

BSBI

2012

# Scottish Newsletter



**No 34**

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# BSBI SCOTTISH NEWSLETTER

Number 34

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## Editorial

Having been asked by our Secretary, Dot Dahl, to provide a list of the Committee for Scotland members from its inception until 1999, I have been looking through the old Newsletters. They provide a very good account of the work done under the auspices of the BSBI by individuals in Scotland over the years. A tribute to the quality of the articles submitted.

I was also interested (and pleased) to note the longevity of the recorders for whom obituaries/appreciations had been written and for whom ages had been given. The ages at death were: 70, 78, 84, 90, 91, 92 and 97. In the current issue we learn that Elaine Bullard died at the age of 96.

I well remember the lecture we had in 1944 from the Professor of Pathology, University of Glasgow, in which we were told that coronary thrombosis was definitely related to stress and that there was a relative increase in the medical profession. He then went on to say that there were worse ways to die, but if a long life was of prime importance, we should give up medicine now and apply for a course leading to the ministry! Perhaps we should now add, have an interest in field botany?

When considering the illustration for the cover I decided to look through the plants noted in the exhibit of our Retiring Chairman (Chris Miles) and Chickweed Wintergreen took my fancy. It has been drawn for us by Elspeth Lindsay, partly from a specimen collected at Mugdock, north of Milngavie.

Once again John Hawell has meticulously proof read, Jackie Muscott has organised the photocopying and despatch and Gwynn Ellis has provided the address labels. My daughter Lorna kindly acts as recipient for the submissions, which I like to receive by the end of February.

Lorna.macpherson@ntlworld.com

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

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**Chairman's Report at the  
BSBI Annual Meeting, Edinburgh. 5 November 2011**

CHRIS MILES

The Scottish committee held three meetings over the past year. As well as organising the annual meeting and ensuring a good range of field meetings we discussed a range of other issues.

At our meeting in March we spent a good deal of time discussing how we can help the development of Rare Plant Registers in Scotland. The discussion really centred around what support could be given to help those VCRs who had yet to embark on this task and secondly the need to agree some standardisation in terms of the detail to be included and format to be used. The latter ideally to be electronic as far as possible. The principles agreed were:

VCRs to ensure that all records are sent via Mapmate to the BSBI.

BSBI ensures all datasets for VCs are made available (big database).

Employ a contractor to extract records for each VC from BSBI db, together with all species in the Scottish Biodiversity Plan and Red Data lists, and for all species which occur in perhaps 10 or less sites for each VC.

Remove duplicate records.

Adopt a standard format, as has been done in Wales.

Aim for early version/draft of RPR to go online to encourage others to help look for/record the species.

The aim is to supply an early version of RPRs by the end of 2011, which then gives recorders a full 10 years to update and publish their RPRs. I hope that this can still be achieved.

We remain really pleased with the support we have from SNH and the great news that they have renewed the grant for the Scottish Officer for a further 3 years from this month. We should note that Robin Payne is stepping down as SNH rep on the committee (to be replaced by Sarah Smythe) and thank him for his support and steering the grant successfully.

Although shortly after this grant was confirmed Jim announced that he was

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going to the other end of the world for a year we have been incredibly lucky that Angus Hannah has been able and willing to take on the task. I hope you all support him as he keeps the work of BSBI in Scotland moving forward.

We continued regularly to discuss the problem of plant disease, particularly Phytophthora and the need for awareness and vigilance by our members. In this we are grateful that others like our colleagues at BSS have also produced some very informative information. We had hoped to have a note in *BSBI News* this time but I think (due to technical problems not of our making) it will now appear next year.

We agreed that we would try to add a new element to today's meeting with a photographic competition. I hope you take the chance to vote and that this turns out to be a successful addition to the day.

Finally the committee help to agree New VCRs when needed. This year we have been pleased to have recommended Luke Gaskell and Kathy Velandar as joint VCRs for VC 78 (Peebleshire) early in the year (to allow recording). They replace the long standing David McCosh.

We have also recommended Pam Murdoch as joint VCR for VC 99 (Dunbartonshire) and Adam Fraser as a joint recorder for VC 96 (Easterness). Helen Crossly has been contacted about becoming a joint recorder in VC 108 (W Sutherland). The vacancies for joint recorders in VC 105 (Wester Ross), VC 108 (W Sutherland), VC 109 (Caithness) were advertised in *BSBI News* and were on the website.

We do recognise the need to develop botanists towards the ambition of becoming a VCR. To this end we agreed to consider how we might encourage regional recording groups to help those wanting to learn to develop their skills.

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**BSBI/BSS Scottish Annual Meeting, 2011** JANE MACINTOSH  
& JILL THOMPSON

The BSBI/BSS Annual Meeting was held on 5th November 2011 in the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

The meeting was opened by **Professor Mary Gibby**, Director of Science, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, who welcomed the delegates to the RBGE. Professor Gibby reminded us of the four Botanic Gardens in Scotland: Edinburgh, Benmore, Dawyck and Logan each experience different climates and plants behave differently at each site. Tree ferns in Logan are doing much better than in past years and are self propagating. The threat of climate change and potential changes in the ability of non-native species to spread from the garden collections has led to each of the gardens carrying out a risk assessment on the potential invasiveness of plants growing in the gardens. Species that are judged as potentially invasive will be removed.

**Chris Miles**, who is retiring from the Chair of the BSBI (Botanical Society of the British Isles) Scottish Committee, thanked members of the BSBI and BSS for organising and the Royal Botanic Garden for hosting the meeting.

**Ian Bonner**, who took over as BSBI President in June 2011, spoke about the BSBI, including updates on staff changes and some exciting new plant records. He reminded recorders about the need for more work on the Rare Plants Registers. He also gave advance notice of a BSBI conference: A Great Leap Forward, which will celebrate Biological Recording since the 1962 *Atlas of the British Flora*. This will be held at the RBGE on 20 and 21 September 2012. See the BSBI web site for details.

**Barbara Sumner**, BSS President, spoke about the history of the Botanical Society of Scotland, which was started as the Botanical Society of Edinburgh in 1836, with the aim of setting up a public herbarium and library. These became the nucleus of the RBGE's current herbarium and library when they were donated to the Garden. The BSE became the BSS 20 years ago and celebrated its 175th anniversary in 2011. (For anyone new to the BSS, our previous newsletter, *BSS News* 97, contained an article on the first century of the Society's life, which can be read on the BSS website.)

**Robin Payne**, Vascular Plant Specialist at SNH, talked about recent significant changes to the law on non-native plants and the need for biosecurity to prevent the spread of invasive species and diseases. His message is

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summarized in the article on page 36 of *BSS News* No. 98 - March 2012.

**Bob Ellis**, previously BSBI Volunteers Officer and now Projects Officer, discussed how important it is to enter plant distribution and ecology data in long term databases and how the Rare Plants Register can become a focus for planning and conservation activities. He stressed the importance of continually updating records and reminded us that there will be a new atlas of flora in 2020.

**Angus Hannah**, Acting BSBI Scottish Officer, described plans for the year ahead. The BSBI will continue its policy of appointing joint recorders where requested. Four educational field visits are planned for next summer, as well as a workshop at Kindrogan in March for recorders and potential recorders. There will be a week's trip to Coll and a meeting for Scottish recorders in July. He extended an invitation to BSS members to become involved. At the time of the meeting there were three vacancies for recorders in the Scottish Highlands. Training in plant identification and recording would be given and prospective recorders could join experienced members to gain experience.

**Jonny Hughes**, Head of Policy, SWT, spoke about the Scottish Wildlife Trust's botanical gems. The SWT has 35,000 members and manages 121 wildlife sites covering 20,000 ha. It runs a 'flying flock', a flock of Shetland and Hebridean sheep that are moved from site to site to provide targeted grazing to encourage floristic diversity. This is the only project of its kind in Scotland. The flock was set up in 2001, to give SWT more control over the grazing levels on its SSSIs. Since the sheep have been introduced there has been an overall trend towards greater plant diversity on all grazed sites, with positive indicator species increasing and negative indicators decreasing. Since 2010, the SWT also have a "flying" herd of cattle. Jonny also described SWT's monitoring work and the implications of climate change - site protection alone will not be enough to protect individual species in future and we need an 'ecosystem approach' to maintain ecosystem health in the wider countryside. Sadly funding for this environmentally friendly method of increasing biodiversity is becoming more difficult to find.

**Alan Scobie**, Project Officer, Cairngorms Rare Plants Partnership, talked about rare plant conservation in the Cairngorms National Park.

The final talk was from **Richard Gornall**, of the University of Leicester, who discussed new methods of classifying the beautiful and variable genus *Saxifraga*. There are believed to be around 460 species, divided into 15 sec-

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tions during the last classification of the genus in 1987. Saxifrages grow in a wide range of environments such as wet meadows, cliffs, rock faces and scree slopes and are often very difficult to cultivate. They are vegetatively very variable though usually with 5 petals, 5 sepals, 10 stamens and 2 fused carpals, but the sex and functionality of flowers and the breeding biology of some species is unknown. Some of the variation appears to have arisen by parallel evolution with similar patterns in species from the UK and the Himalayas. Some species are dioecious with both male and female flowers but it is not clear if both are functional on the same plant. Other species have flowers of only one sex. Vegetative characteristics such as degree of carpal fusion, seed coat structure and leaf venation patterns have been used to distinguish species. Richard Gornall also described ways in which new DNA sequencing methods and a variety of statistical techniques are now being used to investigate the evolution of this genus, and the construction of a phylogeny that describes the evolution of the species found in different countries.

(Acknowledgement. This report has been modified, with permission from the authors, from the original version destined for *BSS News*).

## **Draft Minutes of BSBI Scotland AGM 5th November 2011 at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh**

### **1. Welcome**

Chair, Chris Miles welcomed members to the meeting.

### **2. Apologies**

Ken Butler, Anne Reid, Chris Baker.

### **3. Minute of the AGM 2010**

This was approved as a true record, proposed by Peter Macpherson and seconded by Jackie Muscott.

### **4. Business arising – none**

### **5. Chairman's report - see page 3**



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## **6. The Scottish Newsletter**

Peter Macpherson received all the contributions for Newsletter No. 33 by email for the first time. He thanked everyone who had contributed, and Jackie Muscott and Wynne Ellis for helping with the distribution. Contributions for the next issue are due by the end of February.

## **7. Field Meetings 2011 and 2012**

Members needed no reminder of the poor weather during 2011, but it was agreed that the 2011 programme was a successful one. Mark Watson offered very sincere thanks to all the leaders. There are even more meetings in the 2012 programme. A Charophyte (Stonewort) meeting and a visit to N. Aberdeenshire are planned for 2013. MW reminded members that meetings are publicised on the website and in the BSBI Year Book and advised early booking. An opinion was expressed that a slower pace would attract more people to attend montane meetings. It was pointed out that these often include a long walk in, which limits the time for recording in the field. A suggestion was made that an additional leader, or leaders, on such meetings might allow groups of people to work at different paces.

## **8. Scottish Committee Nominations**

Dot Dahl, Luke Gaskell and Martin Robinson have served the Committee for 3 years. All are prepared to serve another term. That they continue in office was proposed by Ian Evans and seconded by Richard Pankhurst. The motion was carried.

## **9. AOCB – none**

The meeting was formally closed at 12.45 p.m.

## **BSBI Scottish Committee 2011 - 12**

Committee Members:

Mr M C Robinson (Chair), Mrs D Dahl (Hon. Sec.), Dr M F Watson (Field Meetings Sec.), Mrs J R Jones (Treasurer), Mrs E Lavery (Exhibition Sec.), Miss R McGuire (Publicity Officer), Mr C Baker, Mr L Gaskell, Mr C Miles.

Attending: Mr A Hannah (Acting Scottish Officer), Mr R Payne / Ms S Smyth (SNH), Mr K Harding (Botanical Society of Scotland), Dr D Long

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(Plantlife), Mr L Mackinlay (National Trust for Scotland).

Jim McIntosh (Scottish Officer) presently on sabbatical in Tristan da Cunha) returns to duty September 2012.

At the AGM on 3rd November 2012, Jane Jones and Mark Watson will retire and are 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, 2012.

Dot Dahl (Hon. Sec.) dotdahl.t21@btinternet.com

### **An appreciation of Dr Elaine Bullard's contribution to the botany of Orkney and Caithness.**

Elaine Bullard M.B.E. died on 10th August at the age of 96, having devoted more than half a century to the botanical heritage of Orkney. Bob Crawford wrote in memoriam: "Orkney has been fortunate to have had many distinguished botanists who have painstakingly explored its many islands and meticulously investigated and recorded its varied plant life. Few, if any however, can match the thoroughness and detail with which Elaine explored and recorded the Orkney flora for over half a century, personally visiting every possible habitat that might yield more information, not just for Orkney, but also for neighbouring Caithness. From the tops and gullies of Hoy, to all the geos, inlets, marshes, bogs, and lochs, Elaine searched out their plants, recording not just the species, but also all the possible hybrids and any other novelties that might have escaped the notice of less gifted, or less observant naturalists. Weather was seldom an obstacle, as she travelled around Orkney and beyond in an old Reliant three-wheeler, on to which she had constructed a makeshift tent."

John Crossley, now VCR for Orkney, contributes: "I knew Elaine well. She was a great character, with an infectious enthusiasm for botany, and she taught me a lot in my earlier days of botanising in Orkney. She loved an adventure, and managed to visit almost all the crags, sea cliffs and islets of her vice-county. She did pioneering work, with helpers, on the autecology of *Primula scotica*, and had many new species records for Orkney.

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She was always interested in habitat, and surveyed and described very many sites, in Caithness as well as Orkney, and these descriptions of hers are today, 40 years on, lucid and illuminating. They provided valuable information to the NCC when it was deciding in the 1980s upon areas to notify as SSSIs in Orkney.

She took to computing in the 1980s, when in her seventies and when home computing was in its early days. She had an old Amstrad, devised her own recording format for its database software and constructed her own queries for it.”

She served the BSBI exceptionally well. Jim McIntosh wrote in a press release when she retired as VCR at the remarkable age of 93 after 46 years of service: “In that time she has contributed greatly to the knowledge of Orkney’s plants and habitats, gathering information from all over the isles, often in places barely known for their flora, and researched the ecology of some of our rarer species. Elaine undertook valuable early work on Scottish Primrose with the Orkney Field Club and made an important contribution on plants and vegetation in *The Natural History of Orkney* by RJ Berry, arguably still the most succinct summary of the subject to be found. Her checklist of the flowering plants and ferns of Orkney, first published in 1972, is still an essential reference for everyone interested in the Orcadian flora.”

I remember the day I sat beside Elaine at a BSBI Scottish Annual Meeting about 6 years ago never having met her before. I asked her where she’d travelled from and she answered, with a sparkle in her eye, “Oh, just up the road – Orkney, if you’ve heard of it”!

Dot Dahl

## **Scottish Annual Meeting 2011- Exhibit Abstracts**

Compiled by MC Robinson in approximate Vice-county Order.

### ***Melampodium not Sanvitalia***

Geoffrey Halliday

As Eric Clement has pointed out, the popular yellow-flowered garden plant sold as *Sanvitalia procumbens* (Asteraceae) is actually a species of the central American genus *Melampodium*. There are three British records to date: from Somerset, South Hants. and Westmorland, all from urban pavements and no doubt derived from plants in hanging baskets or tubs. I

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have two clones in my garden, neither produces obvious seed, one is annual, like the above three plants, the other is perennial.

E C has referred all these plants to *M. montanum* which he describes as being annual and rhizomatous. However, none of the British plants have rhizomes. I have recently learnt that an American authority on the genus has a paper in the press in which he refers all these plants to a new species closely related to *M. montanum*.

### **Some recent finds in Dumfriesshire**

Chris Miles

A number of interesting species have been found or refound in the last couple of years:

*Eleocharis mamillata* (Northern Spike-rush) a new VC record just over the Border from populations in Selkirkshire in the Esk catchment.

*Erigeron acer* (Blue Fleabane) a new VC record in a quarry with an interesting flora including *Ophrys apifera* (Bee Orchid).

*Carex limosa* (Bog-sedge) still present at Stroanshalloch Loch since recorded in the Flora of 1896 despite afforestation of the area and possibly the only extant record in VC 72.

*Carex magellanica* (Tall Bog-sedge) in a new site on a bog protected from recent afforestation.

*Gentianella campestris* (Field Gentian) refound in an old site after 110 years.

*Coeloglossum viride* (Frog orchid) found near the *Gentianella* in a new hectad and for both only the 7th record for the VC.

*Blysmus compressus* (Flat-sedge) refound in an inland site in a hectad where recorded in 1896.

*Trientalis europea* (Chickweed Wintergreen) a new hectad record well to the west of other records and only the 5th record for the VC.

### **Seashore to Roadside Plants in Lanarkshire (VC 77)**

Peter Macpherson

Sea Spurrey (*Spergularia marina*). From a first sighting in 1996 there are now 223 x 1km square records. Danish Scurvygrass (*Cochlearia danica*). From a first sighting in 1989 there are now 114 x 1km square

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records. Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*). From a first roadside sighting in 2009 there are now three x 1km square records.

### **Newspaper ‘Bloomers’**

Peter Macpherson

Four examples are shown of conservation issues in which the plant purported to be an orchid was obviously not so. In two cases the photograph was of Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*), in one each Hedge Woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*) and a Gentian (*Gentianella* sp.). An article in 2001 stated that the Japanese Knotweed had been seen in Glasgow for the first time. It has been known since at least 1931 and by the mid 1950’s was described as “everywhere”. A magazine article in September of this year stated that “Lesser Knapweed, Field Scabious, Bird’s-foot Trefoil and Red Clover are becoming increasingly rare in the British countryside”.

### **Peeblesshire Records 2011**

Luke Gaskell and Kathy Velandar

Recording at tetrad level has resulted in a number of new species found as well as confirmation of a number of historic records. As we are particularly interested in farming it is perhaps not surprising that quite a few of these records have been arable or invasive weeds. For example, surveying fodder crops particularly turnips and kale has produced *Centaurea cyanus*, last recorded in 1924 (Buchan, 1924), *Brassica rapa* ssp. *sylvestris*, first vice-county record and *Ammi majus* (Bullwort), a Southern European umbellifer which appears to have arrived as a contaminant of grass seed. Native species include *Clinopodium vulgare*, which was found between Innerleithen and Walkerburn, the only previous record occurring near the Tweed east of Peebles in 1911 (Druce, 1911). *Poa compressa* was discovered on the lime mortar walls of Hay Lodge Park, Peebles. *Carex laevigata* was recorded flowering in a fenced water margin below the Megget reservoir, the first confirmed record since 1903 (*Annals of Scottish History*, 1901-03). In all over 5000 records have been added to the data base this year and we intend to gradually increase the number of tetrads surveyed though full coverage is unlikely any time soon. In all it has been a very enjoyable summer getting to know the beautiful countryside of Peeblesshire and the plants within it.

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## Selkirkshire (VC 79) Plants

Rod Corner

*Sellaria pallida* (Lesser Chickweed). New to the vice-county by Jeff Waddell. Thought to be confined to thin soiled igneous outcrops as an inland species in the Scottish Borders until JW discovered it as a weed in Selkirk and Kelso. Is it extending its range or has it been previously been overlooked as stunted *Stellaria media* (Common Chickweed)? The distinguishing features were given.

## Roxburgh (VC 80)

Rod Corner

*Cotula squalida* (Leptinella). New to the vice-county by Alison Murfitt. Close scrutiny of the lawns of mansions is required to detect this native of New Zealand.

*Juncus compressus* (Round-fruited Rush). This rare Scottish rush is known from basaltic rocks by the Tweed upstream from Kelso where it was first noted in 1874 by Andrew Brotherston, one of the most astute Border botanists of his day and re-found in 1972. His record was rejected by the "First Atlas" as being "known or suspected to have been recorded in error." The editors underestimated Brotherston's expertise. It still survives in good quantity.

*Medicago arabica* (Spotted Medick). On path by Tweed away from habitation as a possible adventive from the wool industry upstream.

*Myosotis stolonifera* (Pale Forget-me-not). In a new hectad in only its third extant vice-county site. It is very much commoner in VC 79 and under recorded there.

*Poa palustris* (Swamp Meadow-grass). In a new hectad. Stated to have undergone a substantial decline in the last 40 years but several new Tweedside records in recent years are bucking the trend. It has presumably been overlooked.

*Vaccinium uliginosum* (Bog Blaeberry). Yet another good sized colony in the Newcastleton area at 220m altitude. These plants are the northern outliers of the North Cumbrian populations of lowland peat mosses.

The Site Register is stated to be a provisional edition as a resurvey of Berwickshire is ongoing and a more complete version is planned when the resurvey is complete. Maps showing progress with the resurvey were exhibited. 16 out of 23 hectads or part hectads, representing 811 out of 1202 monads, have been resurveyed to date to a sampling strategy. At the current rate of progress two more years fieldwork are needed to complete the resurvey. The number of taxa recorded per hectad currently averages 115% of the 1987-1999 survey. The number of distinct monad taxa currently averages 159% of the 1987-1999 survey.

A 'second generation' CRPR was exhibited that had been completed in March 2011 and presents data site by site within hectads. The text that accompanies the tables of species records is available for free download from the BSBI website under 'Rare Plant Registers' as 'A Botanical Tour of Berwickshire'.

### **Herbal plants surviving in the wild at a medieval hospital site in Berwickshire**

Michael Braithwaite

*Hyocyanus niger* (Henbane) was found in quantity on an eroding sandy bank at Dalcove Braes NT63 overlooking the River Tweed. This species had not been seen in Berwickshire since 1956. Associated species included *Ballota nigra* (Black Horehound), *Conium maculatum* (Hemlock), *Echium vulgare* (Viper's Bugloss), *Malva sylvestris* (Common Mallow) and *Reseda luteola* (Weld). There was a medieval hospital at or near this site dedicated to St Mary Magdalene which was destroyed by the English in 1544. It seems inescapable that some or all of these species, all of which had medicinal uses, have survived from plants grown at the hospital half a millennium ago.

### **A New Hybrid to Europe:**

Douglas McKean &amp; Heather McHaffie

*Geum macrophyllum* from N. America, and *G. urbanum*.

The former garden plant is similar to a giant *G. urbanum* and the hybrid is found in two localities in the Lothians and probably occurs elsewhere in the U.K. The hybrid between *G. macrophyllum* and *G. rivale* was also found as a weed in the RBGE by Heather McHaffie.

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## **A Midlothian update of probable**

Douglas McKean

*Epilobium x aggregatum* (*E. montanum* x *E. obscurum*).

The plant was originally determined by me as *E. tetragonum* subsp. *lamyi* but Dr Pennington, the referee, corrected my mistake. The plants were huge for *lamyi*, being almost a meter high and some leaves up to 4 cm wide. Specimens of this were found by Isla Browning in cultivated fields at Gogar, near Edinburgh Airport.

## **New and old plants near Philpstoun Bing (West Lothian)**

Jackie Muscott

Great Lettuce (*Lactuca virosa*) recently appeared in the centre of Philpstoun Bing a hollowed out oil shale bing by the Union Canal. Another unusual plant recorded on the bing is Deadly Nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*). It was first recorded in 1934, then 'lost' for 50 years, but is now widespread.

To the east of Philpstoun two weedy patches left for pheasants have produced some unusual plants: to the north of the canal Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*) and to the south a single plant of Purple Viper's-bugloss (*Echium plantagineum*), together with a good deal of Field Woundwort (*Stachys arvensis*) (from a seed bank?) at both sites.

## **Rare & Interesting Plants in VC 85 (Fife & Kinross)**

Sandy Edwards

Apart from the tetrad recording I have started in VC 85 I have also been going through George Ballantyne's list of rare plants in Fife and Kinross. Where they are confirmed I have recorded and photographed them and they can be accessed on the BSBI website for Fife and Kinross.

This list has just started and will, of course, be added to as I find them.

This is a slide show of the collection so far and usually states the location and date.

## **Vice County 87 (West Perthshire) 2011**

L Lavery, J Jones  
& PD Stanley

Displayed were the principal additions to the flora for VC 87 with updates



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of significant taxa. New to the VC were Many-seeded Goosefoot (*Chenopodium polyspermum*), *Calystegia x lucana* (*C. sepium* x *C. sylvatica*) and *Senecio x ostenfeldii* (*S. jacobaea* x *S. aquaticus*) all in the vicinity of Callander. Updates were provided for *Sorbus x thuringiaca* (*S. aucuparia* x *S. aria*) and a second extant location for Hedge Bedstraw (*Galium mollugo*).

Not displayed, but new for VC 87 were Yellow Figwort (*Scrophularia vernalis*) recorded in the derelict station yard at Doune and *Salix purpurea* x *S. cinerea*, discovered by the Perthshire Society of Natural Science, Botanical Section, in the Menteith Hills.

### **East Perthshire Rare Plant Register**

Martin Robinson

The 1st version of an RPR for VC 89 was written during 2011. 287 species were included, comprising all those with IUCN designations other than Least Concern (Cheffings & Farrell 2005) and all Nationally Rare and Nationally Scarce species. Locally Rare (1-3 sites) and Locally Scarce (4-15 sites) were also included, and these together comprised about half of the total number of species in the Register. The causes for the rarity or scarcity of some of them were identified: e.g. restricted area of their habitat, edge of their range, under-recording.

The species most special to East Perthshire is *Polygonatum verticillatum* (Whorled Solomon's-seal). The vice-county has 8 of its 10 sites in the UK. Illustrations of members of each qualification category are presented.

### ***Sinapis alba* (White Mustard) in VC 89**

Martin Robinson

*Sinapis alba*, found in a field of mixed forage rape and stubble turnips beside my house, was, surprisingly, a new record for East Perthshire. It is suggested that this may be a greatly under-recorded species, on account of its superficial resemblance to *S. arvensis* (Charlock) and an antipathy towards yellow crucifers on the part of many botanists.

### **New willow hybrid**

Leslie Tucker

On Saturday 2nd July 2011, whilst descending the burnside path to Dal Righ (NN 2727 Mid-Perth VC 88) with SNH Ranger Steve Longster, I facilely

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identified a low shrub as the hybrid between Mountain Willow (*Salix arbuscula* L.) and Eared Willow (*S. aurita* L.), growing with its parents in exemplary and photogenic proximity. However, at home, I could find no record of this combination; apparently it is a new type specimen. Subsequently, pressed leaves showed none of the blackening which would indicate derivation from Dark-leaved Willow (*S. myrsinifolia*) or Creeping Willow (*S. repens*), considered as possible alternative parent species. Exhibit included abstract note with appropriate binomial, diagnosis, and description; also voucher specimens (Hbm LCNT EQ1, 2 & 3 for RBGE), including rooted leafy cuttings being cultivated to produce catkins, &c., for further study.

*Salix* ×*luiensis* L. C. N. Tucker *hybrida nova inter Salicem arbusculam L. et S. auritam L., nominis provisorii ab loco invento, cum parentes crescens ac proprie intermedia: foliis rectiellipticis glandiserrulatisque sed etiam rugosis crispihirsutis stipulatisque primita evidenta; postea ut nunquam nigricantis nec a Salice myrsinifolia Salisb. neque a S. repenti L. oriunda distinguitur. Amenta nundum visa.*

## **Evidence of Climate Change in the Uplands**

Theo Loizou

In general it is assumed that plant responses to climate change lag behind those of the animal kingdom. Here, evidence is presented which suggests that this might not be the case. In a relatively short period (< 25 years) several species including *Athyrium distentifolium* (Alpine Ladyfern) and *Carex norvegica* (Close-headed Alpine-sedge) appear to have shown marked declines in the uplands. Photographic and other empirical information concerning these species is presented.

## **Is Moroccan Ivy one of the parents of the Atlantic?** Alison Rutherford

Living sprays of *Hedera helix*, *Hedera hibernica*, *H. hibernica* ‘*hibernica*’ and *H. maroccana* are displayed to show some features which have been noticed in the Atlantic:

Similar sap scent; rampant growth; yellow-green foliage; bigger leaves that don’t open flat and scale-hairs intermediate between the small reddish and the white-haired *Hedera* groups.

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## **Botanising on wheels**

Alison Rutherford

An arthritic dog was mobilized on a converted pushchair, which required hard surface walks. Some neglected 1 km squares in VC 99 and a few in VC 75 round the coastal town of Ardrrossan were visited.

Both areas proved surprisingly rich in species. More ground was covered by sampling, not recording. This method (minus dog) might help cover built-up areas.

## ***Sedum villosum* (Hairy Stonecrop) in Mull**

Lynne Farrell

In *BSBI News* No. 115 September 2010, Michael Braithwaite wrote an article on *Sedum villosum* in Berwickshire, its decline both in that vice-county and its future in the British flora. This species was part of the TPP recently, and so I surveyed the sites on Mull (VC 103). In addition to the survey, I found a new site on the Ross of Mull during my on-going tetrad recording. The exhibit shows some of the sites on Ardmeanach and the new site on the Ross, due south of Ardmeanach.

## **The flora of far north railway stations**

Brian Ballinger

The publicly accessible areas of the 12 railway stations in Easter Ross (VC 106) were visited on two occasions in either 2000 or 2005 and again in 2011. 227 vascular plant species were noted in all, but 72 seen on the first occasion were not re-found in the second survey. 31 new species were recorded during the 2011 visits.

There appears to have been an increased use of herbicides in recent years, particularly on platforms. However many stations continue to produce a good floral display.

Interesting finds included *Orobanche minor* (Common Broomrape) and *Crassula tillaea* (Mossy Stonecrop).

## **New sites for Saltmarsh Sedge (*Carex salina*) from the Scottish Saltmarsh Survey**

Ian Strachan

The Scottish Saltmarsh Survey 2010-12 is a national assessment of all saltmarshes around our coast of at least 3ha, and a sample of smaller sites.

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Funded by SNH and SEPA, the work is being carried out by the ecological consultancy NatureBureau Ltd and is being project managed by BSBI member Thomas Haynes over 3 years. It will update the last national saltmarsh survey from the 1980s, assess the state of the resource in Scotland and establish a new baseline for monitoring change.

Saltmarsh Sedge (*Carex salina*) was first discovered in Britain in 2004 by Keith Hutcheon (*Watsonia* 27: 51-57) at Morvich in Loch Duich (VC 105). Subsequent searches on the west coast had failed to find additional populations. So it was with great excitement that this enigmatic sedge was found in August 2011 at two sites in Loch Sunart (VC 97). The large saltmarsh at the head of the loch (NM8360), beside the mouth of the River Carnoch, has a number of scattered occurrences. A large stand was also found at Strontian beside the mouth of the Strontian River (NM813614). In common with the Morvich site, very few flowering spikes were present.

For further information on the Scottish Saltmarsh Survey contact Tom@naturebureau.co.uk

### **West Sutherland: some surprises**

Pat and Ian Evans

It has been a good year, both for species new to the vice-county and rediscoveries. *Galium album* (Upright-hedge Bedstraw) appeared on a roadside north of Lower Badcall (new to VC 108). We found *Trisetum flavescens* (Yellow Oat-grass) near the entrance to Balnakeil Golf-course, possibly introduced, but nevertheless the first recent record. An extensive marsh at Balnakeil and associated drainage channel yielded *Glyceria declinata* (Small Sweet-grass -first recent record) and *G. x pedicellata* (Hybrid Sweet-grass -new to the north-west). Finally, we rediscovered *Leontodon saxatilis* (Lesser Hawkbit) in quantity in coastal grassland at Sheigra (last recorded in 1966) and found it on roadsides in five other hectads.

### **The BSBI Distribution Database ('The Big Database')** Tom Humphrey

The new Big Database was demonstrated.

### **Botanising in Lapland**

Mark Tulley

Some photographs of plants taken in Lapland were displayed on a laptop.

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There was also information, publications, leaflets etc on display from BSBI, BSS, SNH, Plantlife Scotland and Heather McHaffie.

## **Identification Help**

Douglas McKean

A table was provided for the display of unidentified specimens and/or photographs. It was well used and many identifications were made.

## **Scottish Officer News**

**From Angus Hannah, acting Scottish Officer  
Jim's sabbatical.**

You will probably all know by now that Jim McIntosh has taken a sabbatical year to record vegetation in Tristan da Cunha, and that I am standing in for him. Have a look at: [furtherthanthe furthest@blogspot.com](mailto:furtherthanthe furthest@blogspot.com) where you can read about his adventures and see splendid photos of the world's remotest inhabited island.

## **Recorders**

Being a good VCR is an ever-growing task, and I am very conscious of the need to make it as manageable as possible. With this in mind I have been continuing the policy of recommending the appointment of joint recorders in any vice-county where the present incumbent finds the job over-taxing. This may be on account of ill health or reduced mobility, making adequate coverage of a large vice-county impracticable, or from a disinclination to take on the challenges of new technology, or simply a result of having too many other commitments. There are now many vice-counties in which joint recorders work together successfully, and this is a situation I envisage becoming normal, wherever suitable candidates can be found. The great advantage is that, as a joint recorder, you don't have to be good at everything. You can specialise in the bits you like doing.

Last year, a number of recorders were confirmed in post by Records Committee after serving their probation. These include Gillian Smart VC 75 (Ayrshire) joint with Dave Lang; Liz Lavery and Paul Stanley VC 87 (West Perth) joint; Sarah Smyth VC 96 (Easternness) now joint; John Holland VC 99 (Dunbarton) now joint and Duncan Donald VC 105 (Wester Ross). In

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addition, five new joint recorders have been appointed. These are Luke Gaskell and Kathy Velander in VC 78 (Peebles); Philip Sansum in VC 86 (Stirling) with Edna Stewart; Adam Fraser in VC 96 (Easternness) with Sarah Smyth; Pamela Murdoch in VC 99 (Dunbarton) with John Holland. We warmly welcome all the new appointees. In VC 90 (Angus) Barbara Hogarth has resigned from the recordership, and we hope that by the time you read this we will have new joint recorders in post. BSBI and the Scottish Committee in particular wish to thank Barbara for her dedicated work in the vice-county, and hope her considerable field skills will continue to be employed in the service of the local flora and its conservation. At the time of writing joint recorder vacancies remain in VCs 105 (Wester Ross), 108 (West Sutherland) and 109 (Caithness), but it is hoped that one at least of these will be filled by the time this is in print.

Elaine Bullard, our long-serving recorder for VC 111 (Orkney), died last year and an obituary has appeared in the Yearbook. Her successor, John Crossley, has been working on her huge legacy of records, and has just posted a new draft checklist of Orkney plants on the BSBI Website.

### **Education and outreach**

Finding potential recorders, joint or otherwise, remains a difficult task. Yet we have members, perhaps reading this, who are competent to be recorders, but only lack confidence to take on the role, whether in respect of their field ID or their computer skills. Others, outside the Society, may be equally capable, but need to be persuaded that we are worth joining, and that being a BSBI recorder or recording assistant is both an important role and a uniquely satisfying one. This is where our educational field meetings and our partnerships with the Botanical Society of Scotland, and all our other partners with an interest in plants, are of vital importance. We encourage the setting up of local recording groups wherever there are sufficient interested botanists, and we hope that by fostering a team-based approach to recording, we can both ease the burden on individual recorders and create opportunities for new people to get a start as recording assistants, before perhaps progressing to joint recorderships.

Following last year's success, we are again running four educational field meetings, where we encourage everyone of any skill level to attend, and the emphasis is on learning how to use keys for identification and cards for recording. Details are given elsewhere, along with all the field meetings arranged for 2012. Thanks are due to Mark Watson for organising another splendid programme. Last year's was a record programme, but we believe

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this season's will be the equal of it. I hope you will all make the effort to attend at least one or two meetings. They are always very rewarding.

Margaret Bradshaw is running her *Alchemilla* workshop at Ullapool in July, which had to be postponed last year when she broke a bone in her foot. This links in with the Threatened Plant Project, since *Alchemilla wichurae* is one of this season's target species, and it is obviously necessary for recorders to get their eye in for it if they are to re-find old records. *Alchemilla glomerulans* is another species that the course will focus on, and any sites for this which turn up during Threatened Plant monitoring will be an added bonus. I urge any recorders who have sites for either of these *Alchemillas* in their vice-county to attend Margaret's weekend if at all possible, as well as anyone else with an interest in mountain plants, but please book soon as places are limited.

Last year's Scottish recording week was based at a Victorian shooting lodge near Lairg, led by Jim McIntosh and the new local VCR, Mick Crawley. It produced many additional records for Mick's online flora of East Sutherland, and was a very sociable occasion, greatly enjoyed by all who took part. This year's recording week will be based in Kirkcudbrightshire, at a country house on the Solway coast, and we hope it will be equally successful in filling some gaps in that under-recorded vice-county, and be just as enjoyable for those participating.

### **Recorder support**

Jim commissioned Martin Harvey to visit many of us last year to sort out our various troubles over Mapmate, and I believe this was very useful. It certainly was to me. He also asked Martin to make a series of short videos of how to do things in Mapmate, and these I strongly recommend. I have commissioned a few more, and these should be ready by the time you read this. You will find them on the BSBI website, under the Mapmate Support tab in the 'Go straight there' section. We are very grateful to SNH for funding this work, which will of course be of value to all users of Mapmate, not only botanists.

Martin Rand is our own leading Mapmate expert, and he is currently revising and expanding the Mapmate Handbook, again with SNH support. I find this Handbook a constant companion whenever I'm trying something different in Mapmate, and the new version will be even more useful. This too should be ready by the time you read this, available initially as a PDF download. The two Martins are co-operating to ensure that the book and

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the videos interlink as far as possible.

### **Fifth day programme**

Because I am only employed by BSBI four days a week some additional funds are available, and I am using these for a variety of projects known as my Fifth day programme. By the time you read this the Scottish recording workshop at Kindrogan, subsidised from this programme, should have taken place. This weekend is intended to include sessions by Chris Metherell (VCR for Cheviot) on Rare Plant Registers, Graham French of the National Biodiversity Network on Data Cleansing and the Data Validation Tool, Tom Humphrey on accessing and using the new ('big') Distributional Database and our own Richard Pankhurst on Recording Critical Groups. In addition, there will be time for general discussion of recording strategy and techniques, including whether or how we can record status and habitat, public access to our records, relations with LRCs and any issues, for instance with Mapmate or Memory map.

Rare Plant Registers are something that our funders especially value, and which we are uniquely placed to deliver. One of the targets we have agreed in our Scottish Officer funding package with SNH is to work towards a dozen new rare plant registers during the next three years. Chris Metherell, who recently published an RPR for his vice-county of Cheviot, has agreed to follow up his session at Kindrogan with any recorders willing to pursue the creation of an RPR for their own VC. If anyone needs guidance with an RPR, please get in touch with Chris, who will be happy to help.

Data cleansing may be a new idea for some of you: it is a means of using our computers to check our records for us. Many kinds of mistakes can be picked up and corrected before the data gets into the system, and this can save a lot of bother later on. NBN have devised a special Validation Tool for this job, which Graham will show us how to use. It can be downloaded from the NBN site. Please get in touch with me if you need any help with this.

As another part of the fifth day programme, Andy Amphlett has been working on an up to date Check-list and a draft Rare Plant Register for the whole Cairngorm National Park, which includes parts of nine vice-counties. I am sure the outcome will be a valuable tool for those responsible for conservation and development in the region, and provide a stimulus to further recording in all areas of the Park.



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## **Forest expansion consultation**

On issues such as conservation and development, the BSBI has never been a campaigning organisation. But when we are invited to express our opinion on a matter of government strategy affecting our interest, we should not hold back. In January we submitted our views to the government's consultation on woodland expansion. A number of members also attended some of the subsequent 'Stakeholder meetings' around the country. As most of you will know, it is proposed to substantially increase the area of forest in Scotland, with all that this implies for habitat loss and threat to scarce plant populations. We have expressed our concern that planting should not be done where it would destroy valuable habitat, and sought to ensure that a robust assessment procedure was in place.

**Website** We are very fortunate to have appointed Drew McNaughton as volunteer web manager for the BSBI Scottish pages. Drew has done a good job in updating the site, and ensuring that matters of current interest or concern are displayed. If you have items that you think should be on the site, please contact me in the first instance. We thank Jane Squirrell for her help with the website over the past few years.

## **Publicity Officer**

We also welcome Ruth McGuire to the volunteer post of publicity officer. Ruth has stocks of publicity materials of various kinds, which can be borrowed for local displays. It is very good for BSBI to be represented as widely as possible at events where a proportion of those attending may be expected to have an interest in their local flora, or in conservation issues more broadly.

## **Site Condition Monitoring**

During 2011 four SSSIs were surveyed and reports prepared. These were Cairnwell, Ben Chonzie, Keltneyburn and Rescobie & Balgavies. In addition, further survey work was carried out to enable reports to be finally completed for Upper Solway flats and marshes and Sunart. Reports for all of these sites have now been sent to SNH, thereby completing the second cycle of SCM. Thanks are due to all the volunteers who participated in this work, which is one of the BSBI's most valued contributions in the eyes of our funders. Plans are being drafted for the third cycle, which is expected to begin in 2013. It is anticipated that a somewhat different procedure will be adopted, but there will continue to be scope for BSBI participation. All

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the records from the second cycle, including associated species, are now being digitised, and will be made available on the NBN Gateway.

### **Scottish Officer project**

As reported last year, SNH have agreed to continue to fund the Scottish Officer project. However, in the current financial situation this support, although outlined for three years, is only given one year at a time, and is subject to our meeting strict conditions and targets. These include making all our records available through the NBN Gateway, publishing Rare Plant Registers in at least a dozen further vice-counties before 2015 and continuing the programme of monitoring SSSIs.

### **Threatened Plant Project**

This is the final year of the original BSBI Threatened Plant Project. The species of Scottish interest this year are the following:

<i>Alchemilla wichurae</i>	13 VCs
<i>Persicaria minor</i>	9 VCs
<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	4 VCs
<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	4 VCs
<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	2 VCs
<i>Fumaria parviflora</i>	1 VC

It is proposed to follow this project with a similar one targeting some alien species of particular interest.

Angus Hannah, BSBI Scottish Officer (acting), Glenmore, Rothesay, Isle of Bute PA20 0QU, Tel: 01700 503879, e-mail: butesedge@yahoo.co.uk

### **Is *Juncus ensifolius* (Sword-leaved Rush) JOHN MITCHELL about to become part of the Scottish flora?**

It was an announcement in a national newspaper that first drew my attention to the official opening on 11th July 2011 of 'a new wetland area' to process waste liquid being discharged from a whisky distillery in Strathblane, West Stirlingshire (VC 86). Visiting the distillery out of curiosity a couple of days later, the new wetland turned out to be a dozen or so linked filter beds which only a few week earlier had been planted with an

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assortment of marshland species. Most of the plantings were still at an immature stage, an exception being quite a few tussocks of an unfamiliar rush already in advanced flower. This was subsequently identified (PM) as *Juncus ensifolius* (Sword-leaved Rush) originating from North America. A browse through the internet confirmed that in its native country, the species has a proven track record for nutrient removal in similar bio-filtration schemes.

Stray viable seeds of *J. ensifolius* finding their way out of the distillery grounds into the wider countryside would seem a real possibility. The open filter bed system drains into a nearby stream, which in turn passes through low-lying damp grassland before joining up with the River Blane. Wild duck in small numbers are already frequenting the site, creating an opportunity for the rush seeds to be dispersed even further afield.

I have since ascertained that the following were also planted and may find their way into the Stirlingshire flora: *Acorus calamus*, *Carex acuta*, *C. riparia*, *Rumex hydrolapathum* and *Typha angustifolia*.

Editorial comment: (invited by above author)

In 2008 Keith Watson informed me that *Juncus ensifolius* was present in a pond in Ruchill Park, Glasgow (VC 77). We ascertained that it was part of a mix that had been planted. Accordingly, it was not included in the draft Flora of Lanarkshire. In 2010 there was some evidence of spread on site and it is the intention to check the status again in 2012.

## **Brambles in Wester Ross and Skye**

DAVID WELCH &  
ALAN NEWTON

In mid June 2011 DW took a week's family holiday in the western Highlands staying near Strome Ferry. Beforehand, DW thought he might be able to add some bramble records in what he suspected could be an under-recorded region, so he conferred with AN.

Finding *Rubus ebudensis* on the mainland topped AN's wish list, and other species to hunt for, due to having very few records, were *Rubus aghadergensis* and *R. scoticus*. Get your eye in for *ebudensis* by going across Skye to its sites near Dunvegan, said AN, perhaps thinking that the

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only published description, a short article in *Watsonia* in 1988, would be insufficient for a bramble man largely active in NE Scotland.

The holiday began on Saturday 18 June, and unfortunately spring growth had come later in 2011 than in several recent years. So the flowering of brambles, much needed by DW to aid identification, was only just starting. Crossing to the west from Easter Ross by the Achnasheen road, DW first encountered brambles in the woodlands around Achnasshellach, but with no flowers visible checking there was postponed till later in the week.

Nearing Strome Ferry, the first flowering bushes were spotted on the roadside at Attadale. Erect stems, ovate terminal leaflets and white petals meant *R. fissus* or *R. scissus*; but a check in the pink atlas showed both species had already been recorded in this hectad and in no other for many miles around. Another re-find greeted us at the holiday cottage: *R. mucronulatus*, easily recognisable from its mucronate leaflets.

On Sunday the Kyle of Lochalsh district was worked, this being the area mostly likely in AN's judgement to provide the first mainland record of *R. ebudensis*. Kyle quay produced flowering *R. leptothyrsos* and *R. nemoralis*, and elsewhere in the town was a narrow-leaved bramble new to DW - could it be the Skye/Harris species? Touring to Plockton produced bushes with leaves like *polyanthemos*, and more *nemoralis*, these flowers being a distinctive mauvish pink and having short stamens.

On Monday Applecross was visited, but no *R. aghadergensis* was seen. *R. nemoralis* was abundant in the policies around Applecross House, and there were bushes, later-confirmed, of *R. polyanthemos* near the shore, much browsed by deer. Touring north to Loch Torridon produced in NG64 a colony of *leptothyrsos*, which at last was a new hectad record.

The Dunvegan excursion had been delayed till Tuesday to allow more flowering, and it was further delayed by the wonderful Skye scenery on a bright day, then a trip down Glen Brittle. There more of likely *polyanthemos* was found, but not collected; likewise *nemoralis*, common around Broadford, was not bagged to save our cottage being overrun with prickly material. When Dunvegan was eventually reached the place was overrun by coach parties, and few brambles were in flower. In the woods around the Castle carpark, vegetative features of brambles suggested *R. radula*,

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which AN duly confirmed. Then Dunvegan quay was searched, a rather derelict berth for some boats and overrun with gorse. Some brambles were in flower, and there was a mix of leaves some being unfamiliar to DW. So collections were made despite it being difficult to obtain good stem pieces definitely connected to flowers. But from this material AN later picked out *ebudensis* and *radula*, though DW was quite unsure when in the thicket and suspected another one or even two other species there.

On the Wednesday more touring by sea and rail in the Lochalsh area produced no new hectad records, just more colonies of *nemoralis* and *polyanthemos*. Thursday was the day for the necessary visit to Inverewe Gardens. By now the brambles were flowering along Strathconnon, allowing collections of *fissus/scissus* and *nemoralis* at sites in hectads with no previous records (NG94 and NH04 respectively). More *nemoralis* was seen along Loch Maree and at Gairloch.

At Inverewe there was still more *nemoralis*; this species is clearly abundant in the region wherever altitude and exposure permit brambles. Then at the far west of the gardens in a sheltered bay near natural oak-pine woodland, DW spotted the same unknown bramble with trifoliolate leaves and narrow leaflets as seen in Kyle. But again lack of flowers hindered identification.

On Friday, another visit was made to Skye, producing more sightings of *nemoralis* and *polyanthemos* down the Sleat peninsula to Armadale. Then it was time to collect material of the Kyle unknown. Fortunately it was now showing white flowers, and AN duly pronounced *R. subinermoides*. Which means that the Inverewe sighting (hectad NG88) extends north the range of this Scottish coastal species by forty kilometres.

Summing up, DW now believes that the district had been well recorded by previous batalogists, and while there are still gaps to be plugged the broad distribution patterns are accurate. We doubt whether *R. ebudensis* has yet reached the mainland, but are concerned for its future on Skye and Harris, as previously set out (Newton, 2008).

## References

- Newton, A. (1988). A new bramble from Skye and the Outer Hebrides. *Watsonia* 17: pp 173-174.
- Newton, A. (2008). Brambles in the Hebrides, 2007. *BSS News* 90: pp 42-43.

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***Chrysanthemum segetum*;  
A Threatened Plant!**

PETER MACPHERSON

Corn Marigold (*Chrysanthemum* [*Glebionis*] *segetum*) was on the BSBI Threatened Plant Project list for 2010. In recent years the plant had been seen in 11 Lanarkshire quadrants, but no recordings were made during its year as a TPP species.

It was therefore of interest, when in September 2011, I was informed by Alison Rutherford that the plant was growing on rough ground at the side of a motorway off-ramp in the west of Glasgow. Checking on 18th Sept, I found that the plant was adjacent to the off-ramp from the M8 to Paisley Road, between the ramp and the Kinning Park Industrial Estate. Along a 250 yard stretch between NS5783.6447 and 5766.6431 there were at least 300 plants, some singly and others in little clumps. Most were close to the road, but one was noted 35 yards in from the slip-road. I saw no associates to suggest that it had been a component in a seed-mix.

However, on 23rd September (plus AD & BCM Uttamchandani) I noticed further plants on the bank of an on-ramp (travelling east) to the newly opened M74 at Polmadie (Fig 1). We returned on 2nd October and noted that along a 100 yard stretch there were about 25 plants, as singletons or in little clumps. Adjacent species, seen from the slow moving vehicle, included poppies and ragworts. On the bank of the slip-road at the same junction, but travelling west there were two Corn Marigold plants, plus Scentless Mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*), Redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*) & Prickly Sow-thistle (*Sonchus asper*). There was also a singleton *Chrysanthemum* on flat ground to the south, suggesting the possibility of it having spread across. The grid reference for this area is 59835.62892, putting it into Renfrewshire.

We then checked at the Cambuslang junction (62519.61725 - back in Lanarkshire) and noted many plants on the banks of the slip road off, travelling east and many as we drove back on to the M74 going west. Plants were also present on the on-ramp to the east.

Subsequently, singletons were seen at the side of the on-ramp (travelling west at Fullarton (64.62), at the Kingston exit to the west (58.64) and a

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few clumps on the north side where the M74 joins the M8 (57.64).

The relevant section of the M74 was opened in July 2011. It is five miles long and extends from the previous termination at Fullarton in the east to join the M8 just south of the Kingston Bridge.

All these additional sightings at recently developed sites on the M74 extension suggested that they must have been related to the landscaping. Enquiry was made of the Motorway Department (Interlink M74) and the information obtained that *Chrysanthemum segetum* was indeed one of 24 constituents of the seed-mix used by the Landscapers on the 'M74 Completion'. The complete list was given as:

“BRITISH SEED HOUSES LTD; WFG13 CLAY NEUTRAL SOILS

*Achillea millefolium*, *Anthyllis vulneraria*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Chrysanthemum segetum*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Daucus carota*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Festuca arundinacea*, *Festuca rubra litoralis*, *Galium verum*, *Geranium pratense*, *Hypochoeris radicata*, *Knautia arvensis*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Papaver rhoeas*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Ranunculus bulbosus*, *Rhinanthus minor*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Silene dioica*, *Stachys officinalis*, *Vicia cracca* (Net Weight 20kg)”.

As the slip road from the M8 to Paisley Road had been in existence for many years, enquiry was made as to presumed re-seeding. I was informed that the original off ramp had been demolished, realigned and seeded as part of the recent work.

Apart from the M8 area, there was limited access to the sites, but on checking, noted that I had recorded half of those on the seed mix.

In general, I ignore seedlings, unless they show evidence of persistence and spread. However, as the plant in question is on the Threatened Plant Project list, I thought it appropriate to obtain as much information as possible regarding its origin and distribution. This was passed on to the co-ordinator of the project.

I am indebted to Mr Ian Balmer, Interlink M74JV for supplying the relevant information.



Fig 1. Schematic illustration of M74 extension

Of the 24 species in the seed-mix, the computer indicated spelling errors of the generic names for all but four; *Chrysanthemum*, *Digitalis*, *Geranium*, *Lotus*.

Suggestions for re-spelling of some of the others are as follows;  
 Achilles, Anthills, Cynosures, Discus, Fistula, Katie, Hypocorism,  
 Palaver, Plant ago, Remix, Rubella, Silence, Starchy, Vickie.

## **Bings and Birdseed (VC 84)**

JACKIE MUSCOTT

I was not out and about quite so much in 2011, but was still able to record some new plants and some unusually large populations of others.

At the beginning of May a trip to Lochcote Reservoir with the Edinburgh Natural History Society revealed a new and quite extensive site for Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*). A few days later I went to investigate a small hill near Ecclesmachan where I had noticed Meadow Saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*) some years before, but had never returned at quite the right time. I managed it this time and found the south and west sides of the hill white with the blooms of thousands of plants. They ran into three 1x1 squares and were a wonderful sight.

We encountered some other unusually large plant populations during the BSBI's 'Two Bings' excursion. On the second bing, Foulshiels, Common Wintergreen (*Pyrola minor*) has colonised shady areas under conifers.



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There are now thousands of plants, a great many of which were flowering during our visit, while in a more open, damper area there were some hundreds of flowering spikes of Common Twayblade (*Neottia ovata*) (which I think had a good year in 2011).

Several new plants were recorded on this expedition (the main purpose of which was to see the 3 clubmosses growing on Whitrigg Bing). Douglas McKean identified a complicated hybrid willow *Salix x calodendron* on Whitrigg and the large-leaved bramble *Rubus armeniacum* on the old railway line which joins the two bings, while Prickly Heath (*Gaultheria mucronata*) turned up on Foulshiels.

Later in the summer I visited Philpstoun Bing, which lies on both sides of the Union Canal. The larger part of the bing (south of the canal) has been hollowed out leaving a shell of shale all round. When I first visited, twenty years ago, the interior of the bing was pretty barren except round the 'entrance' where all sorts of rubbish, including plants, had been dumped. Now the entrance has been cleared, providing access to the motor-cyclists who keep parts of the bing clear, but elsewhere there are now many young birches and willows, not to mention plants of Deadly Nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*) which have spread over the bing on both sides of the canal.

Deadly Nightshade was first recorded on the south side of the south bing in 1921 and remained in obscurity until 1984 when it had begun to spread, perhaps as a result of climate change. (By this time the less accessible south side had become quite well colonised though unnoticed by anybody.)

However a new plant has now arrived, Great Lettuce (*Lactuca virosa*). It's mainly near the entrance of the bing and given the number of plants it's been around for a year or two. Since the south part of Philpstoun Bing is due for redevelopment I shall have to encourage the seeds to jump the canal and colonise to the north!

Further along the canal I noticed a strip of maize in a nearby field and went to investigate. Not surprisingly (given the summer) the maize had not done well, but it didn't seem to have been sprayed, and there was a weedy corner, apparently left for pheasants adjoining. There were two surprises; several plants of Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*), last recorded in 1934, and large

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quantities of Field Woundwort (*Stachys arvensis*) both among the maize and the weeds. On the other side of the canal there was an even larger weedy patch, with a little more Chicory, a lot more Field Woundwort, and a single plant of Purple Vipers Bugloss (*Echium plantagineum*), new to the VC.

I'm beginning to think there must be a considerable seed bank of Field Woundwort in some parts of the vice-county. Previously it has turned up in a weedy field of oats, which was under process of reclamation (1987), and in a rough field where motor-cyclists had disturbed the ground (2004). I wonder how long seed remains viable?

## Scottish Field Meetings 2012

Full details of the following meetings are to be found in the Year Book

May 19	Kilpatrick Braes, Dunbartonshire	A Hannah & P Murdoch
May 27- June 2	Isle of Coll	L Farrell
June 23 & 24	Megget/Talla, Central Southern Uplands	L Gaskell & C Miles
June 30	Ben Chonzie, Perthshire	J Holland
June 30- July 7	Kirkcudbrightshire	D Hawker
July 14 & 15	Aberlady Bay, East Lothian	A Silverside & J Harrison
July 21 & 22	Ullapool, Wester Ross	M Bradshaw
July 28	Tentsmuir, Fife	S Edwards & B Hay
August 4 & 5	Ardrossan/Stevenston/Saltcoats, Ayrshire	D Lang & G Smart
August 11	Ochil Hills, West Perthshire	L Lavery
August 18	Weeds of Bute, Clyde Isles	A Hannah
August 25	Tillicoultry Glen, West Perthshire	L Lavery

## PLANTLIFE SCOTLAND EVENTS 2012

BSBI members are very welcome at any Plantlife walks and events. Guided walks and training days are free of charge and all are welcome, from those with a general interest to experienced botanists. For shows, admission charges apply.

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March 2012

Wildflowers Count survey 2012 is launched. Sign up to participate at any time, through our website or by contacting the Plantlife Scotland office.

Saturday 17th - Sunday 18th March, 1 – 4 pm

John Hope Gateway at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

Drop-in event. The Wild and Wonderful World of Scottish Plants: Plantlife Scotland explores the flowers, mosses, lichens and fungi that make up our fantastic flora. Come along and find out more about what is growing around us. Free admission.

2nd - 15th May

Colonsay, Inner Hebrides.

Wildflower walks as part of Colonsay SpringFest 2012

Join Dr Richard Gulliver for wildflower walks through the stunning Hebridean Landscapes that characterise Colonsay; the activity sessions will include an introduction to our Wildflowers Count survey. Details at [www.colonsayevents.co.uk](http://www.colonsayevents.co.uk).

Saturday 5th May, 11.30 am – 2.30 pm

Balmaha woodlands, Balmaha, Stirlingshire.

Guided lichen walk led by lichenologist Sally Eaton, in the beautiful Balmaha woodlands on the shores of Loch Lomond. Scotland is a 'hot spot' for lichen diversity, and this walk will explore the world of epiphytic lichens i.e. those growing on trees. Open your eyes to the fabulous species that often go unnoticed, despite bringing colour to woodland habitats throughout the year.

Saturday 19th May 11 am – 4 pm

Broomridge and Balquhiderock Wood LNR, Stirling.

Getting the most out of Wildflowers Count

A practical workshop, full of ideas and tips on what to look for, while enjoying a walk through the countryside. Details from Davie Black (see How to Book panel).

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Saturday 19th – Sunday 20th May, 11 am – 4 pm

Hopetoun House, Edinburgh.

The Scottish Birdfair 2012 – come and see our stand at this new event for bird and wildlife enthusiasts on the lawns at Hopetoun House. Workshops, children's events, live music and local food and drink.

[www.scottishbirdfair.org.uk](http://www.scottishbirdfair.org.uk).

Tuesday 22nd May, 10 am – 4 pm

Killiecrankie, nr. Pitlochry, Perthshire.

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

Saturday 26th May 11 am – 4 pm

Near Dingwall, Easter Ross.

Getting the most out of Wildflowers Count

Details as for 19th May.

Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd June

Royal Highland Showground, Ingliston, Edinburgh. Gardening Scotland 2012 – come and see us again at the biggest gardening show in Scotland, in the Living Garden zone. Get in touch if you'd like to help out on our stand. Show information at [www.gardeningscotland.com](http://www.gardeningscotland.com).

Sunday 10th June, 10 am – 12.30 pm

Appin, Argyll.

Guided walk. An easy walk exploring part of the former Ballachulish branch railway line, which has a rich mixture of wild flowers. The walk will include a look at the old Appin station, which is of botanical and historical interest, and a brief introduction to Plantlife's Wildflowers Count survey. Led by Carl Farmer, joint Vice-county Recorder for Argyll.

Wednesday 27th June, 10 am – 4 pm

Trinafour, Perthshire.

Guided walk. A longer outing with the opportunity to look at a variety of wild flower habitats in this area of highland Perthshire underlain by lime-

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stone. We will spend the day looking at meadows, flushes and limestone pavement in different locations near the road to Trinafour associated with the limestone geology. There will be a chance to see some unusual plants in these and other habitats. Led by Alistair Godfrey, joint Vice-county Recorder for Mid Perthshire.

Wednesday 4th July, 4 - 6 pm

Lochore Meadows Country Park, Crosshill, Fife.

Ranger-guided walk. Explore the post-industrial and ancient landscapes at this country park, including oak woodlands, meadows and grasslands, a nature reserve and ponds.

Saturday 14th July, 2 – 5 pm

St Abb's Head NNR, St Abbs, Berwickshire.

Ranger-guided walk. Enjoy the magnificent Berwickshire coastline at St Abb's Head and the rich variety of wild flowers and grasses growing there as well as the seabirds for which it is famous. Walk starts from the NTS Visitors' Centre (exhibition, art gallery and coffee shop).

Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd July (10.30 am – 6 pm),

Falkland, Fife. The Big Tent 2012 – Come and see the Plantlife stand at the Big Tent - Scotland's environmental festival, a fusion of world and folk music, with sustainable living, children's activities, workshops and fantastic local food. Headlining: the Proclaimers and Salsa Celtica.  
[www.bigtentfestival.co.uk](http://www.bigtentfestival.co.uk).

Wednesday 1st August, 1.30 - 4 pm

Ariundle NNR, Sunart Oakwoods, nr. Strontian, Argyll.

Ranger-guided walk around these beautiful oakwoods, one of the few surviving remnants of the woodlands which were once widespread along the Atlantic coast of Scotland.

Thursday 2nd August, 10 am – 4 pm

Mugdock Country Park, nr. Milngavie, Glasgow.

Learn how to identify wild flowers. Details as for 22nd May.

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Saturday 18th August, 9.30 am – 12

Lower Largo Bay, Fife.

Seashore walk. Find out more about seaweeds and seashore ecology. Easy terrain on a firm sandy beach with rock outcrops. Led by Professor Martin Wilkinson of the Centre for Marine Biodiversity & Biotechnology, Heriot-Watt University.

Saturday 29th September, 2 – 4 pm

Dalkeith Country Park, Dalkeith, Midlothian.

Guided fungi walk. Find out more about the wonderful world of fungi, in this country park with its unique semi-natural woodlands, and its ancient oaks which play host to some interesting fungi species. Free entry to Park. Led by mycologist Nev Kilkenny.

Saturday 13th – Sunday 14th October, 1 – 4 pm

John Hope Gateway at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Drop-in event.

Details as for 17th – 18th March.

Tuesday 16th October, 2 – 4 pm

Craig Phadrig, Inverness.

Guided fungi walk. Joint event with The Waterways Trust, part of a series of walks looking at the wildlife around the Caledonian Canal, Inverness. This walk, led by David Genney and David O'Brien of Scottish Natural Heritage, will explore the fungi and associated invertebrates in the Craig Phadrig woodlands. Bookings: Stephen Wiseman (01463) 725561.

Saturday 27th October

Callander House, Falkirk.

2012 Plantlife Scotland Members' Day. See page 2 for more information. Full details will be mailed out to members during summer 2012.

Sunday 4th November, 10 am – 12.30 pm

Cadzow Woods, near Chatelherault Country Park, Hamilton, Lanarkshire.

Guided lichen walk looking at the famous Cadzow Oaks, thought to have been planted by King David I (1124 – 1153) and among the oldest broad-leaved trees in Scotland. The oaks represent a rare example of medieval wood pasture, and as a result of their great age support a rich assemblage of lichens.

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Led by lichenologist John Douglass.

### How to book

For more details of events in Scotland, or to book a place, please email [scotland@plantlife.org.uk](mailto:scotland@plantlife.org.uk) or phone (01786) 478509. For Wildflowers Count events, please contact [davie.black@plantlife.org.uk](mailto:davie.black@plantlife.org.uk) or (01786) 469778. If you have any special requirements, please mention these when booking. Children under 16 should be accompanied by an adult.

What to bring on walks and training days:

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 snack or packed lunch if required

## **BSBI Dolphinton Grasslands & Fens Field Meeting on Saturday 30 July 2011**

This field meeting was one of a series for beginners and people who had never been on a BSBI field meeting before. The series is popular and eighteen botanists attended this one near Dolphinton. As we introduced ourselves, it quickly became evident that many were particularly interested in learning more about grasses and sedges – and what better place to come to! The site is a fascinating mix of wet and dry, acid and calcareous on a variety of glacial features.

We divided into two groups roughly by ability. Luke Gaskell, the acting Recorder for Peebles, led one group, while Jim McIntosh, the BSBI Scottish Officer, the other. The dry grassland on the kames and eskers was covered by a myriad of colourful flowers including good populations of *Thymus polytrichus* (Thyme), *Viola lutea* (Mountain Pansy) and *Gentianella campestris* (Field Gentian) with the odd spike of *Botrychium lunaria* (Moonwort). A fantastic sight and scent! The adjacent lower and wetter areas by contrast gave us plenty grasses, sedges and rushes to look at. The most notable was perhaps *Carex disticha* (Brown Sedge).

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The two groups converged on a dry knoll for a leisurely lunch. We basked in warm sunshine while enjoying fine views of the Pentland Hills. An after lunch treat was *Vaccinium oxycoccus* (Cranberry) in a kettle hole filled with nice raised bog vegetation. We also spent a long time searching for (but failing to refind) *Valeriana dioica* (Marsh Valerian) – which had been noted during a reconnoitring visit. The prettiest plant of the afternoon was *Parnassia palustris* (Grass of Parnassus).

As we returned to cars to make a short journey to Kippit Hill, an outlying part of the site, *Puccinellia distans* (Reflexed Saltmarsh-grass) and *Spergularia marina* (Lesser Sea-spurrey) were spotted on the road verge. At Kippit, a very proud farmer escorted us up the hill to see her fine populations of *Coeloglossum viride* (Frog Orchid) with *Gentianella campestris* (Field Gentian).

Thanks are due to Jim, Luke, Lindsay Mackinlay and Angela Mackenzie, the farmer, for making the day so enjoyable!

Alison Wilson (participant).

## **Pondweed Workshop Kindrogan July 1-3, 2011**

This workshop was initially organised for Vice - county Recorders in Scotland, but after the cancellation of Nick Stewart's Aquatic Plants Course at Kindrogan, due to a shortage of applicants, it was decided to offer it to a wider BSBI audience. About a dozen participants met at Kindrogan for lunch on the Friday; this was followed by a brief introductory talk on pondweeds. We then made our way to Loch Drumore, only a short distance from Kindrogan. We sat on the edge of the loch and Nick collected pondweeds by hand and with a grapnel. He reviewed each new find, illustrating the finer details on a small white board while standing in the loch. We were given excellent laminated keys to the broad-leaved and narrow-leaved *Potamogetons*. As well as pondweeds, we encountered numerous aquatic plants but with very good summary keys to other types of submerged and floating water plants we were able to focus on pondweeds. Nick has been visiting Loch Drumore for over twenty-five years and it was fascinating to learn that in that time a fish



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farm had been placed in the loch, the loch had become enriched with nutrients, and some pondweed populations had disappeared. The fish farm was abandoned in the 1990s and the missing pondweeds have slowly re-appeared. We were able to re-find *Potamogeton alpinus*, a pondweed which is particularly susceptible to an increase in nutrient levels and which had been seen in 2010 for the first time since 1983.

Following a very nice dinner we worked in the lab looking at stipules on fine leaved pondweeds. We were shown the technique of cutting just above a node on a young shoot (the first cut), discarding the node and leaf and making a second cut immediately above the first. With practice it was possible to determine whether or not the stipules were closed or open. This is an essential character in the determination of fine leaved pondweeds. The technique is simple, but so much easier when one sees it demonstrated and then has the chance to practise it immediately. The biology lab at Kindrogan is large, bright and very well equipped with good quality microscopes.

The weekend was well organised and we were able to visit five different lochs on Saturday: Fingask Loch, White Loch, Monk Myre, Loch of Clunie and Loch of Lowes. On Sunday we visited Loch Moraig and Loch Fincastle. Most of these lochs were within a relatively short distance of Kindrogan. All were attractive and interesting in their own way. At Loch of Lowes, our last loch on the Saturday we used a bathyscope (a glass bottomed bucket) to view the loch bottom and were able to find both *Elatine hexandra* and *Elatine hydropiper*.

We had a short digression on Saturday evening with a power point presentation on stoneworts. This was an excellent introduction to a category of plants that are not widely studied or recorded.

It was somewhat alarming that we found the alien invasive pondweed, *Elo-dea canadensis* (Canadian Waterweed) in all the lochs we visited over the three days.

During the weekend we visited nine Perthshire lochs and were able to find or examine numerous pondweeds as well as many associated aquatic plants and stoneworts. The lochs were lovely and enchanting and the material exciting

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and intellectually stimulating.

Over the three day period, as well as a large array of aquatic plants we found the following pondweeds:

*Potamogeton natans* (Broad-leaved Pondweed), *Potamogeton polygonifolius* (Bog Pondweed), *Potamogeton gramineus* (Various-leaved Pondweed), *Potamogeton x nitens* (Bright-leaved Pondweed), *Potamogeton perfoliatus* (Perfoliate Pondweed), *Potamogeton crispus* (Curled Pondweed), *Potamogeton berchtoldii* (Small Pondweed), *Potamogeton pusillus* (Lesser Pondweed), *Potamogeton rutilus* (Shetland Pondweed), *Potamogeton filiformis* (Slender-leaved Pondweed), *Potamogeton obtusifolius* (Blunt-leaved Pondweed), *Potamogeton alpinus* (Red Pondweed), and *Zannichellia palustris* (Horned Pondweed). In addition, samples of *Potamogeton coloratus* (Fen Pondweed) and *Potamogeton lucens* (Shining Pondweed) were brought from locations in the south for us to examine.

Nick Stewart is a freelance botanist with a special interest in water plants. He is the BSBI referee for stoneworts and author of *Red Data Books* for stoneworts, bryophytes and lichens. He is also one of the authors of the *Checklist of the Plants of Perthshire*. He is currently involved in water plant surveys throughout Britain and Ireland.

An Aquatic Plants Course, led by Nick Stewart, is scheduled at Kindrogan for 22-29 of June 2012. There are also plans to run another BSBI Workshop weekend in the future which will concentrate on stoneworts.

Claudia Ferguson-Smyth

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## Photographic Competition 2011 & 2012

The 2011 Scottish Annual Meeting held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh was a great success with an excellent attendance. A new element was added for 2011 in the form of a photographic competition. There was excellent quality in the entries demonstrating that wild flowers make a great subject for the photographer. The photographs were displayed throughout the day and delegates had the opportunity to view them and also vote for their favourites. There were three categories: *Arable Weeds*, *The Sex Life of Plants and Flowers of Scotland*, with the winners being announced towards the end of the meeting. It was a fun element and the competition received favourable feedback on the day.

The winning entries were; in *Arable Weeds* - Martin Robinson with Large-flowered Hemp-nettle, in *Flowers of Scotland* - Martin Robinson tied with Claudia Ferguson-Smyth with Twinflower and Branched Bur-reed respectively. The last category, *Sex Life of Plants*, was won by Claudia with Cinnamon-fruited Dandelion. The winning entries were published recently in the *BSBI News* (Issue No. 119).

It is intended that it will run again at this years annual meeting and we expect more entries. The categories for this year are *urban gems*, *magical mosses and fantastic fungi* and *mountain high – valley low*. Full entry details will be announced via the Scottish pages of the website. Details of this years competition will also be available by contacting me as below.

Ruth McGuire

Volunteer Publicity Officer

BSBI Scotland

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07585609008

Chris Miles completed his chairmanship of the Scottish Committee at the November meeting and we are grateful to him for his steady steering and efficient running of committee meetings over the last four years and for his calm and genial chairing of the Scottish Annual Meetings during that time. I was elected in his place and have since realised just how much work is also involved behind the scenes.

There could not be a more interesting time to be involved in this way. The Society has realised that it has to grow in stature in order to tackle all the work that it aspires to do. It cannot survive forever with a slowly-dwindling or static membership. We need new blood if the ambitious new recording strategy is to be implemented, and to this end we need to promote ourselves more than we do at present and involve more people so that our recording base grows. Just as we have a new recording strategy we are also about to have a publicity strategy, which will be out for consultation to the whole membership. We will need to tap into skills that we have in our 'other lives' and use them to in order to make the Society bigger, better-known and more effective in Scotland.

It's an important year for the BSBI, which is about to celebrate 50 years since it published the first Atlas with a major international conference on mapping at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh on the 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> September. This will be a great opportunity to make ourselves know to the wider world. Shortly afterwards, on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will have our Scottish Annual Meeting for the first time at Battleby, Perth, which is an exciting prospect. I hope that as many of you as possible will attend and help to make it a great success.