

BSBI Scottish Year - 2019

Jim McIntosh, BSBI Scottish Officer's Report



BSBI Christmas Lunch



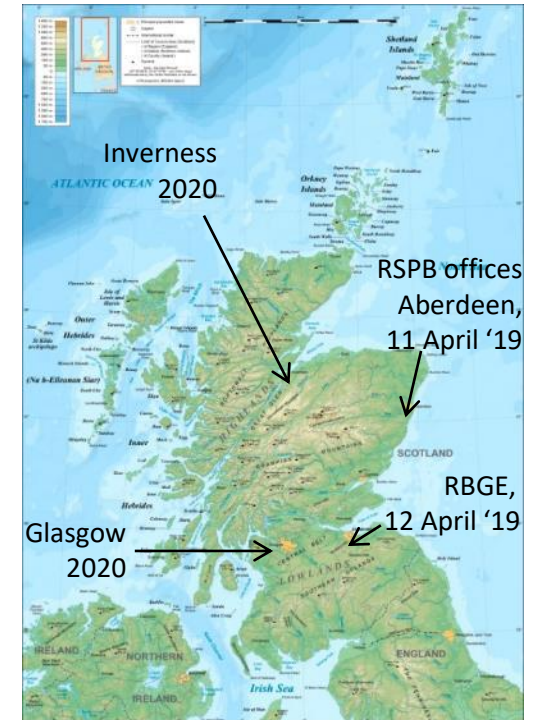
BSBI members in Scotland are very thinly spread out across the country, so it is important to provide opportunities for botanists and members to meet up. This is a nice example from last year. This year's Christmas Lunch will be on Tuesday 10th December at the Water of Leith Café.

Spring Recording Conferences

- Two one-day events held in April – attended by a total of 40 including 17 VCRs
- Main Sessions on Atlas 2020 recording & data validation
- Workshop on Scaly Male Fern ID and a Talk on Dandelions
- Short talks on Chris Miles' botanical discoveries in Dumfriesshire, Alan Walker's Mountain Flowers guide, David Hawker's Kirkcudbright Botany Group, Angus Hannah's new *Flora of Bute* and on recording aquatics by Claudia Ferguson-Smyth.



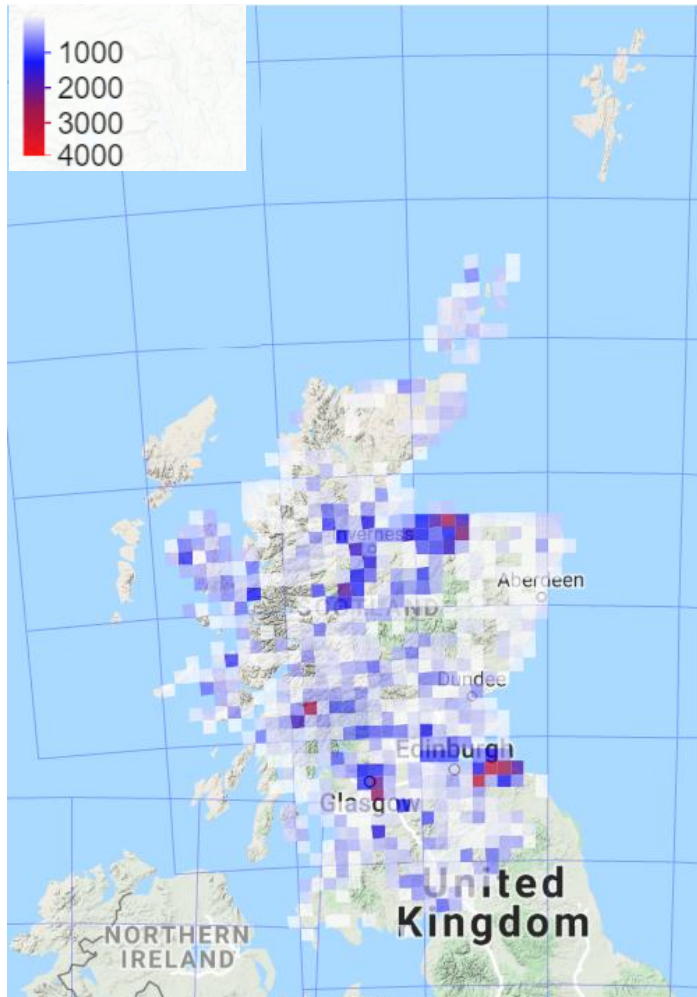
Spring Recording Conference at RBGE in 2019



Another opportunity to meet fellow members...

We are planning two one-day Spring Conferences in April 2020 – in Glasgow & Inverness.

Atlas 2020 Recording



- Scottish BSBI Vice-County Recorders & members have been incredibly busy this year.
- Just over 210,000 2019 records have arrived at the BSBI Database¹
- Records made in 653 hectads – i.e in more than half the total number of hectads in Scotland¹
- Notable hotspots in Moray, East Lothian, Lanarkshire, Easterness & Argyll
- Waiting for records from Shetland, Outer Hebrides, South Ebudes, Kirkcudbright, East Renfrew, Sutherland and South Aberdeen¹
- Some amazing finds – some of which are displayed in the exhibition

¹. All as at 2 November 2019.

Atlas 2020 Recording

- Recorders organised long-weekend field meetings in Roxburghshire, Stirling & Orkney
- Scottish Officer helped recorders organise other long-weekend field meetings in East Lothian, Fife and Kirkcudbrightshire
- Blodwen Lloyd Binns Bequest funding helped Jeff Waddell spend time recording in under-recorded areas in Argyll and Dumbarton.
- This funder also supported recording in remote areas of West Sutherland by Ian Evans, the VCR and fellow botanists
- Dan Watson even managed to record on the remote and difficult to access islands of Soay, Boreray & Dun, off St Kilda.
- Angus Hannah, organised a Recording Week in Argyll and I organised a Recording Week in Easterness...

Easternness Recording Week



We booked a big self-catering country house, near Whitebridge, and stuffed it full of botanists and arranged for a volunteer cook. Every day we surveyed different areas. Coming home to tea & cake (or beer) and family style meals and specimens to id. Lots of recording, learning & fun!!

Easternness Recording Week



Our outings took us into some very remote country between Loch Ness and the Monadhliath Mountains. These photos Glen Tarf & plateau with the new Glendoe Hydro Scheme & Windfarm

Easternness Recording Week



We kept tabs on progress by marking up a giant map. Here are some of the interesting species we recorded... Possibly the most interesting was *Sibthorpia europaea* (Cornish Pennywort)...

Rough Squad in the Cairngorms



Ian Francis (centre, back), Aberdeenshire VCR with a group of intrepid botanists in July, near Corroul Bothy in the Larig Ghru, tackling a large gap in Atlas 2020 coverage...

Left: one of their notable finds, *Phleum alpinum* (Alpine Cat's-tail).

Local Groups



There are over a dozen local groups across Scotland organising field meetings in their local areas. Here is the Dumfries LG back in September heading for the lochs at Drumlanrig near Thornhill, and their route seems to have taken them past this modest house.

Id Workshops for beginners



**SATURDAY
15 JUNE 2019
WORKSHOP**
The Stable Room
Mar Lodge Estate
Braemar
Aberdeenshire
10.30am – 5.00pm

**IDENTIFYING
WILD FLOWER
FAMILIES**

Learn to identify wild flowers through their families. Build your confidence in using keys. Expert tutors from the Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland lead this accessible and popular workshop.

**£17 for full-time students
£25 for non-students**
BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL
To book: bsbi.org/scotland

**SUNDAY
16 JUNE 2019
FIELD MEETING**
Braemar
Aberdeenshire
Meeting place: 10.30am – 4.30pm

Especially for participants (past and present) of the workshops and for anyone else interested in improving their skills and confidence in identifying wild flowers in the field. Led by Faith Anstey and Aileen Mack. No charge for the day, but booking essential.

Youth Hostel accommodation available. Early booking essential direct with YH.

Further details: faithanstey@gmail.com

Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland **Plantlife**

**IDENTIFYING
COMMON
GRASSES**

**SUN 16 JUNE 2019
10.30am – 4.30pm**
Boreland Village Hall
Dumfries & Galloway
Led by Dr Chris Miles

**SAT 6 JULY 2019
10am – 4.30pm**
Stirling University
Led by Dr Faith Anstey

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL
To book: bsbi.org/scotland

**£20 Full-time students
£30 Non-students**

Further info: faithanstey@gmail.com or chris.miles01@btinternet.com

Concentrating on the 20 grasses you are most likely to come across, this workshop will give you a flying start at grass ID.

Expert tutors will guide your classroom study and afternoon fieldwork session. Plus you receive a free ID booklet to take away with you.

**IDENTIFYING
SEDGES
& RUSHES**

**SAT 20 JULY 2019
10am – 4.30pm**
Mugdock Park,
Millingavie
Led by Dr Faith Anstey

This is a brand new workshop on identifying common sedges and rushes the easy way - by one field character, rather than using monographs or wading through lengthy keys.

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL
**£20 Full-time students
£30 Non-students**

A basic knowledge of veldflower ID is the starting point for getting the most out of this workshop. A copy of the new booklet on identifying sedges & rushes will be yours to take away.

To book: bsbi.org/scotland info: faithanstey@gmail.com

Image by R.B. Boyd © 2018



2019 was the seventh year of the Plant Family training initiative – which continues to be as popular as ever. A total of 81 folk participated in one or other of our workshops in 2019 including the newly developed workshop on Sedges. A similar program is planned for 2020.

BSBI Scottish Officer News

- SNH Funding for the Scottish Officer post was renewed for a further (one) year in April.
- We also got funds to digitise SNH's Site Condition Monitoring rare plant data – underway.
- SWT, SEPA and NTS agreed that we could input their plant records into our database.
- We are grateful to all our partners - especially SNH & RBGE - and to our members & vols



Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh



Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
All of nature for all of Scotland
Mòran air fad airson Alba air fad

Jim McIntosh, BSBI Scottish Officer (right) with Andy Scobie and Liz Kungu in Easterness