.f. (Alpine Cotula)
in North-west Yorkshire (VC 65), new to Britain and Europe**

Linda Robinson

During a field meeting in June 2009 to Kirby Malzeard Moor, an isolated grouse moor on the border of VC 64 and VC 65, a number of small inconspicuous prostrate *Cotula* plants were found scattered on well-grazed peaty gritty turf at an altitude of almost

430m. I assumed they would be *Cotula squalida* (Button Weed) which had previously been recorded in the area. However on subsequent checking they were thought to be *Cotula alpina* (Alpine Cotula) – a native to New South Wales, Australia. A specimen was collected and this tentative determination was confirmed by Eric Clement.

We have now discovered that several populations previously recorded as *Cotula squalida* in the area were actually *Cotula alpina*. The two species are very similar except that *Cotula alpina* is totally glabrous. After this additional fieldwork, *Cotula alpina* is now known to occur in a total of 21 tetrads in 4 English hectads in VC 64 and VC 65. Subsequently I learned that Anna White, Dumfries, had found *Cotula alpina* along a roadside verge near Polbain in Wester Ross, VC 105. (Also confirmed by Eric Clement). It seems likely that at least some records of the sparsely hairy *Cotula squalida* should be re-determined as the totally glabrous, but otherwise very similar *Cotula alpina*.

Some new and remarkable Cumbrian records

Geoffrey Halliday

Nine specimens were exhibited, all but one being either absent or extremely rare in Scotland. They included two garden-escapes - *Parthenocissus inserta* (False Virginia-creeper) and *Pseudofumaria alba* (Pale Corydalis), a problematic churchyard record of *Luzula forsteri* (Southern Wood-rush), *Isatis tinctoria* (Woad) and two amazing VC 69 finds of *Leonurus cardiaca* (Motherwort), not recorded since the 1870s, and *Peucedanum palustre* (Milk-parsley), a species here far removed from its East Anglian headquarters but rediscovered at its original 1871 site.

Nuclear inspection reveals unexpected orchid populations

Chris Miles

In the Summer 2008 I received a copy of a biodiversity audit for the Chaplecross nuclear power station site north of Annan, Dumfries-shire (VC 72). The site, an old magnox power station had recently stopped production and is the subject of a long decommissioning process that may last 25 years. The report contained some unexpected records including *Ophrys apifera* (Bee Orchid) new to Dumfriesshire and *Platanthera bifolia* (Lesser Butterfly-orchid). After applying for access permission and permission to use a camera I was allowed an accompanied visit in 2009 to see these populations. As they are protected by armed police they appear safe from external interference! The big question is how long have they been there?

Athletes' Village for Commonwealth Games – Site of Unusual Plant Collection

Peter Macpherson

The exhibit featured an unusual collection of plants that grow at the edge of a wood which is to become the Athletes' Village for the Commonwealth Games to be held in Glasgow in 2014.

(See article on page 21).

Notable Finds:

Calamagrostis x gracilescens. (*C. canescens x stricta*). Narrow Small-reed x Purple Small-reed. Jeff Waddell. A new site for nationally rare hybrid in VC 79.

Carex x elytroides (*C. acuta x nigra*) Slender-tufted Sedge x Common Sedge. New to VC 79.

Ceratophyllum demersum. (Rigid Hornwort). An NCR from VC 79 based on a washed up fragment.

Juncus x surrejanus Druce ex Stace & Lambinon. (*Juncus acutiflorus x articulatus*) Sharp-flowered Rush x Jointed Rush from VC 79 where it is probably widespread and under recorded. An introduced plant from VC 79 from the side of a remote forest track. Requests for id please.

Carex x decolorans (*C. nigra x bigelowii*). Stiff Sedge x Common Sedge, The Cheviot in VC 80.

Carex spicata. (Spiked Sedge). An NCR from VC 80 and possibly related to forestry.

Chrysosplenium alternifolium. (Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage). Exceptionally large leaved plants approximately twice the accepted upper limit of normal from VC 80.

Pyrola rotundifolium (Round-leaved Wintergreen). Luke Gaskell; from a new Borders habitat, VC 80.

Sisymbrium orientale (Eastern Rocket). Luke Gaskell. The first record for VC 80 for 90 years.

Berwickshire RPR Generation Two: Hectad Reports

Michael Braithwaite

Since 2007 we have been repeat-recording VC 81 Berwickshire working hectad by hectad. One of the objectives is to update the RPR and to chronicle how the populations of rare and scarce (R&S) plants have fared. Working hectad by hectad gives an obvious opportunity to re-format the data in the RPR site-by-site within hectad, rather than species-by-species within vice-county. I plan to issue this 'Second Generation' RPR over the years in parts, hectad by hectad, as each is 'finished'.

Changes at the Coast: Berwickshire Rare or Scarce Species

A series of surprising changes in locally rare or scarce species were observed along a short section of the Berwickshire coast NT77 in 2009, with more new colonisation than losses. Any guesses as to whether this is just a random event or a sign of the arrival of climate change?

Colour-coded Hawthorns

I live in an area where *Crataegus laevigata* (Midland Hawthorn) is an unfamiliar introduction and I only found out something of its frequency here after learning that it flowered about a week earlier than *C. monogyna*. That gave me a gambit only for a short period in the spring, so I have been pleased to find a gambit based on the colour of the haws that works for a period in early autumn.

Variation and Hybridisation in *Cirsium arvense* Creeping Thistle: The Lammermuirs

One of the ways to find the hybrid thistle *Cirsium x celakovskianum* (*C. arvense x palus-*

tre) is to look for creeping patches of thistle that have spiny stems. But, beware, *C. arvensis* is variable, not all such colonies are the hybrid!

Finds in West Perthshire (VC 87) in 2009 Liz Lavery, Paul Stanley and Roy Sexton

On display was a selection of some of the most interesting finds in West Perthshire during the 2009 season. The display was in two parts. The first part was a beautiful collection of over 105 photographs compiled by Roy Sexton. Most photographs were taken by him or Sarah Longrigg and a few rare casuals by Liz Lavery.

The second part comprised mounted specimens of notable finds in Clackmannanshire prepared by Paul Stanley. Pride of place went to three finds; *Corallorrhiza trifida* (Coralroot Orchid) at Leny flushes by Pam Murdoch, the first record for many years; *Calamagrostis purpurea* (Scandinavian Small-reed) at Inverlochlarig by Liz Lavery and the Perthshire Society of Natural Science, a first record for VC 87 for this red data book species; and *Hammarbya paludosa* (Bog Orchid) on the east side of Beinn Tulaichean, Inverlochlarig by Sarah Longrigg. Additional new natives for VC 87 included *Stellaria pallida* (Lesser Chickweed) at Culross and *Scrophularia umbrosa* (Green Figwort) at Blair Castle.

Also on display were new or updated records for *Bunias orientalis* (Warty-cabbage), *Vicia tetrasperma* (Smooth Tare), *Trifolium micranthum* (Slender Trefoil), *Solanum nigrum* (Black Nightshade), *Carum carvi* (Caraway), *Alopecurus myosuroides* (Black-grass) and *Apera spica-venti* (Loose Silky-bent). Very rare finds were *Agrostemma githago* (Corncockle) found as a seed contaminant, *Silene noctiflora* (Night-flowering Catchfly) - first record since 1860, *Cardamine pentaphyllos*, *Rorippa islandica* (Northern Yellow-cress), *Chelidonium majus* (Greater Celandine) and *Carex magellanica* (Tall Bog-sedge) at two sites.

***Calamagrostis purpurea* in Mid-Perthshire (88)**

Alistair Godfrey

C. purpurea (Scandinavian Small-reed) is recorded from only one location in Mid-Perthshire, where it has been known for 30 years. Three visits were made in 2009 to determine the exact extent and distribution of the population, during which observations were made on flowering success, associated species and threats; which were shading from trees, competition with associates and browsing.

Caenlochan - Current Status of Selected Vascular Plants

Theo Loizou

A series of photographic images was presented to demonstrate the current status of selected vascular plants from the botanically rich area of Caenlochan in Angus (VC 90).

Working on the 'Threatened Plants Project' as a Sabbatical

Eric Meek

RSPB staff are awarded a sabbatical of one month every seven years provided that the time is spent on a conservation-related project. For my fourth sabbatical with the Society I opted to work on the BSBI's 'Threatened Plants Project'. With the enthusiastic support of Jim McIntosh, BSBI Scottish Officer, my partner Aileen Hall and I covered

sites in Angus (VC 90) and South Aberdeenshire (VC 92), as part of a two-week work programme devised by JM. We searched for – and found - *Gentianella campestris* (Autumn Gentian), *Dianthus deltoides* (Maiden Pink), *Astragalus danicus* (Purple Milk-vetch), *Coeloglossum viride* (Frog Orchid), *Pyrola media* (Intermediate Wintergreen), *Scleranthus annuus* (Annual Knawel), *Gnaphalium sylvaticum* (Heath Cudweed) and *Crepis mollis* (Northern Hawk's-beard) in sites as diverse as Arbroath's Elliott Links, the Royal Aberdeen Golf Course, Glen Esk, an industrial site at Port Elphinstone, Corrie Fee, a busy roadside at Ley Lodge, the Morrone Birkwoods of Braemar and, most distant of all, Caenlochan. We had a wonderful time and can't wait to carry out the second two weeks of survey next summer. We would encourage anyone with the opportunity to do the same!

Plants and Places from Deeside to Saudi Arabia

Kathy Fallowfield

Kathy Fallowfield, former VC 92 Recorder, provided a number of her own presentations and one by herself and Neil Cook, a former Countryside Ranger for the Balmoral Estate.

Visual displays:

“White Sports”....an abnormality in some familiar flowers

Seen around Braemar and the Cairngorms National Park

More Illustrated News from Upper Deeside

Bench displays:

- 1) A Harsh Environment – Plants from the deserts of Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province
- 2) *Prunus padus* (Bird Cherry) and the Small Ermine Moth by Neil Cook and Kathy Fallowfield

Surveying the flora of Corroul Estate, a 'hidden jewel' in Westernness VC 97

Ian Strachan

Corroul is a large Highland estate in the south-eastern corner of Westernness. Centered around Loch Ossian, the estate is predominantly mountainous, with seven Munros, and plenty of bog! Unlike its neighbours - Creag Meagaidh, Ben Alder, Rannoch Moor and Ben Nevis - the area had attracted rather little attention from botanists...until 2009. At the invitation of the owners, who are keen to manage the estate for biodiversity, a group of ten BSBI members spent a week in June mapping the flora. We gathered nearly 7000 monad (1 km square) records and over 600 detailed grid references. The exhibit outlined the approach taken and illustrated some of the many interesting and unusual species found.

Which Pampas Grass?

Alison Rutherford

It is generally assumed if you see established pampas grasses that they will be *Cordata-ria richardii* (Early Pampas-grass) or *C. selloana* (Pampas-grass). Doubts have been expressed that the former, from New Zealand, may not always be this. The exhibit set out to clarify confusion between *C. richardii* (Endl.) Zotov., *C. richardii* ambig. and *C. fulvida* (Buchanan) Zotov. In the 1974 issue of *Taxon*, there is a list of four New Zealand species, apart from one, they seem very alike.

This is a display showing some of the more significant records made and specimens found on the trip, plus a short report of each day, together with images (on laptop) of the habitats and species found in the various habitats. The aims of the field meeting were to experience and enjoy the habitats and scenery of the island, to record species included in the Threatened Plants Project, and to consider whether recording at a tetrad level was worthwhile (in view of the fact that there was a good, recent Flora). We recorded in 20 of the possible 42 tetrads, and many interesting records were added to the existing ones in the Flora. Comments received from the participants indicated they were keen to complete the remaining tetrads, and to hold a similar meeting on Coll in the future.

***Trifolium fragiferum* (Strawberry Clover) in Western Scotland** David Pearman

Trifolium fragiferum is a really rare species in Scotland, with less than five sites up the east coast to Musselburgh, and only three sites on the west coast – in Dumfries (Caerlaverock NNR), Coll and South Uist. The last two were long doubted, but that from Coll, from 1939, was refound in 1997, and the S. Uist record, from 1947, was refound in 1983. Further work in Coll has resulted in extra discoveries in the broad area of the first site, and Richard Pankhurst has added a second S. Uist site, about 1km from the first. (see article on page 19)

Some interesting discoveries in West Ross (VC 105) Duncan Donald

A small display from the newly appointed Recorder highlighted a few of the notable re-discoveries in West Ross this year, including what is apparently the first Scottish record for *Cotula alpina* from Australia; the first record of *Adoxa moschatellina* since 1894; the re-discovery of *Cephalanthera longifolia* (Narrow-leaved Helleborine) at a site at which it had not been seen for 120 years; and a number of other first VC records.

Lost and Found in VC 106 (Easter Ross) Barbara and Brian Ballinger

This year no *Oxytropis halleri* (Purple Milk-vetch) could be found on the cliffs at Eathie on the Black Isle following a slow decline over the last 40 years. We were also alarmed to find that the *Ajuga x pseudopyramidalis* site, which we had reported recently, had been cleared for cable laying. However, later in the year 4 rosettes suggestive of *A. x pseudopyramidalis* re-appeared. Two new sites for *Centaurium erythraea* (Common Centaury) have been found to the NW of VC 106 and this appears to be a new northern limit for the mainland (although not the islands). Three new sites and refinds for *Gentianella amarella* ssp. *septentrionalis* are also described. The third in our series of "not as scarce as we thought?" topics was devoted to *Corallorrhiza trifida* (Coralroot Orchid).

West Sutherland (VC 108) 2009 Pat and Ian Evans

Our fieldwork during 2009 concentrated on under-worked tetrads in Eddrachillis and Durness parishes, guided by a detailed vegetation survey carried out by REC Ferreira in

the 1970s. We also did our stint of recording for the Threatened Plants Project. In May we re-located, with the help of Gordon Rothero, Ferreira's site for *Arabis petraea* (Northern Rock-cress) at the mouth of the Duartmore Burn (NC1736). A fine stand of *Tofieldia pusilla* (Scottish Asphodel) at Sangomore (NC4066) was the prize for a day's 'square-bashing' around Durness in June. Previous records were from the 1950s. In July an unsuccessful search for a TPDB species accidentally threw up a second locality for VC 108 for *Bolboschoenus maritimus* (Sea Club-rush), at Badcall Bay (NC1641). In early October a bit of 'slumming' behind Main Street, Lochinver (NC0922) turned up a fine specimen of *Cotoneaster x watereri* (det. by Jeanette Fryer), apparently unrecorded north of the Central Belt. Fieldwork later in October involved some road walking in the Laxford Bridge area (NC14/24), with interesting records for three tiny annuals, *Radiola linoides* (Allseed), *Anagallis minima* (Chaffweed) and *Sagina maritima* (Sea Pearlwort).

Caithness Plants (VC 109)

Ken Butler

A specimen was shown of the Frog Rush (*Juncus ambiguus*), which is a first VC record for Caithness. It is part of the *Juncus bufonius* (Toad Rush) group of species, notable for its tolerance of seawater and in this case growing on a slipway at Brough harbour. It is frequent around the coasts of UK, so surprising that we have not found it before.

The *Stellaria palustris* (Marsh Stitchwort) was a surprising find on the margins of Loch Calder. It is some 200km north of any other sites. There was a well established colony in a marshy area. It is a first VC record for Caithness.

The *Chenopodium rubrum* (Red Goosefoot) is also a first VC record for a plant which has only one previous record in the Highlands.

The hybrid grass *Alopecurus geniculatus* x *pratensis* (= x *brachystylus*) was first recorded from the banks of the river Thurso in 1861 as *Alopecurus aequalis*. I refound the grass at the same site in 1974 and CE Hubbard confirmed that it was *Alopecurus geniculatus* x *pratensis*. A search this summer confirmed that it was still there and I went on to look at its extent. It covers an area of 10m x 150m. However this is not a single clone of rhizomes because there is variation in the hybrids which suggests either multiple creation of hybrids or a degree of backcrossing. Neither parent is in the immediate locality now. Several pressed plants were shown illustrating the range of forms found.

Ferns, Courses and Fumatories

Heather McHaffie

The British Pteridological Society is for people who are interested in recording and/or growing ferns. There are local groups throughout the UK and the Scottish group has an active programme of field visits throughout the summer combined with one monitoring visit to a *Woodzia alpina* site. For a warm welcome to join in our activities contact Frank McGavigan frank@mcgavigan2.demon.co.uk

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh has a wide range of courses on botanical topics and other related areas. A comparatively new course is the Certificate in Practical Field Botany which is offered in 2010 as an 8-day course in Edinburgh or East Kilbride (Kittochside) or a residential week on Eigg. The course covers basic plant identification

using the Francis Rose *Wild Flower Key*, how to record, press (and even mount) specimens, and an introduction to botanical survey methods including the National Vegetation Classification. An ILA grant is available for those who are eligible. Further information: <http://www.rbge.org.uk/education/horticulture-botany-and-environment/botany> Also available are the 2010 courses for the Field Studies Councils' centre at Kindrogan: <http://www.field-studies-council.org/kindrogan/>

When *Fumaria reuteri* (Martin's Ramping Fumitory) was found in Campbeltown in 2006 by Ian Teesdale it was assumed that it was a unique occurrence in Scotland as it was so far from the main distribution in Cornwall and the Isle of Wight. In 2009 two new sites have been confirmed. The first was along a disturbed roadside on the edge of Kirriemuir and the second in the corner of a field near St Cyrus. This suggests that this species might be more widespread but has not been recognised. The plant has a distinctive 'jizz' with a long inflorescence and comparatively large flowers. This species has probably been confused with *F. muralis* (Common Ramping-fumitory) which has fewer flowers in the inflorescence. The immediately obvious distinguishing feature for *F. reuteri* is a gap between the sepal and the spur due to a long nectar tube. Microscopic confirmation centres around a point on the broad stigma, proportionately longer than the small one on *F. muralis*. A workshop on seven Scottish species of Fumitory will be held on 9th June 2010 at the RBGE. For more information or to book phone 0131 248 2876 or email h.mchaffie@rbge.org.uk

Botanical Society of Scotland

Barbra Harvie

Information and literature was distributed about the activities of the society.

Botanical Society of the British Isles

Jim McIntosh

Information and literature was distributed about the activities of the society. We need to increase the BSBI membership. So if you are not already a member please do consider joining. If you are a member, personal recommendation is one of the best ways to get new members, so please, do pick up membership forms for any friends, family or colleagues who might be interested.

National Trust for Scotland - Plant Conservation Projects

Lindsay Mackinlay

Information and literature was distributed about interesting projects taking place on NTS properties.

Publications from Scottish Natural Heritage

Robin Payne

A range of colourful publications was displayed demonstrating a wide range of interests in the environment

The Scottish Minister for Environment launched the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity in January. In Scotland the aim is to celebrate the wonderful biodiversity that we have and explain why biodiversity is important and why we need to look after it. The emphasis is on the benefits to Scotland from a healthy biodiversity - to jobs, wealth, food, fresh water, flood control, enjoyment and health.

A number of key actions are being promoted. The main one is to encourage businesses, schools and councils to do more to help conserve our biodiversity (and I would add “government and agencies” to that list!) Other key actions include participating in wildlife surveys; experiencing nature on your doorstep; gardening to improve biodiversity and buying seasonal produce. For more information please see www.snh.org.uk/scottish/2010yearofbiodiversity.asp and www.biodiversityislife.net

In response, we have put together a total of thirteen meetings, one of the largest and most diverse programmes of BSBI field meetings ever seen in Scotland. It includes an Alpine meet to Ben Vane, Loch Lomond; two island meetings to Orkney and North Uist; two beginners’ meetings to Arthur’s Seat and Crieff; an “Introduction to sedges” day at Whitlaw Mosses and a couple more advanced educational field meetings on Conifers and *Alchemillas*.

We would like to see good attendances on all these field meetings and would encourage you to book up now! Remember that everyone is welcome on the beginners’ meetings – so please send or bring along any budding botanists. For full details see the BSBI Scotland website www.bsbiscotland.org.uk or the 2010 BSBI Year Book.

Biodiversity is Life



Scottish Field Meetings 2010

Full details of the following meetings will be found in the Year Book

May 16*	Arthur's Seat, Midlothian	J McIntosh
May 23*	Lady Mary's Walk, Crieff, Mid Perth	J McIntosh
June 11-14	Kyle of Lochalsh, W. Ross	D Donald & J McIntosh
June 12	Hill of Garvoch, Kincardines	D Welch
June 19	Loch Katrine, W. Perth	L Lavery & J Jones
June 26	Ben Vane, Dunbarton	J Holland
July 8-10	Carrifran Woods & Moffat Hills, Dumfries	C Miles & C Alexander
July 17-18*	Alchemilla Workshop, Glen Clova, Angus	M Bradshaw
July 29-Aug 1	Orkney	J Crossley, E Everiss & E Meek
Aug 2-6	North Uist, Outer Hebrides	P Smith & R Pankhurst
Aug 7*	Introduction to Sedges Whitlaw Mosses NNR, Roxburghs	J McIntosh

(* training meeting)

***Trifolium fragiferum* (Strawberry Clover) in Western Scotland**

DAVID PEARMAN

Trifolium fragiferum is a really rare species in Scotland, with less than five sites up the east coast to Musselburgh, and only two sites on the west coast north of the Borders. On this western side the nearest populations are found in Cumbria (where it is very rare away from Morecombe Bay) and just over the Scottish border in the salt-marshes at Caerlaverock NNR, Dumfries.

Up to 1983 the only records north of there were from JW Heslop-Harrison on Coll (in 1939), with the even more unlikely *T. bocconei*, and from J Meinertzhagen on S. Uist (in 1947). There was some scepticism about both of these. However, Richard Pankhurst found the species north of Loch Bee, in South Uist in 1983, and when Chris Preston and I were chasing up loose ends for our Tiree & Coll Flora, we found it in Coll, just NW of Arileod, in one of the sites recorded by Heslop-Harrison, thus confirming the records above.

On subsequent visits to Coll in 2000 and 2006 either with Chris Preston and colleagues or by myself, we have added further records nearby, and then downstream to the beach at Port an t'Saoir and even on the rocks to the east, where salt spray produces a salt-marsh type community in the rock crevices.

Whilst planning work for my 2009 visit, I noticed that we had never specifically searched in the other sites recorded by Heslop-Harrison, who had recorded it as 'plentiful in the salt marsh at Caoles [this is where he also recorded *T. bocconei*], and elsewhere in that area, ascends to the moorland at Calgary Point and occurs on the moorlands north of Arileod.' I found no suitable habitat at Calgary Point, which is in the far west of the island, but it was abundant in front of the (currently) ruined house at Caoles, along the tiny burns both to the immediate south and north of the house. Here it was growing with:

<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>
<i>Galium palustre</i>	<i>Myosotis laxa</i>
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	<i>Senecio aquaticus</i>

Subsequent visits to all the other sites, around Arileod, had similar associates, together with:

<i>Carex nigra</i>	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
<i>Carex otrubae</i>	<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>

as well as *Glaux maritima*.

Richard Pankhurst wrote to say that he has recently (2003) found it in a second site in S. Uist, about a kilometre from the first, and in the same 10km square, within 200m of the sea, in damp brackish grassland.

Why is it so rare in western Scotland? There is plenty of suitable habitat, particularly in the machair islands. I wonder if it really is so rare, because on my 2009 visit, it was only just in flower in early September, with no sign of the characteristic fruits. With hindsight, the congested, pinkish flowers, and the sprawling growth, were diagnostic, but I only found it because I was looking for it.

Plants at Site of Athletes' Village for 2014 Commonwealth Games

P MACPHERSON

In July 2009 I learned that work had begun in the Dalmarnock district of Glasgow to prepare the site for the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Out of interest I went to see the area. Between the road bounding the stadium to the east and the River Clyde there is a wood earmarked as the site for the Athletes' Village.

I was surprised to see an unusual assemblage of plants at the edge of, and extending into, the wood. Along a stretch measuring 220 yards (NS6163 & 6263) were the following local rarities:-

Agrimonia eupatorium (Agrimony), *Agrimonia procera* (Fragrant Agrimony), *Geranium pyrenaicum* (Hedgerow Crane's-bill), *Geranium sanguineum* (Bloody Crane's-bill), *Knautia arvensis* (Field Scabious), *Leontodon hispidus* (Rough Hawkbit), *Origanum vulgare* (Marjoram), *Polemonium caeruleum* (Jacob's-ladder), *Scabiosa columbaria* (Small Scabious), *Stachys officinalis* (Betony), *Verbena officinalis* (Vervain).

In addition the following plant associates were noted:-

Arrhenatherum elatius (False Oat-grass); *Artemisia vulgaris* (Mugwort); *Carex pendula* (Pendulous Sedge); *Cirsium arvense* (Creeping Thistle); *Dactylis glomerata* (Cock's-foot); *Epilobium* spp (Willow-herb species); *Equisetum arvense* (Field Horsetail); *Geum urbanum* (Wood Avens); *Lamium purpureum* (Red Dead-nettle); *Linaria vulgaris* (Common Toadflax); *Potentilla anserine* (Silverweed); *Prunella vulgaris* (Selfheal); *Senecio jacobaea* (Ragwort); *Silene alba* (White Campion); *Taraxacum* spp (Dandelion species); *Teucrium scorodonia* (Wood Sage); *Urtica dioica* (Common Nettle).

It was appreciated that most, if not all, on the unusual collection list must be the result of seed scattering. However, with the exception of Jacob's-ladder, all were well established. The scabious specimens were particularly numerous and impressive. Small Scabious is locally common in Britain up to south Scotland and often very dwarf on maritime cliff tops (Stace 1997). Most were >2', the highest >3' tall! This large, presumably alien form is known as ssp. *pratensis*. Field Scabious plants were even taller, stronger and very hairy. Sturdy specimens of Fragrant Agrimony with the distinctive burrs were also striking.

At a return visit in September it was found that a strip had been bulldozed, resulting in the loss of about 80% of the above plants. As I contemplated the site (vasculum slung over shoulder), I became aware that three workers standing beside a bulldozer were watching me quizzically. That night the bulldozer was blown up! However, the police did not come to my door. It was assumed that it

was part of a protection racket.

I am grateful to Messrs EJ Clement and DR McKean for help with identification.

Reference

Stace, C (1997). *New Flora of the British Isles* (2nd edition). Cambridge University Press.

New Plants in VC 84

J MUSCOTT

A couple of foreign grasses, both casuals, turned up in VC 84 last year (2009). The first was Great Brome (*Anisantha diandra*), in a weedy comer of a rough field not far from the Five Sisters bing. The inflorescence was beginning to break up when I found it, but Douglas McKean was able to confirm the identification. There was no need for confirmation for the beautiful Loose Silky-bent (*Apera spica-venti*), found at Uphall golf course on the recently sown bank of a burn. It was the first time I had seen it but I knew exactly what it was!

A very exciting find was a small colony of Water Purslane (*Lythrum portula*) in a patch of shallow standing water between a building and a soil bank in an expanding industrial estate near Easter Inch. It was doing very well (about 20 plants, several well-branched) but I can't see it lasting long in such a temporary habitat. This is the first sighting since 1934 when it was recorded in Martin's *Field Club Flora of the Lothians* for 'Linlithgow', presumably in or near Linlithgow Loch (now highly eutrophic and suffering from algal blooms). Another water plant recorded last year was Stream Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus penicillatus* ssp. *pseudofluitans*) in both the River Almond near Whitburn and Breich Water near Stoneyburn (definitely on 'my' side of the burn).

Purple Ramping-fumitory (*Fumaria purpurea*) is not new to VC 84. It was first recorded in 1915 in 'fields around Kirkliston', and again in Martin (1934) for 'Carlowrie', (essentially the same area). More recently (2007) it was recorded by Ian Lewis in a field near Blackness. However, this was the first time I had found it myself, and in a different area, namely a weedy field just north of Linlithgow, conveniently growing beside Common Ramping-fumitory (*Fumaria muralis*), so that one could see the difference. The field was one of the oddest I have ever met. It appeared to be entirely full of weeds, but closer inspection revealed several rows of potatoes, a part-row of cabbages and onions, some beet and a few tomatoes, all scattered among the weeds. Was the farm opposite using it as an 'allotment' I wonder?

A couple of years ago Prof. Abbot gave a talk to the Botanical Society of Scotland, in the course of which he explained that the rayed form of Groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*) was in decline. It occurred to me I hadn't noticed it in recent years. (The fact that it was not on the recording sheets for the Atlas meant that its absence had gone un-noticed, by me at any rate.) However I saw it twice in 2009. In the spring I noticed a single plant on the pavement near the Water of Leith Visitor Centre in Edinburgh. Later, with friends, I found both rayed and un-rayed Groundsel colonising an area of recently-felled conifers on the E Lothian coast. Their seeds could have remained dormant for many years after it became too dark for germination under the trees. It would be interesting to hear of other sightings of the plant.

Non-native Trees

J MUSCOTT

It has always seemed to me that trees planted in the grounds of old estates and their policy woodlands should be recorded, as well as those planted for amenity in public spaces. After all they are going to be around for a long time.

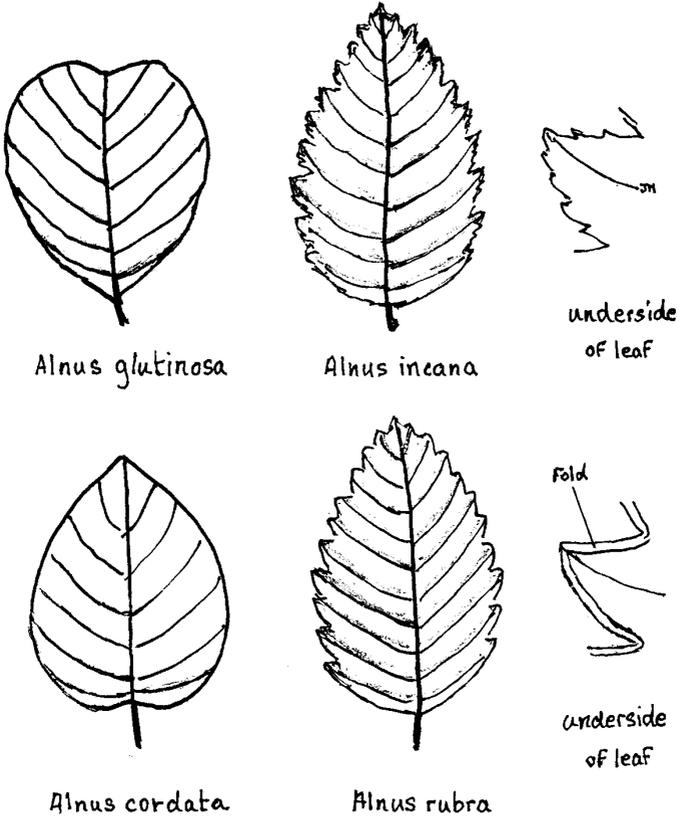
In VC 84 there are a number of old estates, some still intact, like Hopetoun, others broken up or turned into Country Parks. Many of these were planted with specimen trees like the Monkey Puzzle (*Araucaria araucana*) and Wellingtonia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) which are therefore dotted around the VC. Hopetoun has a number of rare and unusual trees and I was very surprised to see some of them being planted elsewhere in recent years. In 2007 I discovered a small plantation near Oatridge Agricultural College, which included Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*), Oriental Sweetgum (*Liquidambar orientalis*) and Narrow-leaved Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia*). Some rather older trees of the Ash lined a road nearby. Manna Ash (*Fraxinus omus*) is an older planting on one of the private estates. Another surprise was the discovery in 2008 of two young Tulip Trees (*Liriodendron* spp.) near the Ove Aarup offices to the south of Queensferry.

Another Victorian legacy was industrial blight from the coal and oil-shale industries, resulting in subsidence in some areas, enormous piles of waste (particularly oil-shale waste) in others. Many of the shale bings were demolished for road building, others were 'reclaimed' and some have been left intact as monuments to the past. In the early days 'reclamation' usually involved planting with conifers, mainly Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), while Grey Alder (*Alnus incana*) also made its appearance. Ironically some of the forestry plantations in old mining areas are now being felled for opencast.

More recently there has been a good deal of planting of community woodlands,

mainly mixed hardwoods, with some conifers such as Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Larch (*Larix* spp.), (though I sometimes think every job lot of trees has to include some Sitka Spruce). These trees are welcome, but planted very densely, and hardly ever adjoining natural woodland, so it seems unlikely that native ground flora will appear without further intervention. Some unlikely trees have been planted too. Sea Buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*) for instance - and not just at the seaside where one might expect it. (It's an invasive species and is now causing serious problems in East Lothian where it was used to stabilise the dunes.) In wetter areas Alders, both *Alnus glutinosa* and *Ainus incana* have been planted and in a couple of woodlands Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*) too, while Italian Alders (*Alnus cordata*) appear here and there as amenity trees.

Apart from public amenity plantings there are some private ones too. I recently met a man who showed me the White Spruce (*Picea glauca*) he had transferred from his garden to a wooded track behind it. He had a horticultural background and thought it might do better there. One never knows what one will find next!



Alice Sommerville was a dedicated botanist active in NE Scotland for over 60 years. She graduated from the Botany Department of Aberdeen University in 1934 and then worked for a period as an assistant lecturer in that department. In 1937 she married an Aberdeen church minister, and they moved in 1941 to Methlick, a parish in the Aberdeenshire countryside. Sadly her husband died in 1947, and Alice came back to Aberdeen, becoming Keeper of the University herbarium in 1954. She also was made the official BSBI recorder for Kincardineshire in 1961.

Alice retired from her herbarium post in 1977, and from being BSBI recorder for VCC 91 (Kincardineshire) and 100 (Clyde Islands) in 1985. She intended in retirement to put together some account of the flora of VC 91, and so continued to visit the department, by then called Plant Science. But increasing problems with eyesight and general health curtailed her activity, and Alice died in Aberdeen aged 92 years in October 2002.

This is not a full obituary; such is difficult when so many of a person's early acquaintances and teachers are no longer with us. Nevertheless, we aim to give information about botanical work in NE Scotland during the 1950-1985 period to plug a gap that could hinder future botanists.

One reason for the delay in reporting on Alice Sommerville is that some of her botanical papers only came back to the department several years after her death, and also we have only recently realised the value of several folders of her carefully-mounted specimens that had remained in the herbarium. Marrying-up notebooks, papers, record cards and specimens has not been easy.

Alice Sommerville's chief responsibility was being Keeper of this substantial herbarium (then c. 100,000 sheets) housed in the Botany Department. She also took practical classes in botany and helped on field trips, then a regular part of botanical courses, so she often visited the three other north-east vice-counties. For two of these Charles Gimingham, a lecturer in the department, was recorder, and it is clear that the recording for the 1962 Atlas here was a co-operative effort that involved other university staff, students and neighbouring botanists, notably Grant Roger and Mary McCallum Webster. In later years Alice led field courses on Arran which she enjoyed immensely, as did the many students and teachers who attended them.

We find in Alice Sommerville's papers many hectad cards from student field trips and master cards for her VC 91 hectads, which tally with dots in the Atlas

maps. But there is no sign of a card index, nor did she specialise in particular genera or habitats.

One significant but frustrating notebook, a Baberton 7" x 4" headed Kincardine Flora, is packed with species lists for named localities. The lists are grouped by hectad, these being named Strachan Square (=NO69), Crathes Castle Square (=NO79) etc. The species names have been neatly written out but not in any order, and only sometimes with indications on frequency (o, f, etc). These lists are frustrating in that not one date is given, and whilst their make-up and handwriting indicate the compilation was after 1962, it is now impossible to say how far into the 1970s it continued. Another just-possible drawback is that the recording for localities split between hectads may have strayed over their grid lines, for instance Garvock Hills comes in the Laurencekirk square (NO77) despite extending well into NO76, and lists for Arbuthnott riverbank and woodlands could equally be in NO87 as in NO77.

The folders with Kincardineshire specimens are more useful than the lists, which contain mostly common species. The specimens are dated and sometimes have grid references. Many were collected by other botanists, notably George Reid and Ursula Duncan. The specimens of Miss Duncan correspond to a series of records printed in the Plant Record sections of the BSBI Proceedings Volumes 3 and 4 in 1960 and 1961. Other localities attested by the specimens or correspondence were not published despite being NVCRs, and one of us (DW) has been following them up with some success, hence records of *Matteucia struthiopteris* (Ostrich Fern) and *Senecio smithii* (Magellan Ragwort) in recent *Watsonias*.

Alice Sommerville produced relatively few papers, just short notes on plant occurrences for the *Trans Bot Soc Edinburgh* in 1956 and 1959, and an article on her herbarium in the *Aberdeen University Review* of 1979.

She was a charming unforceful lady, not given to rash statements, but conscientiously looking after her herbarium and students, and doing what was required of recorders before the present demands of tetrad recording, rare plant registers, etc, came along. We feel her Baberton notebook was a first step in her intention of writing an account of the VC 91 flora, perhaps based on a description hectad-by-hectad. But in retirement she realised other matters such as changes in distribution and work on critical groups were needed, and was no longer able to carry out these things.

We are grateful to George Sommerville (Alice's son), Professor Charles Gimingham and Dr Chris Wilcock.

***Parentucellia viscosa* (Yellow Bartsia)
in Kintyre (VC101)**

ID TEESDALE

In the 2009 issue (No.31) of this Newsletter David Hawker considered climate change as a probable explanation for increases in the populations of various coastal plants in his area, Kirkcudbrightshire (VC 73). We too in the Kintyre peninsula (VC 101) live in a coastal environment and his article prompted me to wonder whether the same phenomenon might help to account for a similar population explosion in one of our own coastal areas.

About two-thirds of the way up the west coast of the Kintyre peninsula is a small village, Tayinloan, where the Gigha ferry lands its passengers. A mile south of it is Killean, an estate with a big house and a farm, the fields of which are strung out in a line running north between the coast road (the A83) and the shore, almost as far as the outskirts of Tayinloan. Cattle and sheep are grazed on the fields, but the northernmost one, about 3.75 hectares in extent, has apparently always been poorly-drained and rushy. Since 1998 it has been managed as wetland under a government programme called the Countryside Premium Scheme. This entailed no grazing between 1st April and 31st July, and only light grazing for the remainder of the year. The shepherd, Gordon Hunter, has told us that the field is part-flooded in most winters, and that flocks of wintering geese regularly spend the night on the water. In summer most of the western half of the field grows tussocky grass, with extensive brownish patches where the flooding occurs, while the eastern parts consist mainly of rushes and associated vegetation and evidently remain wet throughout the year. The western half of this field, and the rank vegetation at the northern boundary of the adjoining field to the south, support an enormous population, numbering certainly many thousands of plants, of *Parentucellia viscosa* (Yellow Bartsia). This is a rare plant in our part of Scotland, being predominately a native of Devon and Cornwall and some coastal parts of central southern England. So how long have our Kintyre plants been here and why are they so plentiful?

In the late summer of 2007 a member of our botanical group saw a few specimens of a plant which she thought just might be Yellow Bartsia at a road side near the east coast of the peninsula. In such circumstances we check in *The Flora of Kintyre* (Cunningham and Kenneth 1979) to see whether such a plant had been known and found the following entry: '*Parentucellia viscosa*: sandy meadowland, Killean, in small quantity; A. G. Kenneth 1971. 64 only' In view of the remote possibility that there might still be a remnant of the colony, in 2008 two of us walked along the shore beside the Killean fields and found ourselves gazing at one in which parts were tinted yellow by the plants for which

we were looking. An extraordinary and memorable experience.

We assume this field, or one of those near it, must have been where Archie Kenneth found his plants in 1971, but the implication of the dated entry in the *Flora*, published eight years later, is that neither author saw the plants elsewhere, and perhaps that they did not persist in that location. What seems entirely clear however is that there cannot have been the sort of population that I have described, at any time up to 1985 when Archie Kenneth published his Additions to The Flora of Kintyre, since this article contains no reference to this species. The present Killean population must therefore have grown to its present size within the last three decades. Two factors presumably contributed to its impressive spread during this time: the light usage of the field imposed by the Countryside Premium Scheme referred to above; and a rise in the average annual temperature associated with global warming, which would no doubt be favourable to a species of Mediterranean origin.

We now know of two other locations for this species in our peninsula, both very small populations of two or three plants apiece. One is on the east coast of Kintyre eight kilometres north of Campbeltown as above and the other, discovered in 2009, in a road verge some three kilometres inland from Machrihanish Bay on the west coast. As these plants are among the more noticeable members of the British flora it seems reasonable to suppose that they are recent arrivals. So we now have three known locations for Yellow Bartsia in the peninsula, and evidence suggesting that it is on the increase here. It would be interesting to know if its populations in Renfrewshire and Dunbartonshire are behaving similarly.

The field work could not have been carried out without the ready co-operation of the farm manager, Archie McSporran and shepherd Gordon Hunter.

References

- Cunningham, MH & Kenneth, AG (1979). *The Flora of Kintyre*. EP Publishing Ltd, Wakefield.
- Kenneth, AG (1985). Additions to The Flora of Kintyre. *The Glasgow Naturalist* 21.1-12.

Flavour of the Century? Dittander, Fennel and GH BALLANTYNE other Culinary Escapes established in Fife (VC 85)

In the autumn of 2007 an unexpected packet arrived that turned out to be an assortment of pressed plants, a change for me from brambles! A glance at the ac-

companying note indicated an entry saying “*Lepidium latifolium* on the shore at Burntisland” which puzzled me greatly for I’d cut my botanical teeth (in part) there many years earlier and I’d not come across Dittander then, nor on more recent visits. However, inspection of the contents confirmed that there was indeed a specimen among them, sent by an English VCR who’d spent some of his summer holidays in Fife during the mid-1990s; following a ‘redd-oot’ he’d decided to post them on.

So a reminder was put in the 2008 diary and at the end of June I set off westward, full of curiosity - could the plant be on the railway bank by the main east coast line which skirts the shore as it enters the town just before the docks? That turned out to be “no” although the search there proved productive as it had one of the best colonies of Scots Lovage (*Ligusticum scoticum*) that I’ve come across on the Firth of Forth along with a single plant of Tree Mallow (*Lavatera arborea*) possibly an arrival from the island of Fidra across the Forth where it has recently become a pest. I continued along the path, dodging bathers and picnickers determined to make the most of their day by the seaside despite a snell east wind. The causeway now curved sharply round and I caught sight of a clump of a tall white crucifer tossing in the breeze; despite being only just above the HWM and located on an old cobbled slope there were several adults and numerous seedlings growing out of every crack and cranny. Although obviously well established, I’m sure the colony had not been there either in my early exploratory days or up to about 1990 - so where had it come from? Certainly, there was a record from about 1880 from the same district, which I’d taken to mean an introduction with ship’s ballast: maybe seed had lain dormant? Or like the mallow, perhaps seed had floated across from Tantallon Castle in East Lothian, one of its few known extant Scottish sites, diagonally about 12-15 miles away? Or, more unlikely, had some beach-worshipper had a picnic at the site which required spicing up and had brought along Dittander (it was formerly used for flavouring, before being superseded by horse radish)? Although not things of beauty - a subsequent visit revealed the tallest plants had been ravaged by the east winds and rain and had become very tatty. I was pleased to see them and confirm the species as being extant in VC 85; other early searches elsewhere had failed, notably “on the rocks below Wemyss Castle” (per JH Balfour in the 1850s; evidently it was a favourite condiment used by mediaeval castle dwellers).

Not far off, on waste ground was a clump of a more ‘modern’ flavouring agent, Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), which increasingly I’m finding as an escape, notably on sandy soil at Pathhead shore, Kirkcaldy, where a large colony was flourishing in 2005, provenance indeterminate, as is the case with Horse Radish (*Armoracia rusticana*) also long known there as several tufts of characteristic long narrow leaves, seemingly never to flower. Back at Burntisland, about the

same time, I'd come across a big stand of another culinary plant, Wild Parnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), not far from the Dittander site; this is also prominent further west at St Davids old harbour (Dalgety Bay) and nearby Inverkeithing, both possibly originally ballast introductions. On the other hand, another yellow umbellifer is known to have been a former pot herb and is very frequent near old coastal habitations - i.e. Alexanders (*Smyrniolum olusatrum*), so common and thriving at several sites, e.g. Ravenscraig in Kirkcaldy, Macduff Castle, East Wemyss and west of Pittenweem as to have become a threat to native vegetation. Other erstwhile herb garden cast-outs found occasionally in the wild include Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*), Garden Angelica (*Angelica archangelica*) together with odd relatives of Thyme, notably Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*).

The VCR who started off my search for Dittander was John Partridge, of VC 38 (Warks), whose death was noted recently. Unfortunately owing to illness, I hadn't had the chance to advise him that I'd re-found 'his' site.

Finally, does anyone know if Dittander (or Broad-leaved Pepperwort) can be purchased, either at a deli (or where-ever) or a garden centre?

Scottish Officer News

BSBI Data for Forestry Commission Scotland

Scottish Ministers have endorsed the Scottish Forestry Strategy target to increase woodland cover to 25% of the Scottish land area by the second half of the century. This is being done to increase the capacity of Scotland's forests to sequester carbon and help mitigate our impact on climate change. The increase will require additional planting levels of up to 15,000 hectares per year, compared with the current rates of 4 - 5,000 hectares per annum.

This is good news - *providing* valuable habitats and rare plant populations are not damaged and the landscape is not adversely affected. The BSBI was therefore very pleased to have been contracted to supply all our Scottish notable plant records to the Forestry Commission in 2009, to help inform forestry management decisions and protect rare plant populations. The data is to be available to all staff involved in considering forestry grants as well as those who manage the Forestry Commission's own estate.

The data - some 100,000 records in total - was collated from a number of sources; principally the BSBI Vascular Plant Database (72%), the BSBI Map-Mate hub (21%) and the BSBI Threatened Plant Database (7%). Stonewort records were kindly supplied by Nick Stewart from his charophyte database.

Thanks are due to all the BSBI recorders who supplied the data in the first place, to my BSBI colleagues Alex Lockton and Bob Ellis and to our friend in Forest Enterprise Scotland, Jeff Waddell.

Scottish Computerisation Project

Over the past year a further 250,000 Scottish BSBI paper records have been digitised by this project which aims to make them more widely available to conservationists, researchers and recorders variously via the BSBI and its website, BRC's Vascular Plant DataBase and the NBN Gateway. This brings the total to 710,000 – of which 275,000 have already reached the NBN.

The main datasets digitised during the year include those which belonged to Olga Stewart for Kirkcudbrightshire, Bernard Thompson for Argyll and Mary McCallum Webster's card index for Moray. We have captured full details of the records which underlie *The Changing Flora of Glasgow* (Dickson, Macpherson & Watson, 2000). Thanks are due to SNH for their financial support and to all the contractors and recorders for their diligence and perseverance.

SNH grant-aid to the Computerisation Project was also used to finance the digitisation of the BSBI Threatened Plant Project 2009 data forms.

Beyond the Computerisation Project

The project is now in its final year and, as it nears completion, we have been thinking about how we can continue to help recorders with data entry - which is not everyone's cup of tea! A number of initiatives have been devised:-

We have appointed the first three Recorder Assistants to help Recorders specifically with data entry – Mark Tulley to help Barbara Hogarth in Angus, Felicity Anderson to help Jackie Muscott in West Lothian and Jane Squirrel to help Lynne Farrell with Mull, Coll and Tiree. Indeed, Jane has already digitised some 14,000 records. A further four volunteers have kindly offered to help and are awaiting assignment.

By the time you read this, Martin Harvey, one of the leading MapMate experts, will have made home visits to a dozen Scottish Recorders to provide them with one-to-one help, advice and support. A further round of home visits is planned next winter to remaining Recorders. These visits have been financed through the computerisation project SNH grant.

Threatened Plant Project in 2010

The BSBI Threatened Plant Project aims to investigate the distribution and ecology of UK Biodiversity Action Plan and Red Data List threatened and near threatened species as well as threats and management. We will be writing to

Recorders shortly with a full list of sites we would like you to record for the 2010 project. Remember that we are interested in null returns as well as additional sites as the information will help build a picture of what has happened to the species.

TPP 2010 Species		Number of VCs*
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	Corn Marigold	40
<i>Meum athamanticum</i>	Spignel	26
<i>Polystichum lonchitis</i>	Holly Fern	18
<i>Sibbaldia procumbens</i>	Sibbaldia	16
<i>Hordeum marinum</i>	Sea Barley	8
<i>Sium latifolium</i>	Greater Water-parsnip	6
<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	Bastard Balm	1
<i>Herminium monorchis</i>	Musk Orchid	0
<i>Viola lactea</i>	Pale Dog-violet	0
<i>Juniperus communis</i> - in lowland England	Juniper	-

*Number of Scottish VCs in which each TPP 2010 species occurs.

We had another great response from Scottish Recorders to the TPP in 2009 – with 30% of completed forms coming from north of the border. And this despite many of the selected species being absent, or at least quite local in Scotland. Let's try to maintain that excellent record! However some of the selected species are going to present new challenges – such as the arable weed *Chrysanthemum segetum* and the two montane species *Polystichum lonchitis* and *Sibbaldia procumbens* (of which all TPP sites are in Scotland) and Recorders might like to ask local members to help with the survey, perhaps after some field training. Or conversely local or visiting members might like to volunteer!

Site Condition Monitoring

By the time you read this we should have handed over fully checked and completed reports to SNH for the 2009 site selection: Carn Gorm & Meall Garbh, Glen Strathfarrar, St Cyrus, Tulach Hill and Upper Solway. The only exception is Sunart SSSI where fieldwork is to be continued in 2010. Thanks are due to all the SCM volunteers.

The 2010 BSBI programme will also include Balnagrantach, Beinn a'Chuallich, Cairnwell, Easthaven, Kentra Bay & Moss, Raasay and Strathy Coast SSSIs. Generally 'lead' volunteers arrange the fieldwork and do the report writing,

whilst field volunteers help them with fieldwork. If you have previously been involved with any of these sites we would be pleased if you would help with their resurvey. Please get in touch with me, Jim McIntosh, if you would like to contribute to this valuable work to help conserve our rarest plant populations.

Also on the subject of SCM, on behalf of SNH we have just completed the collation of the SCM Vascular Plant Data Base, which includes 23,000 detailed records of SCM target species and their associates collected 2000–2006. The dataset has been forwarded to BRC for validation and uploading to the VPDB and will then go forward to the NBN Gateway.

Scottish Vice-county Recorders

Since the last *BSBI Scottish Newsletter* there have been a number of Scottish Vice-county Recorders changes. We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Ian Francis as the new recorder in South Aberdeenshire. Ian, a long-standing BSBI member is well kent in the north east having been involved with NES-BReC, the Local Recording Centre, and currently working as RSPB Area Manager.

Jane Jones whom many of you will know has just been appointed as a joint recorder in West Perthshire where she will work with Liz Lavery and Paul Stanley. Liz will continue as the main point of contact for enquiries. Jeff Waddell has resigned from Easternness due to a work-related move to the Borders, leaving Sarah Smyth in full charge. However I'm sure that is not the last we have heard of Jeff as a Scottish Recorder.

Finally you will have seen the vacancy adverts in January's *BSBI News* for Midlothian and Fife which have arisen as current recorders, Douglas McKean and George Ballantyne indicate that they would like to step down after 30 and 40 years service, respectively. However I am happy to report that both will continue to be involved – George with his flora of Fife, and Douglas as the new BSBI referee for *Quercus* and *Crataegus*, as well as informal referee for Scottish material – particularly aliens. We would very much like to thank all retiring Vice-county Recorders and warmly welcome the new appointees.

Jim McIntosh, BSBI Scottish Officer, c/o Royal Botanic Garden, Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, EH3 5LR; Tel: 0131 2482894 or 0791 7152580; j.mcintosh@rbge.ac.uk

Plantlife Scotland Events 2010

The guided walks will be led by local staff who will explore the general interest of the site, but with a particular emphasis on plants.

Sunday 9th May, 11 am – 1 pm,

Arduaine Garden, by Oban, Argyll. **Guided Walk** at this plantsman's garden on the Argyll coast, containing plants from around the temperate world.

Sunday 16th May, 2 – 4 pm,

Castle Semple Country Park, Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire.

First Steps walk. First Steps is an easy introduction to our common wildflowers. A gentle walk looking at some of the plants featured in the First Steps identification cards.

Tuesday 18th May, 11 am – 3.30 pm,

Edinburgh Zoo. Plant Conservation Day – Plantlife will be at this international event organised by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland. Find out about the plight of plants and issues of sustainability, and what you can do to contribute to conservation.

Saturday 22nd May, 11 am – 4 pm,

Roslin Glen, Roslin, Midlothian.

Training Day for Plantlife's **Wildflowers Count survey**. Find out more about the survey methods and what to look for in the field. Suitable for all skill levels.

Tuesday 25th May, 10 am – 4 pm,

Findatie, by Loch Leven, Kinross.

Learn how to identify wildflowers. This event is for people who would like to find out how to use wildflower keys and build up their expertise on Scottish wildflowers. Led by Dr Heather McHaffie, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

Sunday 30th May, 12 – 4 pm,

MacRosty Park, Crieff, Perthshire.

First Steps walk. Part of Perth & Kinross Council's Biodiversity in the Park event. Details as for 16th May.

Friday 4th - Sunday 6th June,

Royal Highland Showground, Ingliston, Edinburgh. **Gardening Scotland 2010** – come and see Plantlife again at the biggest gardening show in Scotland! We are looking for volunteers to help on the stand – please get in touch if you can help.

Sunday 20th June, 2 – 4 pm,
Aberfoyle, Stirlingshire.
First Steps walk. Details as for 16th May.

Saturday 26th June, 11 am – 4 pm,
Den of Alyth, near Alyth, Perthshire.
Training Day for Plantlife's **Wildflowers Count** survey. Details as for 22nd May.

Sunday 11th July, 11 am – 4 pm,
Enderick Mouth National Nature Reserve, Loch Lomond. **Guided walk** led by Reserve staff. Come and explore one of the biodiversity 'hot-spots' in Scotland, with wonderful fen and other wetland habitats, and plants such as the Lomond Dock, Tufted Loosestrife and Cowbane. Hear about the management methods used at this reserve.

Saturday 17th July, 11 am – 3 pm,
Greenhead Moss Community Nature Park, Wishaw, Lanarkshire.
First Steps walk. Part of the Community Nature Park Eco-Day. Details as for 16th May.

Saturday 24th July (10.30 am – 6 pm), and Sunday 25th July (10.30 am – 8 pm),
Falkland, Fife. **The Big Tent 2010** – Come and see the Plantlife stand at the Big Tent - Scotland's environmental festival, a fusion of world and folk music, sustainable living, children's activities, workshops and fantastic local food in the One Planet Food Village. We are looking for volunteers to help on the stand – please get in touch if you can help.

Sunday 25th July, 10 am – 1 pm,
Munsary Peatlands Reserve, near Lybster, Caithness. **Guided plant and moth walk on International Bog Day.** Neil Money, Vice-County moth recorder for Caithness, will be setting a moth trap overnight to see which night-time visitors we have at our Munsary reserve. Join Neil, with Ken Butler, a member of Plantlife's Munsary steering committee, to find out more about the moths and plants that make Munsary so special.

Saturday 31st July, 10.30 am – 1 pm,
Little Leny Meadows, Callander, Stirlingshire. Guided Walk with Plantlife and Buglife. Explore these traditional flood meadows by the River Teith, rich in tall herbs such as Meadowsweet, Wild Angelica and Globeflower, and the invertebrates that feed on them.

Sunday 8th August, 1 – 4 pm,

The **John Hope Gateway** at the **Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh**. Come and join Plantlife at this **Drop-in event**. First Steps: getting to know our wildflowers. How many common wild plants do you know? It may be more than you think! Find out more about the flowers that grow around where you live.

Tuesday 10th August, 10 am- 4 pm,

The Birks, Aberfeldy, Perthshire. Learn how to identify wildflowers. Details as for 25th May.

Saturday 18th September, 11 am – 3 pm,

Colin Burt Reserve for Wildlife Conservation, Glen Dochart, near Cri-anlarich. **Fungal foray** with mycologist Professor Roy Watling. The woodland on the reserve is home to a rich variety of fungi including a recently discovered species, *Coniochaeta burtii*.

Saturday 2nd October, 2 - 4 pm,

RBGE Dawyck Botanic Garden, Stobo, nr. Peebles. **Fungal foray** with mycologist Professor Roy Watling. Explore the fungi interest at this garden in the Borders, which features the Heron Wood reserve for lower plants and fungi, as well as a Scottish Rare Plant Trail.

How to book

For more details of events in Scotland, or to book a place, please email Scotland@plantlife.org.uk or phone (01786) 479382. For First Steps and Wildflowers Count events, please contact Davie.black@plantlife.org.uk or (01786) 469778. Events are open to all. No charges payable to Plantlife, but entrance fees payable at some venues – please check with us for details. Please also leave a contact telephone number for us to use in the unlikely event of cancellation. If you have any special requirements, please mention these when booking. We ask that children under 16 are accompanied by an adult.

What to bring

Outdoor clothing appropriate to the weather, with waterproof outers (top and bottom)

Sturdy footwear – e.g. walking boots

Sun hat, sun block (or high-factor cream) as required, and insect repellent

Something to drink, and a packed lunch if required

BSBI members are **very** welcome to attend any of these events.

British Pteridological Society

Scottish Group

Meetings Programme 2010

Date	Leader	Venue
Saturday 15 May	Frank McGavigan	Logan Botanic Garden Extensive new plantings of exotic ferns
Sunday 6 June	Mary Gibby Bridget Laue	Dawyck Botanic Garden In company with members of BPS Committee
Saturday 3 July	John Edgington	Loch Lee, Angus Easy, flat walking. 20 species guaranteed
Saturday/Sunday/ Monday 24/25/26 July	Frank McGavigan	Argyll Fern Gardens National Meeting Ascog, Benmore, Arduaine and nearby wild sites
Saturday 14 August	Alistair Godfrey	Perthshire The Hermitage and Birnam Glen
Saturday 11 September	Frank McGavigan	Ben Lui (new location) Woodsia alpina monitoring
Saturday 9 October	Frank McGavigan	Final Meeting Frank McGavigan's garden, plant swap, slide show, planning for 2011

In addition the North-West and Yorkshire Groups are holding a joint meeting led by Ken Trewren in **Dumfries and Galloway** on **21/22 August** to which Scottish members are invited.

BSBI members are welcome to join us on any of these outings.

Further details on all of the above from:

Frank McGavigan,
12 Glenbank Avenue, Lenzie, Glasgow G66 5AA

frank@mcgavigan2.demon.co.uk

0141 776 1019

Workshop on Scottish Fumitories Wed. 9th June 2010

Starting 10.00 am at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh with an afternoon field trip to East Lothian (shared transport). The workshop in the morning will look at fresh material of seven species of *Fumaria* found in Scotland including *Fumaria reuteri* which now seems to be more widely distributed than previously recognised. In the afternoon we will go and see some growing in the field. Tea and coffee provided; bring a packed lunch and a hand lens. Expect to finish by 6.00 pm. Contact Heather McHaffie to book on 0131 248 2876 or email h.mchaffie@rbge.org.uk

Certificate in Practical Field Botany at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh 2010

An eight-module course has been designed to lead people through the use of a flora (*The Flower Key* by Francis Rose) and the skills necessary to record plants, then to use this knowledge towards defining plant communities. As an eight-day course this will be taught in Edinburgh on Thursdays and at Kittinghside near East Kilbride on Saturdays in May and June. In July the course will take place for a week on Eigg, 17-24th. For further information phone the Education department 0131 248 2937 or look at the web link www.rbge.org.uk/education follow 'professional courses' to download the handbook for this Certificate.

Plants with British Adjectival Names in
English Names of Wild Flowers

P MACPHERSON

Scotland (8 + 4)

Scottish Asphodel; Scottish Dock; Scots Lovage; Scottish Pearlwort; Scots Pine; Scottish Primrose; Scottish Scurvygrass; Scottish Small-reed.
Shetland Mouse-ear; Shetland Pondweed; Rannoch-rush. [Duke of Argyll's Teapant].

England (4 + 28)

English Elm; English Sandwort; English Scurvygrass; English Stonecrop.
Lundy Cabbage; Canterbury-bells; Nottingham Catchfly; Tonbridge Filmy-fern; Chiltern Gentian; Somerset Hair-grass; Hampshire-purslane; Cornish Heath; Dorset Heath; London-pride; False London-pride; Cambridge Milk-parsley; Cornish Moneywort; Plymouth Pear; Cheddar Pink; London Plane; Loddon Pondweed; Oxford Ragwort; Bristol Rock-cress; Teesdale Sandwort; Norfolk Skullcap; Breckland Speedwell; Portland Spurge; Plymouth Thistle; Breckland Thyme; Teesdale Violet; Bedford Willow; Yorkshire-fog.

Wales (4 + 2)

Welsh Groundsel; Welsh Mudwort; Welsh Poppy; Welsh Willow.
Tenby Daffodil; Snowdon Lily.

Jersey (9)

Jersey Buttercup; J. Cudweed; J. Fern; J. Forget-me-not; J. Knapweed; J. Pink; J. Sea-lavender; J. Thrift; J. Toadflax.

Guernsey (1)

Guernsey Centaury.

Alderney (1)

Alderney Sea-lavender.

St Martin's (1)

St Martin's Buttercup.

Isle of Man (1)

Isle of Man Cabbage.

Ireland (10 + 1)

Irish Eyebright; Irish Fleabane; I. Heath; I. Ivy; I. Lady's-tresses; I. St John's-wort; I. Saxifrage; I. Sorrel; I. Spleenwort; I. Spurge.
Kerry Lily.

Dony, JG, Jury, SL & Perring, FH (1986). *English Names of Wild Flowers*. BSBI.

[other puns: Man Orchid; Lizard Orchid; Martin's Ramping-fumitory]



Irish Saxifrage



Shetland Mouse-ear



Welsh Mudwort



English Stonecrop

Illustrations prepared for publication by John Hawell from slides taken by PM.

