

SECRETARIAL NOTES

Please note: names and contact details of all officers can be found on the inside of the front cover of this Bulletin.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2003 – The 100th AGM will take place on Saturday 22nd March 2003 in the Mineralogy Seminar Room, The Natural History Museum, London at 2.00 p.m.

COMMITTEE VACANCIES – In accordance with paragraph 3, section 3 of the Society's Constitution, two vacancies will occur due to the retirement of two of the longest serving Committee members. In addition, there is one unfilled vacancy. Nominations are invited from Society members to fill these vacancies at the Annual General Meeting in 2003. The names of the nominees, proposers and seconders, together with a letter from the nominee indicating his/her willingness to serve, should reach the General Secretary before the AGM. **Members with a potential interest in serving as an elected Committee member** and who wish to know more of the duties and responsibilities are invited to contact the Secretary.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2003 – Members are reminded that subscriptions were due on 1st January 2003 and should be paid to the Membership Secretary. Cheques should be made payable to 'The British Pteridological Society'. Current rates are given inside the front cover of this issue. Payment can be made by **Credit Card** – see renewal form. **Standing Order** forms are printed on the reverse of renewal forms and are also available from the Membership Secretary and the BPS web site (www.eBPS.org.uk). Standing Orders may be paid on 1st January or 1st February. In either case, membership is deemed to be from 1st January to 31st December.

'Senior' Membership Subscription Rate – The Committee considered the suggestion of a Senior Membership subscription rate. However, this is not a feasible option at present as too many members would qualify and the Society's funds would suffer to an unacceptable extent. Currently 90% of subscriptions are already assigned to on-going commitments.

PUBLICATIONS BY AIRMAIL – Our journals can be sent by airmail to overseas members, provided that they advise the Membership Secretary and pay an additional subscription to cover airmail postage. See inside front cover for rates.

CODES OF SAFETY, CONDUCT AND DECLARATION FORM – All members attending Society field meetings should be aware of the Society's *Safety Code* (see 2000 *Bulletin* 5(5): 275), as well as the *Code of Conduct for the Conservation and Enjoyment of Wild Plants* (see 1999 *Bulletin* 5(4): 199), and will be required to sign a Declaration form. Copies of these documents can be obtained from the Meetings Secretary.

GREENFIELD FUND – This fund, set up as a memorial to one of our Society's great fern growers, Percy Greenfield, is used to finance approved research projects, helping with the cost of necessary equipment, books and travel expenses. Percy Greenfield's interest leaned very much towards the non-scientific side of our activities and it is felt that he would have wanted this taken into consideration when decisions are made. Workers eligible for university or college grants and similar support are not therefore eligible for help from the fund. Applications will normally be dealt with once a year and should be submitted by 1st December. Anyone wishing to avail themselves of this fund should contact the Hon. General Secretary for further information.

CENTENARY FUND – This fund is used to promote the study of all aspects of pteridophytes – horticultural, scientific and educational, whether by amateurs, students or professional pteridologists. As such its scope is much broader and more flexible than the Greenfield Fund. Applications will normally be dealt with once a year and should be submitted by 1st December. Anyone wishing to avail themselves of this fund should contact the Hon. General Secretary for further information.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS – There are three Special Interest Groups. For further information please send a stamped addressed envelope to the organisers:

Tree-ferns: Prof. A.C. Wardlaw, 92 Drymen Road, Bearsden, Glasgow G61 2SY.

Foreign Hardy Ferns: A.R. (Matt) Busby, 16 Kirby Corner Road, Canley, Coventry CV4 8GD.

Filmy Ferns: S.J. Munyard, 234 Harold Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN35 5NG.

Alternatively the organisers may be contacted by e-mail: Tree-Ferns@eBPS.org.uk,
ForeignHardyFerns@eBPS.org.uk, FilmyFerns@eBPS.org.uk.

Special Interest Groups Reviewed – Early in 2002 the Committee reviewed the Special Interest Groups and noted that when they were first set up around 1992 it was expected that each group convenor would collate and distribute an annual newsletter to members of the group. However, all convenors found it difficult to elicit articles and news items from their members and effectively had to write the newsletters themselves, which put a considerable burden on them. The Committee felt that the groups should continue, but that their activities might take alternative forms to a newsletter. Suggestions included a periodic meeting of the Special Interest Groups, possibly a mini-symposium, rotating the interest of the meeting on a two to three year cycle. The first of these meetings, on Tree-Ferns, is to be held in London on 8th November 2003. Also, lists of ferns grown by members of each group might be published, with their permission, in *Pteridologist*. It was also recognised that articles appearing in the newsletters were of wider interest than the Special Interest Groups and could be equally published in *Pteridologist*, which after all, is particularly concerned with horticultural and non-scientific aspects of pteridology. With these alternative activities there would be no expectation of an annual newsletter, but the idea of Special Interest Groups would be preserved and would serve to extend the Society's contribution to its educational objectives.

MEMBERS INFORMATION SERVICE – Members often require information and advice on many aspects of pteridophytes but are reluctant to ask or simply do not know where to obtain help. Queries from members on any aspects of the biology, identification or cultivation of ferns or fern allies should be sent, with three first class stamps, to the Horticultural Information Officer.

READING CIRCLE – The Society operates a reading circle for the *American Fern Journal*, a quarterly publication containing much information for those seriously interested in ferns. The *Fiddlehead Forum*, which publishes many 'ferny' items of interest to the amateur grower, accompanies it. To receive these journals contact the Horticultural Information Officer.

BACK NUMBERS OF JOURNALS – Our back numbers are a valuable source of information pertaining to most aspects of ferns. A mixed pack of six of our journals is available for just £5 post-free to whet your appetite; other back numbers of the Society's journal are available to members at reasonable prices. A full list is available from the Back Numbers Organiser.

FOREIGN FERN SOCIETY JOURNALS HELD BY THE SOCIETY – The Society exchanges journals with many other fern societies in the world. We have a collection of journals/newsletters from societies in the United States (2), Australia (3), New Zealand, India and the Netherlands. If members would like to browse these, they are welcome to get in touch with the Back Numbers Organiser for a list of our holdings. The journals can then be borrowed for just the cost of postage both ways.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES – Members who would like their e-mail addresses published in future membership address lists and who (1) have a stable e-mail address that is unlikely to change in the immediate future, and (2) keep up-to-date with their e-mail messages, are invited to send their address BY E-MAIL to the Membership Secretary at: Membership@eBPS.org.uk. *Please subsequently notify the Membership Secretary if your e-mail address changes.*

WORLD-WIDE WEB SITE – The URL (address) of the BPS Web site hosted by The Natural History Museum is ‘<http://www.eBPS.org.uk>’. See also article by our webmaster entitled ‘eBPS’ in 2000 *Bulletin* 5(5): 276.

E-MAIL LIST & PRIVATE DOCUMENT STORE – Members are reminded that there is an e-mail group or ‘list’ for BPS members only. Its purpose is for discussion of Society matters of common interest and for communication of updated information; it is not intended as a list to discuss the botany or growing of ferns, for which another list such as *FERNS* would be more appropriate. See the BPS Web-site under ‘Links’. Send a blank e-mail to: BPS-subscribe@yahoo.com to subscribe. There is also a document store on this site, which will be used for documents intended only for members and therefore not appropriate for posting on the BPS web-site, e.g. Booksales list and Merchandise details. So far, few members have subscribed to this service. Contact the BPS Webmaster for further information.

BPS VIDEO ‘BRITISH FERNS’ – This twenty-five minute video shows most of the native British ferns growing in their natural habitats. It demonstrates the wide variety of size and form to be found in British ferns and the broad range of habitats they colonise. Attention is drawn to key identification characters for each species.

Schering Agriculture and the National Museum of Wales funded the video. It is available for loan to members and interested organisations for £3, to cover handling costs (UK only). For further details write to the General Secretary enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

A copy of the above video is still missing despite last year’s appeal. If any member has inadvertently forgotten to return the video after borrowing it, please would they kindly return it to the General Secretary as soon as possible. No repercussions!

After receiving several requests to purchase the fern video, the Committee considered issuing it as a CD ROM. On review, the film quality of the video was considered too poor by today’s standards to do so. However, it **can be made available as a VHS tape** at cost price. Interested members should enquire of the Secretary for further details.

BPS FIRST MINUTE BOOK – This historical document containing the Committee Minutes from the inception of the Society in 1891 to 1983 is now available in full colour on a CD ROM at £10 per copy, including postage. Place your order through Booksales.

BRITISH WILDLIFE – Concessionary individual subscriptions to *British Wildlife* magazine are available to BPS members.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY – Our Society is affiliated to the RHS, enabling a limited number of members to enjoy certain privileges in connection with RHS Shows, competitions and services.

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES – Documents setting out the *Rules of Conduct for the Treasurer* (BPS/T/1), the *Rules for Seeking Re-imbursment of Personal Travelling and Administrative Expenses* by officers and members acting on behalf of the Society (BPS/T/2), and the *Authorities for Payment* (BPS/T/3) can be obtained from the Honorary Treasurer on request.

COPYRIGHT – All contributors to the BPS journals and webpage are required to sign an agreement assigning ownership of copyright of the article, photograph etc. to the BPS. This has the aim of safeguarding the contributors’ work from unlawful copying and use. It does not stop contributors from using their own work elsewhere provided that they acknowledge the original source of publication.

MERCHANDISE – Do you have a BPS sweatshirt and/or tee-shirt, or one of the polo shirts? These are all dark green with a small BPS logo in yellow. Ties, metal badges, bookmarks and car stickers sporting our logo are also available. Other items for sale: greetings cards, postcards and notelets. Can’t find your order form? Contact the Merchandise Organisers for details. They would also welcome suggestions for new stock.

THE FUTURE OF BOOKSALES – Internet sales have pushed the second-hand prices of pteridophyte books to exorbitant levels such that in the past two years the cost of second-hand books has doubled and even trebled in some cases. Consequently the Booksales Manager is struggling to buy books at reasonable prices. The Committee has agreed therefore that he should continue to obtain second-hand books when they become available at reasonable prices, but in future Booksales will concentrate on new texts, obtaining publishers' deals as far as possible. Each year, a list of new books and Society publications available through Booksales and a full list of books available, including second-hand ones, will be available to members on request from the Booksales Manager, who is also willing to supply a list of email addresses of second-hand book retailers. Back copies of available BPS journals will also be included on the list. It is also hoped to have the list available on the BPS members' web document store, see earlier item.

WANTED; HELP WITH PUBLICATIONS – We still *urgently* need Technical/Desktop Editors to facilitate the flow of electronic information through the Societys' newsletters, journals and the web site, e.g. to convert newsletter format to web format, help with journal layout and production etc. Assistance is also needed with the preparation of our occasional Specail Publications and leaflets. This all involves a wide range of scanning, editing, design and publishing skills. Or do you have an aye for detail or are familiar with MS WORD? IF So, we would like you're help.If you think that you could help the Society in any of these ways (if you've found the numerous mistakes in this paragraph you definatelycan help), please contact the President in his capacity as Acting Chairman of the Publications Subcommittee.

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED ON BPS STANDS AT FLOWER SHOWS – The Society needs volunteers to assist at the BBC Gardeners' World Live! and Southport Flower Show. You do not need to be an expert on ferns or fern growing, just prepared to spend a few hours or a day on the stand. Expenses are available and should be negotiated with A.R. Busby in the first instance. Further information is available from the Horticultural Information Officer.

Do you have expertise in the design of display stands or similar skills and would like to help the Society? The Committee has agreed the purchase of display stands for use at Flower Shows and other events and is seeking help with their design. If you have that expertise and are willing to help, please contact A.R. Busby, the Horticultural Information Officer.

NATIONAL COLLECTIONS OF FERNS – Traditionally a large proportion of the BPS membership has been strongly interested in the cultivation of ferns and the creation of fern gardens. Alastair Wardlaw, our President, is keen to see this enthusiasm being promoted through recognised NCCPG (National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens) National Collections of ferns and their allies. At present there are 650 National Collections, of which only about a dozen are devoted to pteridophytes. These consist of specialist collections of *Adiantum*, *Asplenium*, *Athyrium*, *Cystopteris*, Dicksoniaceae, *Dryopteris*, *Equisetum*, *Osmunda*, *Polypodium*, *Polystichum*, *Selaginella* and *Woodwardia*. In addition, there are two more general collections: 'Hardy Ferns' at Windsor Great Park and 'British Ferns' in Alastair's garden. Duplication of collections in different parts of the country and exchange of specimens is to be strongly encouraged both for convenience of visiting and to provide assured continuity of the species or variety. Many priceless cultivars from Victorian times were irretrievably lost because of lack of duplication in other gardens. Alastair would particularly like to be contacted by members of the Society who might be interested in establishing their own National Collection of British Ferns. His own collection contains 50 of the approx. 53 species of native British ferns and about 80 cultivars. Extensive information about the NCCPG and the rationale for National Collections can be found at www.nccpg.com or from NCCPG, The Stable Courtyard, Wisley Garden, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QP.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2002

MINUTES of the 99th Annual General Meeting of the British Pteridological Society held at Ness Botanic Gardens, Cheshire, on Saturday 16th March 2002 at 14.00 hours.

IN THE CHAIR: The President, Prof. A.C. Wardlaw.

PRESENT: Mr P.J. Acock, Mr A.R. Busby, Mr B.K. Byrne, Mr R.J. Cooke, Mr J.P. Crowe, Mr S.E. Czeladzinski, Mr M.L. Grant, Mr G.K. Hoare, Miss J.M. Ide, Mr A.C. Jermy, Ms E. Knox-Thomas, Dr S.D. Martinelli, Dr J.W. Merryweather, Mr M. Morgan, Mr S.J. & Mrs K. Munyard, Miss R.J. Murphy, Mr A.H. Ogden, Miss A.M. Paul, Mrs B. Porter, Mr M.S. Porter, Mr P.H. Ripley, Mr H.C. Shepherd, Mr F.A. Strang, Mr R.W. Sykes, Dr J.D. Womack, Mr B. Wright.

Item 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mr R.G. Ackers, Mr J.A. Crabbe, Dr A.F. Dyer, Dr N.J. Hards, Mr A. Leonard, Mr A. Monaghan, Dr C.N. Page, Mr A.C. Pigott, Mr M.H. Rickard, Dr F.J. Rumsey, Mr B.D. & Mrs G. Smith, Mr B.R. & Mrs R. Stevenson.

Item 2 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the 98th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 3rd March 2001, and published in the 2001 Bulletin (Vol. 5, no. 6) were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

(Note: The Minutes published in the *Bulletin* and approved at this meeting were a slightly shortened version of the Minutes as recorded in the Minute Book.)

Item 3 – MATTERS ARISING: None.

Item 4 – REPORT OF THE HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY (J.M.Ide):

Despite the still-continuing, well-publicised problems of the railways, which prevented some members of the Committee, particularly those travelling from the north, attending some meetings we always had more than a quorum and were able to continue reviewing and improving the Society's procedures and putting the activities of the Society on a sound footing.

SYMPOSIUM 2001: The Society's Symposium, *Fern Flora Worldwide – Threats and Responses*, held at Guildford University in July, was a huge success from every standpoint. Twenty-three countries were represented among the 74 delegates (this figure probably underestimating the number of delegates). The papers presented were of high quality, interesting, but some also disturbing. The Committee had already thanked R.G. Ackers, who bore much of the burden and worry of the organising administration, A.C. Jermy, who was responsible for the scientific programme of the meeting, A. Leonard, who was concerned with the registration of delegates and the handling of the finances and R.J. Cooke for the introduction to *English Nature*, which resulted in some funding from this organisation towards the mid-Symposium excursion to sites of conservation interest in Surrey. But I am sure that through this meeting, *the Society* would also wish to express its thanks to these people and to all who contributed to the organisation and hence the success of the Symposium. The finances were so finely tuned that the Society sustained a loss of only £78.40, a mere 0.36% of the total cost of £22,055. I think all would agree that R.G. Ackers and A. Leonard deserve to be congratulated. Unfortunately, the post-symposium excursion had to be cancelled owing to foot and mouth disease, which effectively closed the Lake District.

The editing of the proceedings is well underway and it is expected that they will be published later this year as a special edition of the *Fern Gazette* and will be dedicated to A.C. Jermy in celebration of his 70th birthday and of his work for pteridophyte conservation.

CHARITY STATUS: After making changes to the Constitution at the AGM in 2000, the Charity Commissioners advised, too late for the AGM in 2001, that they required an additional amendment and the addition of certain clauses to the Constitution before they could confer charity status. Unfortunately, the present Constitution only allows changes to be made at an AGM, so we have had to wait a further year before attaining our goal. Forestalling a similar situation in the future, the Committee is recommending to the membership that clause 10, which deals with constitutional change, be amended to allow changes to be made at an Extraordinary General Meeting as well as an Annual General Meeting. The amendments and additions that are being put to the meeting today have been approved by the Charity Commissioners and the impression we have been given is that the Society will be granted its Charity status once they have been made.

Once we achieve charity status every Committee member will become a trustee of the Charity with a number of responsibilities, some of which have caused some of the present Committee members some disquiet, fearing that their own funds and property might be subject to forfeiture under certain circumstances. This could only happen if, as Trustees, we were negligent in ensuring that the Society's finances were properly managed or were negligent with the safety of members at meetings. To ensure, as far as possible, that this did not happen, the guidelines for leaders of meetings was revised, a Safety Code prepared and distributed to all members via the *Bulletin*, and to protect the property of the trustees and the Society, a small working party was set up under the chairmanship of R.G. Ackers to investigate suitable insurance for the Society.

THE ARCHIVES: The lack of proper archives and of an archivist continued to exercise the Committee, who had continued to look for an Archivist for the Society. Paul and Eily Ruston, both with useful experience, kindly volunteered, but they had to withdraw their offer due to a number of logistical difficulties. A.R. 'Matt' Busby, who is familiar with the types of material that need to be archived and has a sound background in the history of the Society, has offered to be the Archivist for the immediate future. We thank the Rustons for their interest in the position and hope that they will be willing to help the Archivist in that area in which they have a particular interest, namely historical documents. Another major stumbling block is the lack of a suitable depository for the archives, with an appropriately controlled atmosphere and accessibility for anyone wishing to consult it.

SCANNING OF THE SOCIETY'S FIRST MINUTE BOOK: Continuing with the theme of the archives, B. Wright completed the scanning, in colour, of the Society's first Minute Book, which runs from the Society's inception in 1891 to 1983. This is the Society's most valuable document and CD ROM copies in Adobe Acrobat format, with page numbers cross-indexed with meeting dates, have been made for archival purposes and distributed amongst officers for safe keeping. Important events are being cross-indexed, and when this has been completed CD ROM copies will be available to members at £10 a copy. We record our thanks to B. Wright for an excellent job, which turned out to be not quite as straightforward as he had expected and involved him in *many* hours of work.

The safety of the Minute Book itself was of concern to the Committee, and A.R. Busby kindly purchased a metal box, which, although it would not prevent the Minute Book from burning, would protect it from smoke and water damage. The Committee thanks him for his generosity.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: As the Society's range of activities increases, it is inevitable that we have a slow trickle of officers, managers and organisers wishing to be relieved of their duties after a number of years' service. Following Linda and Mick Craddock's retirement as Merchandise Managers early in 2001, Bryan and Gill Smith took

on this task. The Committee would like to thank them for offering their services within an hour of the appeal at the AGM last year! Karen and Steve Munyard would be taking merchandise to meetings.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: The Committee recommended as good practice that any member considered as a potential President, should be invited to serve as a member of the Committee. It was also agreed that where there were two or more editors of a journal, only the senior editor should serve on the Committee *ex-officio*. An exception would continue to be made for J.A. Crabbe in view of his long service as an editor of the *Fern Gazette* and his long-time and continuing interest in the work of the Committee.

The Committee was sorry to receive during the year the resignation of Lawrence Kirkham as an elected member, due to family and work pressures. He has agreed to continue as Chairman of the Fern Varieties Nomenclature Subcommittee.

GREENFIELD AND CENTENARY FUNDS: A review of the constitutions and procedures for the Greenfield and Centenary Funds is under way.

PTERIDOLOGY AT THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW: Members visiting the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew recently will have been horrified to discover that the Filmy Fern House has been pulled down to make way for an extension to the Orangery for an expansion of the tea-room. In June, the President wrote to the Director, Prof. Peter Crane, expressing the Society's disappointment with this decision, and at the apparent running down of the other living fern collections and pteridophyte research at Kew. The reply, from Dr Nigel Taylor, was a grave disappointment to the Committee.

WG CDR ERIC BAKER'S FERN COLLECTION: Last year we reported the death of Eric Baker. He had a large collection of ferns, which his widow, Rita, felt unable to maintain and it was Jack Bouckley's inspiration that the collection should go to Brodsworth Hall in South Yorkshire (in the care of English Heritage) for planting in the restored Victorian Fern Dell. Jack and several other members represented the Society at the opening of the restored Dell on the 6th June.

DEATH OF MR A.J. WORLAND: Of the twelve past and present members of the Society who died in 2001, perhaps we should particularly mention the untimely death of Tony Worland, a long-time member and staunch supporter of the Society, being central to its activities in the 1970s and 1980s when he was firstly Meetings Secretary and then later the Fern Distribution Recorder. We send our condolences to his and all those families who have lost a member during the year.

The Secretary's report was approved, proposed by R.J. Cooke and seconded by M.S. Porter.

Item 5 – REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER: In the absence of the Treasurer, A. Leonard, the Chairman presented the unaudited accounts for the year ending 31st December 2001.

The accounts were approved, subject to auditing, proposed by A.C. Jermy and seconded by A.M. Paul. (For audited accounts see page 72.)

Item 6 – REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (M.S. Porter): In 2000, membership of the BPS topped 800 for the first time in the Society's history, and holding on to this increased membership in 2001 was obviously going to be a considerable challenge. It was pleasing to report that we were able to meet the challenge and, although membership numbers dropped slightly, they remained above the magic 800.

During 2001, 76 new members joined the Society. From information given on the Application Form three major reasons for joining could be identified: firstly, personal

recommendation by friends or colleagues already in the Society, secondly, the stimulus provided by exhibits at shows and talks given by members, and thirdly, (and perhaps now most important), the Society's website, which has obviously inspired an increasing number of people to become members.

Against the 76 gains had to be balanced 87 losses and the death of eight members. Again, this was a sad loss of fern enthusiasts, who had been deeply involved in the world of pteridology, and a number of whom had made a considerable contribution to the Society itself. Twenty-three members resigned, citing old age, infirmity or loss of interest as their reason. On this occasion there were no expressions of dissatisfaction and, in fact, many of those resigning sent their thanks and best wishes for the Society's future. The remaining losses were the 50+ lapsed members, some of whom may have been extremely dissatisfied with the Society but, since they said nothing on the subject, we do not know the grounds for their dissatisfaction and could, therefore, do nothing to rectify matters. I should stress that I do pass on all comments (particularly negative ones!) either to the Committee or to the Society Officer concerned and I know that serious attempts are made to remedy perceived weaknesses.

The final breakdown of members for 2001 was as follows: 36 Complimentary or Honorary Members, 53 Family Members, 606 Ordinary Members, 10 Students and 96 Subscribers, giving a total of 801 members.

Item 7 – REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION OFFICER AND RECORDER (R.J. Cooke): 2001 was a relatively quiet year with only five requests for information. These all concerned plans to re-point old walls supporting aspleniums, and in one case *Osmunda* (on a canal wall). In these situations it is difficult to advise anything else other than to leave some fern-rich areas temporarily unpointed to allow re-colonisation. Ferns in walls are notoriously difficult to re-establish elsewhere and this was, in my view, not really a viable option in these circumstances, so we would have to rely on the ferns' ability to colonise. If this has happened near you it would be interesting to record rates of re-colonisation, and whether or not the same species are involved.

The big event of the coming year will be the launch of the Botanical Society of the British Isles' new Atlas. This 'millennium project' was to update the 1962 plant atlas, and will include updated distributions for all ferns. No doubt this will stimulate further recording in which the Society should participate. Watch *Pteridologist* for details.

During comments, A.C. Jermy said that that he would like to see the Society publish a separate volume of the fern records. R.J. Cooke replied that he saw no obstacle to obtaining the records as they were held by the Environmental Information Centre, Monks Wood, and were not copyrighted, but the Society would need to add its own text as the BSBI text would be under copyright.

Item 8 – SUBCOMMITTEE (Permanent) REPORTS:

8.1 – MEETINGS SUBCOMMITTEE (P.J. Acock): It was feared that the field meetings would be completely disrupted by foot and mouth disease in 2001. In the event, it was mainly some regional meetings and the end-of-Symposium Excursion that succumbed to this scourge of the countryside.

The early meeting in Guernsey proved a great delight, with many regulars and newer members enjoying the very different pteridophytes, pleasant weather and evening banter. Andrew Leonard must be complemented for his diligent work in seeking out every last plant of interest. The AGM proved ever popular as the place where the membership could meet and leisurely exchange ideas through interesting discussions

and talks. Thanks go to Barrie Stevenson and his group for hosting it so well and to Graham Ackers for putting together such an interesting programme. The Cornish meeting went ahead despite being at the peak of the epidemic, with Rose Murphy and Ian Bennallick arranging a very varied and full event. The meeting was noteworthy for the discovery of only the second locality for the only 'alien x native' hybrid fern in Britain, *Polystichum munitum* x *P. setiferum*. The late season meeting at Wakehurst was eventful and some members travelled a considerable distance to be present. The autumn meeting, though not so well attended considering its central location, was so much greater than the sum of the individual pieces, and was greatly enjoyed by those present. We must thank Jennifer Ide who conceived and organised such a fine event.

I am sure you would want me to pass on our grateful thanks to all our organisers and their helpers, many of whom miss part of the programme to check that the events are running smoothly. Another packed programme has been arranged for 2002, and the planning for 2003 is nearing completion. The Subcommittee would like to give the membership every opportunity to suggest ideas for and to lead meetings, and hope you will contact us after the meeting or by dropping us a line.

After the presentation of the report, A.C. Jermy suggested that a meeting could be planned around one or more of the Special Interest Groups, thus providing an opportunity for members of the group or groups to meet. P.J. Acock replied that such a meeting was planned for 2003.

8.2 – PUBLICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE (Prof. A.C. Wardlaw): After several years of dedicated service, Miss J.M. Camus resigned as Chairman of the Publications Subcommittee in April 2001. The Society owes her a great debt for furthering the publishing activities of the Society, particularly for her initiative in introducing the copyrighting of Society publications and for being Chief Editor of *The Fern Gazette*. Until a replacement is found, the President has assumed temporary chairmanship of this Subcommittee. To deal with the problem of members having difficulty in physical attendance at meetings, a new system of electronic exchange of subcommittee business has been introduced, all current members being on e-mail.

8.2.1 – BULLETIN: The 2001 *Bulletin* was again a bumper issue comprising 72 pages plus a complete membership address list. As always, the Editor would appreciate feedback on the length and general content of reports. The activities of the Society continued to diversify, and despite the restrictions caused by the foot and mouth epidemic, the Regional Groups managed a notable programme of meetings that required a full 24 pages of the *Bulletin*. The Society is very fortunate to have such a dedicated and competent Editor as Miss A.M. Paul producing the *Bulletin*.

Index to BPS Bulletin. A.M. Paul reported that Jonathan Crowe had completed a draft index to volumes 1-4 of the *Bulletin* (1973-1995). It is hoped that an index to volumes 1-5 will be published in the next year.

8.2.2 – THE FERN GAZETTE: The year started well with the spring issue of the journal appearing on time. But then publication was interrupted by the resignation of Miss J.M. Camus as Chief Editor. Despite extensive enquiries by the President, no person willing to become Chief Editor had been found by October 2001 and, as a stopgap measure, the President, with assistance from R.J. Cooke and Dr N.J. Hards, undertook to get the autumn 2001 issue published from manuscripts already in the pipeline. This 52-page issue is now in the final stages of preparation. Meanwhile, in December 2001, Dr M. Gibby volunteered to become Chief Editor of *The Fern Gazette* and was expected to take over the management of the journal during summer 2002.

8.2.3 – PTERIDOLOGIST: Prof. B.A. Thomas completed a four-year period as Editor in May 2001 and deserves a warm expression of appreciation from the Society for having maintained the journal with many interesting articles during this period. Later in the summer of 2001, Dr J.W. Merryweather, who had been Editor previously, indicated his willingness to undertake another tour of duty as Editor. As always, the Editor is dependent on members of the Society for submission of papers on all general aspects of pteridology. The new Editor, with backing from the Committee, is keen for *Pteridologist* to become the ‘flagship’ publication of the Society, both serving the existing membership and attracting new members. For example, a new initiative to be explored could be supplying the magazine for sale at public gardens where ferns are a major attraction. To that end, it is proposed that the page size be increased to A4, to bring the magazine into line with current publishing trends and to allow greater flexibility and attractiveness of internal layout.

There was a general agreement amongst members present for the proposed A4 format. A.C. Jermy commented that the editor needed to be a commissioning editor.

8.2.4 – WORLD WIDE WEB SITE: A.C. Pigott continued to manage the Society’s site on the World Wide Web and was always on the lookout for new material. Members were referred to his article published in a previous *Bulletin* (Vol. 5(5): 276, 2000).

8.2.5 – OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS: Prof. B.A. Thomas had indicated his willingness to become Editor of Special Publications.

8.2.5.1 – Symposium Proceedings: The proceedings of the very successful International Symposium on *Fern Flora Worldwide – Threats and Responses*, which was held at the University of Guildford, Surrey in July 2001, is being prepared as a special volume of *The Fern Gazette*. Dr A.F. Dyer, Dr E. Sheffield and Prof. A.C. Wardlaw are editing it. The volume is likely to run to around 230 pages and to contain the text versions of about 25 papers that were presented at the Symposium, together with the Abstracts of over 30 posters. Publication is expected during the summer of 2002. This volume will be dedicated to A.C. Jermy to mark his 70th birthday.

8.2.5.2 – BPS Minute Book CD: The Society’s most valuable archive, the 630-page Minute Book, had been scanned in colour by B. Wright, and a CD is now on offer by subscription. Further particulars are contained in the flyer presented at the current meeting.

8.2.5.3 – Index for Pteridologist: M. Searle had completed the compilation of an Index for the last volume (Vol. 3) of *Pteridologist*, and was about to start indexing Volumes 1 and 2. When complete, these indexes will provide invaluable access to information on the wide range of pteridological subjects published in that magazine since 1984.

8.2.5.4 – Special Interest Group Newsletters: Since their inception in 1994 the three BPS Special Interest Groups: Filmy Ferns, Foreign Hardy Ferns and Tree-Ferns, have suffered from the problem of having insufficient copy to sustain the regular production of Newsletters. Moreover, with substantial articles there is the question of whether they would be better published in *Pteridologist*, and thus be available to the BPS membership as a whole. A possible way forward would be to sustain the Groups by (a) a periodic Group indoor meeting within the regular BPS programme of indoor meetings, and (b) the compilation and circulation of Group members’ holdings of taxa, and horticultural notes, as a contribution to the emerging theme of *ex situ* conservation of rare and threatened species of pteridophyte.

8.3 – FERN VARIETIES NOMENCLATURE SUBCOMMITTEE: No report.

Item 9 – SUBCOMMITTEE (ad hoc) REPORTS:

9.1 – FERN ATLAS SUBCOMMITTEE: No report.

Item 10 – COMMITTEE-APPOINTED OFFICERS AND MANAGERS:

10.1 – ARCHIVIST (A.R. Busby): I have been trying to find a central place where archive material could be located, and received one quote for rent of £17,000 per year! Items for the archive are at risk through not being in the correct environment and through being lost due to not being in a single central location but scattered amongst members, a number of whom are of advancing years.

A.C. Wardlaw commented that once the Society had obtained charity status, there was the possibility of seeking funds from the Lottery and Heritage Funds for the archives.

10.2 – BOOKSALES (S.J. Munyard): Booksales had a successful year in 2001 despite the usual problem of finding second-hand stock. I lost the hard drive on my computer as a result of the telephone line being struck by lightning, which meant that members' book requests had been lost. If any member requires a particular book title, please let me know and I will try to fulfil the request. Due to the influence of the Internet on book prices, Booksales would now carry a higher proportion of new publications. Second-hand prices in a lot of cases have doubled, or even quadrupled in the last year, and it is not a viable proposition for me to purchase them. Booklists are now sent out all through the year upon receipt of a SAE, therefore the list sent out with the *Bulletin* would show only BPS and new publications.

10.3 – MERCHANDISE (B.D. & G. Smith): We were very pleased to be asked to take over running BPS Merchandise when Mr M.J. and Mrs L.I. Craddock regrettably decided that they could no longer do so. Our task was made so much easier when, in June, Mick and Linda handed over the carefully listed merchandise stock, and explained in great detail (with notes) how to manage things. Since then, there has been a slow but steady stream of merchandise requests, and there was an extremely healthy injection of funds from sales at the Guildford Symposium. It seemed that everyone wanted some memento of the BPS and a magnificent £337 was raised at that event alone.

For the future, apart from much needed re-stocking of items, we are looking for new items to add to the merchandise list. Hallmark Cards in the USA, who produced a lovely fern-covered serviette, were approached but unfortunately no reply has been received. Other items being explored are BPS pens, china mugs and beach towels. When samples and information on prices have been gathered together, we will present them to the Committee for approval. If anyone has any other ideas and/or contacts, please let us know – either by letter or via the BPS Merchandise e-mail address.

10.4 – PLANT EXCHANGE (R. & B. Smith): The past year was exceptional in that two lists were circulated, instead of the usual one in September. This resulted in a double response, with enquiries amounting to over 100, some from the same source, the net figure for individual enquiries being around 75. Sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to the scheme. One interesting feature was the extensive number of *Selaginella* and *Equisetum* species on offer, which provided an excellent opportunity for anyone wishing to develop a collection of these particular taxa.

We are hopeful that the next circular will be included in the 2002 *Pteridologist* and that an updated list will be available for distribution in September.

10.5 – SPORE EXCHANGE (B. & A. Wright): The exchange continued to be a popular service offered to members, with 145 requests being received and processed, resulting in the sending out of 2,477 packets of spores (an average of 17 packets per request). Of these, 102 requests were from UK members (England 86, Scotland 6, Wales 10) and 43 requests came from 20 overseas countries, which confirms the international nature of the exchange. (Australia 20, Austria 1, Belgium 2, Canada 1, Czech Republic 1, Denmark 1, Eire 2,

Estonia 2, France 6, Germany 8, Israel 1, Kenya 1, Luxembourg 1, Mauritius 1, Mexico 1, Netherlands 2, Poland 2, Sri Lanka 1, Switzerland 1, USA 5.)

Of the 571 taxa on the 2001 list there were requests for 528 of them. To give an idea of the pattern of requests – there were only 38 taxa where more than ten packets of each taxon were sent out. The majority of taxa were requested less than five times. This figure is slightly artificial as some donations were so small that we could only make up five packets, or less, as in the case of *Woodsia alpina* and *W. ilvensis*, which are always requested beyond our ability to supply. The top ten species (those of which the most number of packets were sent out in 2001) were as follows, with the number of times they were requested: *Cheilanthes argentea* 25, *Woodwardia areolata* 23, *Woodwardia fimbriata* 19, *Asplenium ceterach* 18, *Woodwardia unigemmata* 18, *Blechnum chilense* 18, *Polystichum lonchitis* 16, *Todea barbara* 16, *Cryptogramma crispera* 15, *Polystichum drepanum* 15.

A.R. Busby reported that he had only a single request for *Osmunda* spores in 2001.

During 2001 we received donations from 27 donors. Without donations there would not be an exchange. We are grateful for all the spores we received and would also like to thank those requesting them for their patience in the early weeks of the distribution. Dealing with the first flush of requests continued to be a problem. We usually get around 70 requests in the first two weeks of the list being sent out. The way we run the exchange means that we can take up to six weeks to turn round some of the earliest requests. As the exchange year progresses, we have a shorter turn-round period. We hope to publish an article in *Pteridologist* about exactly how we manage the exchange.

10.6 – HORTICULTURAL INFORMATION OFFICER (A.R. Busby): Eight enquiries were received, all but one from non-members.

The above reports, Items 6 to 10.6, were accepted *en bloc*, proposed by S.E. Czeladzinski and seconded by S.D. Martinelli.

Item 11 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND AUDITORS: With the exception of Miss J.M. Camus, who had resigned as Chief Editor of *The Fern Gazette*, the present officers of the Society were all eligible for re-election and had indicated their willingness to stand. Dr M. Gibby and Dr J.W. Merryweather had agreed to stand as Editors of *The Fern Gazette* and *Pteridologist* respectively. Of the present elected members of the Committee, L. Kirkham had retired earlier in the year and B. Wright and Dr S.D. Martinelli were retiring and not eligible for re-election. The remaining elected members (R.G. Ackers, Dr A.F. Dyer, E. Knox-Thomas, Dr F.J. Rumsey and R.W. Sykes) were eligible for re-election and had indicated their willingness to stand. The auditors, P.H. Ripley and Mrs K. Munyard, were both eligible for re-election and had indicated their willingness to stand. It was proposed from the Chair and seconded by S.D. Martinelli and S.E. Czeladzinski, that all officers, those elected members eligible for re-election and the auditors be elected *en bloc*. The vote was unanimously in favour.

ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS: There were four nominations for Committee membership as follows:

- Stefan E. Czeladzinski – proposed P.J. Acock, seconded P.H. Ripley
- Mike L. Grant – proposed P.J. Acock, seconded P.H. Ripley
- Steve J. Munyard – proposed M.S. Porter, seconded R.J. Cooke
- Paul H. Ripley – proposed J.M. Ide, seconded A.M. Paul.

The above were duly elected unanimously.

Item 12 – CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES: As reported by the General Secretary under item 4 above, the Charity Commissioners required amendments and the addition of clauses

to the Constitution before they would confer charity status on the Society. The following proposed changes were circulated with the last *Bulletin*.

1. Clause 2. *OBJECTS* *The objects of the Society are to promote and encourage the cultivation of ferns and other pteridophytes and to further the study of their taxonomy, distribution, conservation and ecology through publications, meetings and grants.*

To be re-drawn as follows: *OBJECTS* *The objects of the Society are to promote horticulture for the public benefit particularly by encouraging the cultivation of ferns and other pteridophytes and to further education in and study of their taxonomy, distribution, conservation and ecology through publications, meetings and the provision of grants.*

2. Clause 10. *ALTERATION TO RULES* *This Constitution may be altered as follows: Any proposal for alteration or addition to this Constitution shall be in writing, and shall be signed by two members, and be deposited with the Honorary General Secretary not less than thirty days before the Annual General Meeting. Such alteration or addition shall be included in the Agenda of that meeting and circulated to all members and shall not be carried unless the votes of two-thirds of the members present at the meeting are cast in favour.*

To be amended as follows: *ALTERATION TO RULES* *Any proposal for alteration or addition to this Constitution shall be in writing, and shall be signed by twenty members, and be deposited with the Honorary General Secretary not less than thirty days before the Annual General Meeting or at an Extra-ordinary General Meeting called for the purpose. Such alteration or addition shall be included in the Agenda of that meeting and circulated to all members and shall not be carried unless the votes of two-thirds of the members present at the meeting are cast in favour.*

No alteration shall be made which would have the effect of making the Society cease to be a charity at law.

3. The addition of the following clauses of empowerment, inserted as Clause 4:

4. *POWERS* *In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise the Executive Committee may exercise the following powers:*

(i) power to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds the Executive Committee shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law;

(ii) power to buy, take on lease or in exchange any property necessary for the achievement of the objects and to maintain and equip it for use;

(iii) power subject to any consents required by law to sell, lease or dispose of all or any part of the property of the Charity.

(iv) power subject to any consents required by law to borrow money and to charge all or any part of the property of the Charity with repayment of the money so borrowed;

(v) power to employ such staff (who shall not be members of the Executive Committee) as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the objects and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of pensions and superannuation for staff and their dependants;

(vi) power to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects or of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them;

(vii) power to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the objects;

(viii) power to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Executive Committee may think fit;

(ix) power to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

4. The addition of the following clauses concerning the Society's finances, inserted as Clauses 5 and 6 respectively:

5. *RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE*

(i) The funds of the Charity, including all donations contributions and bequests, shall be paid into an account operated by the Executive Committee in the name of the Charity at such bank as

the Executive Committee shall from time to time decide. All cheques drawn on the account must be signed by at least two members of the Executive Committee.

(ii) The funds belonging to the Charity shall be applied only in furthering the objects.

6. ACCOUNTS

The Executive Committee shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that Act) with regard to:

(i) the keeping of accounting records for the Charity;

(ii) the preparation of annual statements of account for the charity;

(iii) the auditing or independent examination of the statement of account of the Charity; and

(iv) the transmission of the statements of account of the Charity to the Commission.

Original clauses 4-10 to be renumbered to take account of new clauses; separate paragraphs within all clauses to be numbered appropriately.

Before putting the proposals to the vote, one correction to the published proposals was noted: the first sentence of the proposed amended Clause 10 should read "... *not less than thirty days before the Annual General Meeting or before an Extra-ordinary General Meeting ...*" The acceptance of all the changes was proposed by R.W. Sykes, seconded by S.D. Martinelli and carried unanimously. [The revised Constitution can be seen on page 75.]

Item 13 – HONORARY MEMBERSHIP: A proposal to award Honorary Membership to A.C. Jermy, supported by a detailed document setting out his contribution to the Society and to pteridology in general, had been made by Miss J.M. Camus and seconded by Miss A.M. Paul. The President noted that in the past the Society had been frugal in its giving of Honorary Membership, however, the Committee was unanimous in its wish to honour A.C. Jermy in this way and he was congratulated by the meeting. [See tribute on page 73 of this issue.]

Item 14 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS: There being no further formal matters for consideration, after two announcements the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 15.30 hours.

Jennifer M. Ide
Hon. Gen. Secretary

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. The accounts reflect the subscriptions actually received in the year.
2. BPS Booksales had assets of £5,361.24 (£5,708.28) at 31.12.2001.
3. The Society also possesses the following assets:
 - Back issues of the *Bulletin*, *Fern Gazette* and *Pteridologist* valued at approximately £3,000.
 - Merchandise valued at approximately £1,500.
 - Booksales has a computer valued at £600 in 2000.
4. The Society made no grants in 2001.
5. The Society bought a computer for the editor of *Pteridologist* for £1,133.99.
6. The numbers of copies of publications are shown on either side of the title.
7. The Symposium accounts 2000-2001:
 - The total income from the symposium was £21,976.72.
 - The total expenses of the symposium was £22,055.12.
 - The difference (–£78.40) was made up by BPS funds.
 - The committee had offered the symposium £400.00.

AUDIT

K. Munyard & P.H. Ripley

We have audited these accounts and found them to be an accurate record of the Society's finances.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2001

ORDINARY ACCOUNT

(2000)	INCOME:	2001
£11,732.81	Subscriptions	£12,973.77
922.31	Interest	637.48
70.00	Booksales	749.71
382.25	Merchandise	704.60
48.00	Plant Sale	55.00
673.00	Symposium 2001	21,303.72
<u>£13,828.37</u>	TOTAL INCOME	<u>£36,424.28</u>
EXPENDITURE:		
1,936.63	Pteridologist	3,241.45
9,068.80	Fern Gazette	4,762.08
3,476.50	Bulletin	3,990.10
231.14	Printing & Stationery	585.25
1,252.76	Administration & Postage	1,061.37
60.40	Subscriptions to Societies	47.50
100.00	Plant & Spore Exchanges	51.37
677.21	Meetings	529.62
799.88	Merchandise	-
3,647.98	Symposium 2001	18,407.14
600.00	Booksales	749.71
-	Special Interest Groups	57.84
<u>£21,851.30</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>£33,483.43</u>
(8,022.93)	BALANCE for current year	2,940.85
18,141.21	Balance brought forward	10,118.28
<u>£10,118.28</u>	Balance carried forward at 31.12.2001	<u>£13,059.13</u>

CENTENARY FUND

6,255.14	Balance brought forward	6,086.15
318.01	Interest	383.44
(511.00)	Grants	-
24.00	174 World of Ferns 172	16.00
<u>£6,086.15</u>	Balance carried forward at 31.12.2001	<u>£6,485.59</u>

GREENFIELD FUND

1,828.07	Balance brought forward	1,927.01
92.94	Interest	121.41
-	Grants	-
6.00	Donations	3.00
<u>£1,927.01</u>	Balance carried forward at 31.12.2001	<u>£2,051.42</u>

PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

5,332.67	Balance brought forward	5,109.38
271.11	Interest	321.90
241.40	Offprints	255.67
20.80	166 Fern Names & Their Meanings 155	39.75
(860.00)	Cultivation & Propagation – reprint	-
84.00	376 Cultivation & Propagation 339	128.30
14.40	831 History of British Pteridology 819	60.00
5.00	436 BPS Abstracts & Papers 430	39.30
<u>£5,109.38</u>	Balance carried forward at 31.12.2001	<u>£5,954.30</u>

AWARDS

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP – A. CLIVE JERMY

At the AGM on 16th March 2002 Honorary Membership was conferred on Clive Jermy for his services to pteridology and to the BPS. The following tribute by JMC was published in Taxon (42: 477-479, 1993) to mark Clive's retirement from The Natural History Museum, London and is reprinted here with permission, with amendments and additions.

Clive Jermy is a name associated round the world with ferns, conservation and sedges. He took up the role of Head of the Fern Section in the Department of Botany of the British Museum (Natural History), London, on 6th October 1958, after his postgraduate studies on *Carex* at the University of Leicester.

He immediately took the British pteridological world in hand, publishing *A preliminary census list of British pteridophytes* in 1959, the year he also took over as editor of the British Pteridological Society's journal *The British Fern Gazette* (now known as *The Fern Gazette*). His influence over this Society has been impressive and of long duration. He has held these offices: Editor of *The Fern Gazette* (1959-1965 sole editor, 1966-1983 with others), Editor of Special Publications series (1984-2002), President (1982-1985) and Vice-President (1987-1993).

The Society's President Emeritus, J.W. Dyce, credited Jermy with taking the BPS (a mainly horticultural and amateur society) 'into the botanical world' and making it a truly international society at all levels of pteridology. Jermy encouraged the membership to think about all aspects of a fern or fern ally – morphology, genome, ecology. In 1978 the *Atlas of Ferns of the British Isles* was published as a result of collaboration initiated by Jermy between the BPS and the Botanical Society of the British Isles. *The BM Fern Crib* (1987) was so popular that it led to publication of *The Illustrated Field Guide to Ferns and Allied Plants of the British Isles* in 1991.

Jermy was the driving force behind two of the Society's three international symposia: *The phylogeny and classification of the ferns*, held jointly with the Linnean Society in 1972, and the BPS's centenary symposium in 1991 on *The cultivation and propagation of pteridophytes*.

He was awarded the Society's rarely bestowed Stansfield Medal for outstanding services to pteridology in 1991.

Jermy's enthusiastic and international role in furthering pteridology has led to the highly apt tag of 'catalyst'. There cannot be a pteridologist in the world of any discipline who is not indebted to Jermy in some way or other. He has given unstinted encouragement to novices and helped established scientists. His help has been especially valuable to those in countries where the pursuit of such academic studies has not been greatly supported. His determination enabled him, in 1978, to be one of the first foreign scientists to visit the People's Republic of China in many years.

His publication (with Jim Crabbe and John Mickel) in 1975 of *A new generic sequence for the pteridophyte herbarium* is widely used round the world by herbaria.

In 1981, Jermy instigated the International Association of Pteridologists, which started under the aegis of the International Association of Plant Taxonomists. He has held the office of Chairman (1981-1987), and also edited its Newsletter from its initiation in 1986 until 1992.

Jermy has collected pteridophytes (and other plants) in every ecosystem from tundra to everwet tropical forests. His collecting numbers are now in the 23,000s. His ample collections of multiple sets are enhanced by his valuable sampling of 'piccanninies' (sporeling plants), which greatly enriched the living collections of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and opened up new avenues of pteridological research – developmental studies, cytology, electrophoretic study of enzymes, and, most topical of all, DNA sequencing.

Jermy's renowned predecessor, A.H.G. Alston, died with his manuscript on South American *Selaginella* unfinished. This work was completed (with J.M. Rankin) and published in 1981. His current research interests lie with lycopods (*Diphasiastrum* and *Isoetes*) and ferns (*Dryopteris affinis* complex and *Trichomanes*). He has worked closely with Dr Trevor G. Walker on aspects of taxonomy and cytology of the pteridophytes of Trinidad and (with other colleagues as well) of SE Asia.

The enthusiasm Jermy gives to pteridology has spilled over into two other fields – exploration and conservation.

He received the prestigious Murchison Award from the Royal Geographical Society, London, in 1980. This is given for the advancement of geographical science and was awarded to Jermy for his efforts as: scientific co-ordinator of the RGS Gunung Mulu, Sarawak, expedition in 1977/78; first honorary head of the Expedition Advisory Centre at the RGS; trustee of the Young Explorers' Trust and its chairman for three years in the mid 1990s.

In the course of conservation, he has long been associated with local British organisations such as the Norfolk Naturalists' Trust and The Kent Trust for Nature Conservation. On the international front, he has been a member of the Species Survival Commission Plant Conservation Committee of IUCN World Conservation Union, Co-Chair of the Pteridophyte Specialist Group and has served as a council member of the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society (now FFI). He has been a member of the Botanical Society of the British Isles since 1954, a Vice-President 1991-1995, an Honorary Member since 1997 and an active member of their Conservation Committee. He was deeply involved with the forming and managing of the Conservation Association of Botanical Societies in 1988 and played a major role in the group that founded Plantlife (the only organisation solely devoted to plant conservation) in 1989.

Pteridophyte taxonomy is, as a discipline, a good proving ground for stamina and determination. Hence, two years before his retirement on 2nd July 1992, Jermy took up the challenge of revitalising the Botany Department's collections management policy when the Department was restructured.

Jermy's colleagues are secure in the knowledge that his retirement merely means the shedding of administrative and more time to devote to that most pleasurable occupation – the study of ferns.

Since his retirement, Clive Jermy has concentrated on the international aspects of fern conservation, promoting the work of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Specialist Group for Pteridophytes. He played a major role in a fourth international BPS symposium as Co-ordinator of the Scientific Programme for *Fern flora worldwide – threats and responses* held in 2001. He is currently working with his co-authors towards a revised edition of the BSBI handbook *Sedges of the British Isles*.

Josephine M. Camus

CONSTITUTION

OF THE BRITISH PTERIDOLOGICAL SOCIETY

As adopted at the AGM 27 September 1961 (with amendments 1972, 1975, 1983, 2000 & 2002)

1. NAME The Society shall be called “The British Pteridological Society”.

2. OBJECTS The objects of the Society are to promote horticulture for the public benefit particularly by encouraging the cultivation of ferns and other pteridophytes and to further education in and study of their taxonomy, distribution, conservation and ecology through publications, meetings and the provision of grants. *(March 2000, March 2002)*

3. MANAGEMENT

(i) The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, up to six Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, a Treasurer, the Editors of the Society’s regular publications comprising the Bulletin, the Fern Gazette, the Pteridologist, the Society’s World Wide Web Site, a Membership Secretary, a Meetings Secretary and a Conservation Officer. All posts being honorary. *(October 1972, March 2000)*

(ii) The Management of the Society shall be in the hands of a Committee consisting of not more than ten elected members with the addition of the Officers of the Society. Five members, of which one will be an Officer, shall constitute a quorum. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members for special purposes, including Assistants to the Honorary General Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Editors of Publications. *(October 1972, March 2000)*

(iii) Any Holders of Committee appointments, such as Spore Exchange Organiser, Plant Exchange Organiser, Booksales Organiser, or Archivist, who are not also either an elected Officer of the Society or an elected Member of the Committee, will be eligible to attend Committee Meetings but will have no voting rights. *(March 2000)*

(iv) The President shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting and remain in office for three years and on retirement shall not be eligible for immediate re-election. All Vice-Presidents shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting and remain in office for six years. On retirement they shall not be eligible for re-election. All other Officers of the Society shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and remain in office until the next Annual General Meeting when they shall retire but be eligible for re-election. Members of the Committee shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting, and shall remain in office until the next Annual General Meeting when they shall retire but be eligible for re-election with the exception of the two members with the longest service who shall not be eligible for re-election until after the lapse of one year. In the event of there being more than two members of the Committee who would be ineligible for re-election, the names of those to retire shall be decided by lot. Should a vacancy occur during the year, such a vacancy may be filled by Committee. *(February 1983, March 2000)*

(v) A resolution in writing signed and agreed to by all members of the Committee for the time being in the United Kingdom shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Committee duly called and held, and may consist of several documents in the like form each signed by one or more members of the Committee.

(vi) Nominations for Officers and members of the Committee must normally be received by the Honorary General Secretary twenty-one days before the Annual General Meeting.

4. POWERS *(New clause March 2002)*

In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise the Executive Committee may exercise the following powers:

- (i) power to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds the Executive Committee shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law;
- (ii) power to buy, take on lease or in exchange any property necessary for the achievement of the objects and to maintain and equip it for use;
- (iii) power subject to any consents required by law to sell, lease or dispose of all or any part of the property of the Charity;
- (iv) power subject to any consents required by law to borrow money and to charge all or any part of the property of the Charity with repayment of the money so borrowed;
- (v) power to employ such staff (who shall not be members of the Executive Committee) as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the objects and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of pensions and superannuation for staff and their dependants;
- (vi) power to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects or of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them;
- (vii) power to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the objects;
- (viii) power to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Executive Committee may think fit;
- (ix) power to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

5. RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE *(New clause March 2002)*

- (i) The funds of the Charity, including all donations contributions and bequests, shall be paid into an account operated by the Executive Committee in the name of the Charity at such bank as the Executive Committee shall from time to time decide. All cheques drawn on the account must be signed by at least two members of the Executive Committee.
- (ii) The funds belonging to the Charity shall be applied only in furthering the objects.

6. ACCOUNTS *(New clause March 2002)*

The Executive Committee shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that Act) with regard to:

- (i) the keeping of accounting records for the Charity;
- (ii) the preparation of annual statements of account for the charity;
- (iii) the auditing or independent examination of the statement of account of the Charity; and
- (iv) the transmission of the statements of account of the Charity to the Commission.

7. MEETINGS

- (i) The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held at such time and place as the Committee may decide for the purpose of passing accounts, electing Officers and the Committee and transacting the general business of the Society. General and field meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Committee.

(ii) An Extra-ordinary General meeting shall be called by the Honorary General Secretary within thirty days of receiving a request in writing from the Committee or of not less than twenty members stating the purpose for which such a meeting is required.

(iii) At least twenty-one days notice of any General Meeting shall be given to all members.

8. NOTICES The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by, any member shall not invalidate any proceedings or resolutions at any meeting of the Society or any Committee thereof except in the case of removal from membership.

9. ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS The annual subscription payable by members shall be payable in advance, and due on the First of January in each year, or on the election of the members. The rates of subscription shall be fixed by a General Meeting from time to time. (*October 1975*)

10. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP The Committee may elect any person or persons to Honorary Membership of the Society. Honorary Members shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership, but shall not be liable for payment of any subscription.

11. REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP

(i) Any member failing to pay his subscription within six calendar months of its becoming due shall be liable to have his name removed from the List of Members of this Society.

(ii) Any member whose conduct in the opinion of the Committee is prejudicial to the interests of the Society may be removed from membership by a two-thirds majority vote of those present at a meeting of the Committee on the Agenda of which the words "Removal of a Member" shall have appeared; provided no member may be so removed unless due notice has been sent to the member of the intention of the Committee to proceed under this rule and of the nature of the charges made and an opportunity has been afforded of answering such charges to the satisfaction of the Committee. A member so removed shall forfeit any claim upon the Society.

12. AWARDS The Committee may make awards in respect of plants of outstanding scientific or horticultural interest.

13. ALTERATION TO RULES

(i) Any proposal for alteration or addition to this Constitution shall be in writing, and shall be signed by twenty members, and be deposited with the Honorary General Secretary not less than thirty days before the Annual General Meeting or before an Extra-ordinary General Meeting called for the purpose. Such alteration or addition shall be included in the Agenda of that meeting and circulated to all members and shall not be carried unless the votes of two-thirds of the members present at the meeting are cast in favour. (*March 2002*)

(ii) No alteration shall be made which would have the effect of making the Society cease to be a charity at law. (*March 2002*)

14. DISSOLUTION The Society may be dissolved by a vote of at least three-quarters majority of those present and voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose and if an effective resolution for dissolution is passed the surplus funds and property of the Society shall be disposed of to an agreed charitable organisation of similar interest. (*March 2002*)

OBITUARIES

JAMES ALBERT CRABBE

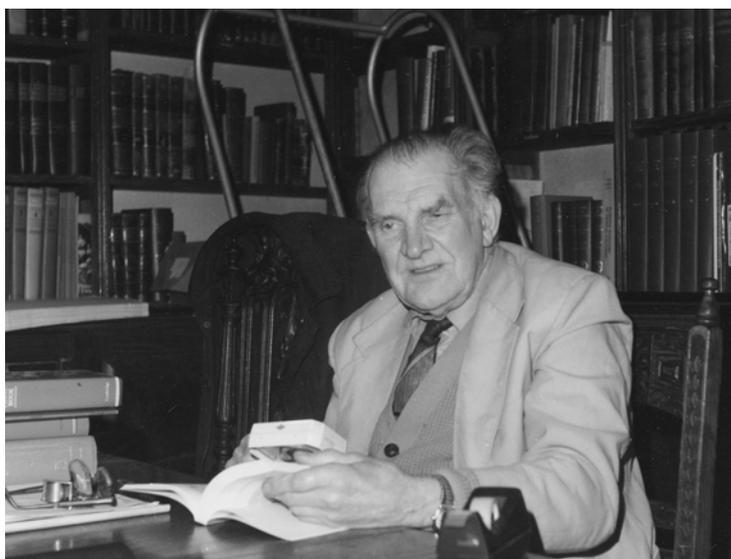
1914 – 2002

It is with great sadness that we report the news of Jim Crabbe's death on 22nd August 2002. That his name has been associated with *The Fern Gazette* (earlier known as *The British Fern Gazette*) for the last 39 years is the finest tribute and lasting memorial to him.

Jim began his career at The Natural History Museum when it was still known as the British Museum (Natural History) in 1932. His job bore the now extinct title of Attendant, and he was assigned to help the late A.H.G. Alston with the Fern Herbarium. His career was interrupted for nearly six years by World War II, but, ever the kindly tutor, in the last months of the war Jim asked his parents to send his natural history books out to him in Italy so that he could wean his fellow servicemen back into education.

On his return to the Museum in 1946, he found that the building and some specimens had been damaged during the war. However, this enabled the Department of Botany to expand and Jim's careful forethought and organisation resulted in the Fern Herbarium moving to new accommodation and gaining the reputation of being one of the best curated collections of fern specimens in the world.

The post-war years also saw the British Pteridological Society take on a new lease of life, and Jim's long involvement with the Society began in 1954. His name appears regularly in accounts of Society field meetings. He is pictured on page 108 of *The History of British Pteridology 1891-1991* (Camus, ed. 1991) enjoying a rest, faithful camera in hand – he was a keen photographer. He became a Committee Member in 1955 and in 1963 took on the editorial duties that continued until his death. During this time he worked with ten co-editors (A.H.G. Alston, Clive Jermy, Frances Jarrett, Barry Thomas, Chris Page, Jeffrey Grimes, Mary Gibby, Barbara Parris, Josephine Camus and Alastair Wardlaw), training most of them to his own high standards. He always had the interests of the Society at heart, and when his health no longer permitted him to attend Committee meetings he was on the phone early the next day demanding a detailed debriefing.



Jim Crabbe in the library of the South London Botanical Institute, 1992

Alston was succeeded by Clive Jermy, who shared the same desire for long collecting trips abroad, so Jim was able to continue with his own projects and to provide valuable assistance to fern researchers all over the world. Jim's name is regularly featured in the acknowledgements of major publications until his retirement from the Museum in 1979. By this time he had risen considerably through the ranks to Senior Scientific Officer. His own publications covered biographies, bibliographies and new discoveries amongst ferns, and he was co-author of the very important work on the new generic sequence of ferns that has been adopted by many herbaria worldwide.

In 1997 Jim donated a silver cup, the J.W. Dyce Trophy, to commemorate the great service that his friend Jimmy had given over many years to the Society. It was agreed that the Trophy would be awarded annually to the exhibitor who amassed the most points over all classes at a BPS Fern Show.

Jim's colleagues remember him as a cheerful and pleasant person with a ready smile and good sense of humour. He had many friends in museums, universities and botanical societies around the world. He was a strong character, especially when it came to the use of words. Successive editors of *The Fern Gazette* had to stand firm on the use of metric measurements and deny Jim the comfort of Imperial feet and inches. His notes with the distinctive 'JAC' autograph are found throughout the Museum's collections and books, guiding the next generation along the right path. His personality and contributions to pteridology and the Society will be greatly missed.

Jim's wife Joyce, with whom he shared a love of music, died 16 years previously. We offer our condolences to his daughters Jaquie and Jenny and their families.

Josephine Camus

HUGH VANNER CORLEY

1914 – 2002

Hugh Corley, a long-standing member of the Society, died on 19th October 2002, 12 days after celebrating his 88th birthday. By the BPS, he will be remembered for his enthusiastic, yet scientific studies of the male and buckler ferns for which he was elected an Honorary Member in 1994.

Hugh was born in South India, where his father taught at, and was later Principal of, the Christian College in Madras. He left India when he was four and went to school in England, eventually attending Marlborough College, from where he gained entrance to Oriel College, Oxford, to read zoology. After a brief period in the army he took up farming, at first working as a pupil on a farm near Kelmscott. Towards the end of 1938 he bought Pucketty Farm at Faringdon. At that time, Pucketty, like many farms in Britain, was quite run down and Hugh soon decided that he would try to build it up on organic principles. Not only did he become an organic farmer, he eventually wrote a book on the subject, and in those early days many people came to Pucketty to learn how to farm organically.

At the outbreak of World War II, Hugh was advised by the Gloucester Regiment that they had plenty of officers and did not need him, so he resigned his commission and continued farming, joining the Home Guard instead. In 1940, a land-girl called Betty Henry arrived at the farm to help, and within three months Hugh and Betty were married.

In the 1950s, Hugh developed an interest in ferns – quite by chance. In North Wales he was showing his eldest son how to use a dichotomous key. They picked a common fern at the roadside, which they tracked down to be the rigid buckler fern, *Dryopteris villarii* (now *D. submontana*), only to find that it was listed as a very rare species. With the determination that was characteristic of him, Hugh worked through the key again and

again to reach the ultimate and correct answer that it was the common male fern. Thus began nearly 50 years of enthusiastic involvement with ferns. Anything that Hugh did, he did thoroughly, and the study of ferns was no exception. He found out about the BPS, and joined the Society in 1962. He began to specialise in *Dryopteris*, particularly the male fern complex and then the scaly male ferns, a group with a wide range of variation that is enough even to wilt many a professional botanist. Another innovative contribution he made was in being the first to suggest formulae (e.g.

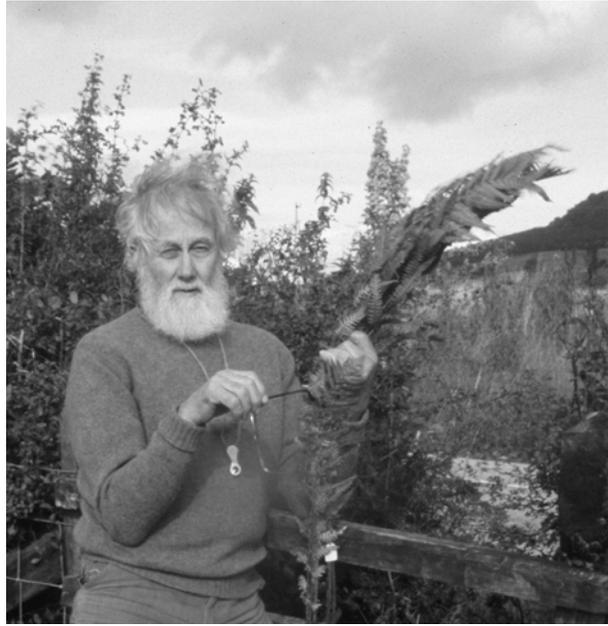


photo: A.C. Jermy

Hugh Corley

AB, AAB) for the possible combinations of genomes in what later became the subspecies of *Dryopteris affinis*, work that is still being continued today.

He began to read around the subject, in particular Irene Manton's milestone treatise on the cytology of ferns, and other publications that were emerging from her School of fern cytology. One line of published research into the buckler ferns (by Stanley Walker) had stimulated Hugh to search for the 'missing' diploid parent of *D. carthusiana*. Hugh contacted Stanley, then President of the BPS, who lent him an old microscope so that Hugh could check spores to see if they were abortive and thereby a hybrid.

Fieldwork was done in southern England and Wales at weekends when the farming calendar allowed it, and for many years in Argyll, a 'hot bed' of *Dryopteris* variation, where the Corleys had a farming friend who they visited twice a year. In 1982 Hugh was fern hunting in Kintyre and made the first discovery outside Finland of *Dryopteris x sarvelae* (*D. carthusiana* x *D. expansa*). Hugh led a BPS Meeting in Argyll in 1996 when members visited 15 sites and saw much of interest (see *BPS Bulletin* 5(1): 3-5).

A living fern collection was built up at Pucketty – in the garden, in outhouses and in the sitting room. Those in the house were usually in plastic sacks, sometimes for several months, and (with the surrounding carpet!) were regularly sprayed with water until he found time to pot them up; unconventional though he was, Hugh got his priorities right and the ferns' well-being came first. Many of these specimens were later studied in depth by Walker, and latterly, by his former student Mary Gibby at the BM. Under Stanley Walker's tuition Hugh quickly learned to detect the exact stage when developing spores could be stained to show their chromosomes to allow both counting and, in the case of hybrids, their grouping behaviour ('pairs' or 'singles') that allows the observer to propose the plant's lineage. Much of this 'laboratory' work was done in the early hours of the morning and Hugh was told that chromosomes would not be showing the required behaviour in the dark. He was quite unconcerned, however, with

how others did things, but simply followed what seemed to him the most sensible or practical course. He stood the plant in front of electric lamps for a time before collecting the required material.

He was a kind and generous person, and was always willing to assist anyone who needed help or who showed an interest in ferns. One such person was a young student from Radley College, Christopher Fraser-Jenkins, who struck up a long-lasting friendship with Hugh and with his encouragement went on to study ferns, especially *Dryopteris*, on a worldwide basis. On finding a species of *Dryopteris* new to science in N. Spain, Fraser-Jenkins named it *D. corleyi* in honour of Hugh.

One problem that they solved between them concerned the (tetraploid) common male fern (*D. filix-mas*). Professor Manton's studies had shown that this species had been formed from the hybrid of two (diploid) ancestral species, one of which (*D. oreades*) she collected in the English Lake District. The other had been searched for but was hitherto unknown. Hugh, from his intimate knowledge of the species morphology, drew up an 'identikit' of the plant they needed to find and encouraged Fraser-Jenkins to search for it on his travels. The latter eventually found it by chance, first in NE Turkey and then in the Caucasus. The resulting research was published as a joint paper in the *Fern Gazette* after they found that it had been named in Russia in the early 19th Century but had been long overlooked.

In the seventies Hugh Corley trained as a chiropractor, being one of the first pupils of the late John McTimoney. He was not just content to learn to be a chiropractor; he built on McTimoney's ideas, and founded the Oxford College of Chiropractic. His claim that many common illnesses were the result of skeletal maladjustments was often shown to be true. When Hugh discovered that I suffered from sciatic pains he insisted on checking my vertebral column whenever we met, whether at home, at Pucketty, in the Museum herbarium, or in the field.

Over the 50 years that I have known Hugh and his wife Betty, I have been privileged to have been accepted into his family circle. I have been grateful for his mental stimulation both in the field and during those late-night discussions, Hugh pointing out, albeit gently, when and where my reasoning was flawed. Betty passed away seven months before him but he leaves eight children, 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He will be sadly missed by them and all who came into his ambit.

Clive Jermy

BETTY MOLESWORTH ALLEN OBE

1913 – 2002

Betty Allen, a shy and self-deprecating person who had quietly contributed significantly to the science of botany in both Asia and Europe, died on 11th October in south Spain at the age of eighty-eight. She was a BPS member for 25 years, first joining in 1957.

Betty Eleanor Gosset Molesworth was born on 21st July 1913, in Opotiki, New Zealand, her father, Ernest, having emigrated there during the 1890s to make a life as a sheep farmer. When Betty was 14 she contracted tuberculosis, often a killer in those days, and spent two years in confinement in a sanatorium. During this time she spent much time reading books about the natural world, whetting her appetite for a life-long interest in plants.

She then found a part-time job at Auckland Museum mounting plants specimens (in fact, Banks and Solander collections made on Captain Cook's voyages of discovery to New Zealand and Australia in the 1770s). It was here that she developed an ambition to read natural sciences at Cambridge University, but intermittent illness prevented her from

pursuing it. She did, however, eventually move to Dunedin where she read botany under Prof. J. Holloway. Holloway's speciality was ferns, and it was he who first worked out the life cycle of *Psilotum nudum*, a fact that made Betty aware of the plant wherever she subsequently travelled.



photo: J.M. Castle-Smith

Betty Molesworth Allen

At the outbreak of World War II Betty volunteered for service in the Royal Air Force, but knew that her health would prevent her from being accepted. However, she got a job driving lorries in New Zealand. After the war she returned to Auckland Museum, as their Botanist. On the strength of her knowledge of the Pacific flora, Betty was offered a bursary to work for two years at Basle University, to be followed by fieldwork on the island of New Caledonia. Realising that she was inexperienced in tropical plants, she planned three months in Malaya to familiarise herself with them. She arrived there in 1947 and stayed with her cousin David Molesworth, a pioneer doctor. Within the year she had met and married an ex-RAF officer, Geoffrey Allen. He was to become a merchant with Jardine Matheson and already had a wide experience of India and the Far East. His strong interest in birds and insects complemented Betty's love of plants. Betty sent her apologies to Basle, and went with Geoffrey to collect plants in Thailand and Borneo.

She soon met up with R.E. Holttum, Director of Singapore Botanic Garden, who was then completing a definitive account of the *Ferns of Malaya*, and Betty took the chance of narrowing her studies and decided to concentrate on these plants. She had an excellent memory and a discerning eye for detail, an aspect that was appreciated by Holttum and he published her observations in Appendix 2 of his book, then ready for printing. Her Malayan and Thai collections are deposited in Singapore BG (SING), with various duplicates and other collections in Auckland (AK), Kepong (KEP), Kew (K), NHM, London (BM), Smithsonian (US) and Stockholm (S).

Betty and Geoffrey shared nearly forty years of happy marriage, most of it based in Malaysia where they travelled much. In 1963 they retired to Los Barrios, S. Spain, where Betty took up the study of the Spanish vascular flora with enthusiasm, sending many specimens to Prof. T. Tutin at Leicester University. Tutin and his colleagues were at that time working on a major project, Flora Europaea, and Spain at that time was under-collected. Betty made many new discoveries and several records of ferns that were either new sites or confirmation of records over 50 years old: *Culcita macrocarpa*, *Pteris incompleta*, *Thelypteris palustris* and *Trichomanes speciosum*. Within two years of being in Spain she spotted *Psilotum nudum* high on a cliff whilst exploring a sandstone gorge near Los Barrios. It was the most northerly record of a species that she

had seen in many sites in SE Asia and that had not been found north of the Sahara at this longitude.

Betty was soon sought out by Spanish botanists, who were now on the increase. She contributed to the *Flora Vasculare de Andalucia Occidental* and wrote many articles in local magazines. Her last book, *A Selection of Flowers of Andalucia*, was published in 1993. In 1988 she was made an Honorary Daughter of Los Barrios, a rare distinction for a non-Spaniard, and in 1995 she was awarded the H.H. Bloomer Award by the Linnean Society of London. Three years later she received an OBE.

She remained in contact with Eric Holttum, whom she regarded as her mentor, until his death and attended the Holttum Memorial Pteridophyte Symposium at Kew in 1995, meeting up with old friends. She was kind and helpful to any botanist who arrived in Los Barrios and, once she had assessed their motives as genuine, enjoyed showing them her sites of ferns, walking many miles even when in her eighties. She was a conservationist to the end and could not tolerate any kind of wanton collection of specimens. She was respected and loved by all who met her. Her papers and library are being reorganised and will eventually be available to scholars through Martin Jacoby, to whom I am grateful for much of the information given above.

Clive Jermy

JOHN D. BOND

Although never active in the management of our Society, John Bond was one of the most influential fern growers over the last 25 years. He was for many years a member of the council of the Royal Horticultural Society, a position he used to keep abreast of all aspects of gardening including promoting fern growing. As a frequent exhibitor at RHS flower shows over the last ten years I was always delighted to see John on the list of judges. He was certainly no pushover but he knew his plants, including ferns of course, and I always knew I would get a fair assessment; his friendly advice and comments on my display were always immensely helpful.

He joined our Society in 1977, and as head of the garden staff at the Savill Garden in Windsor Great Park he built up the National Collection of ferns in the gardens. Unlike most National Collections, his was a general collection covering all genera of hardy ferns, plus a few not so hardy in the greenhouse. He had a collection of 286 taxa including many unusual ferns collected by Christopher Fraser-Jenkins. John was an incredible plantsman. At Savill he established other National Collections – conifers (2,822 taxa), *Ilex* (353), *Magnolia* (78), *Pernettya* (40), *Pieris* (102) and some *Rhododendron* (813). In addition to all these he had superb collections of many other groups.

In 1991 I asked if the BPS centenary tour could visit the Savill Garden; we were welcomed warmly on the day despite the fact that we were running well over an hour late. I was very embarrassed but he made nothing of it. He gave us a wonderful tour. More recently John was asked to write the *Plantfinder's Guide to Garden Ferns* for David and Charles; he agreed but soon after signing all the agreements his wife fell ill and sadly died. At the same time John was also unwell and not up to writing the book. I am not sure, but I believe he suggested David and Charles invite me to take on the work. This I did and the rest is history, although prior to publication John did say how pleased he was that I was writing the book. On the face of it he recovered from this illness but I never saw him looking well again. He was a gentleman who will be greatly missed.

Martin Rickard

JOHN MASHITER

1909 – 2002

The death on June 1st of John Mashiter ended one of the longest running family memberships of this Society. John, who first joined c.1960 and had followed his father as a member, died at the age of 93.

Born in Westmorland (now part of Cumbria in the Lake District), John was always a countryman at heart, but his chosen career of banking inevitably saw him having to move to centres of population. Highly intelligent, he became both a qualified banker and a qualified chartered secretary and he was also a linguist, speaking seven European languages. Not surprisingly, he was destined for a successful career but after spells in Manchester and Liverpool he declined to move to London and happily became Manager of a bank in Skipton (in the Yorkshire Dales and not too far from the Lake District) and he held this position for 21 years until his retirement in 1969.



photo courtesy R. Mashiter

John Mashiter

Prior to retirement, he had stumbled across a building plot at Arnside, Cumbria on which he had his retirement home built, albeit always secondary to his garden! Situated in a valley, John devoted his entire retirement to creating a splendid garden at his home of which the main feature was a hillside, which he excavated by hand back to rock-face and where he created a renowned garden of ferns and alpines.

His interest in ferns and alpines went back to early days when John, along with his father, travelled extensively in Europe long before the days of package holidays, their mode of transport being train and bike. On these trips, father and son admired flora and fauna in alpine meadows and mountains, and these holidays provided his inspiration.

A modest man, he created his gardens for the pleasure of propagation and achievement rather than for public show. He delighted in showing members of the Society around his garden and many members will recall the wonderful afternoon spent at his garden during the BPS Centenary year.

Richard Mashiter

PETER G. CORBIN

Peter joined the Society in 1969 and occasionally attended meetings in the Devon and Cornwall area. Sadly I only met him a few times way back in the early 1970s, although we have corresponded a little since. He was a knowledgeable biologist, and a good companion in the field; he used to work in marine biology. His greatest claim to pteridological fame was his discovery of a true wild *Asplenium scolopendrium* 'Crispum' twenty or more years ago. Apart from another fine 'Crispum' found in Cheddar Gorge by Christopher Potts in 1984, I know of no other wild finds of this cultivar from the last 50 years at least. Even that great hunter Jimmy Dyce often lamented that he never found one – for the record neither have I! Sadly I never saw Peter's plant; hopefully the new custodians of his garden can find it and preserve it.

Martin Rickard

Those who met Jim Parks at several BPS meetings over the last ten years will be sorry to hear that he died suddenly just before Christmas. He had undergone a quintuple by-pass and other vascular surgery in May 2002 but recovery and the prospects for the future had been good.

At Millersville University, Pennsylvania, his teaching duties over 34 years covered a wide range of subjects in Higher and Lower Plant Biology, Systematics and Evolution. He participated in a variety of local and State activities concerned with recording, publicising and conserving the Pennsylvania flora, and (with Jim Montgomery) was preparing a taxonomic treatment of pteridophytes for the *Flora of Pennsylvania* project.

His interest in pteridophytes developed during a field course led by Don Farrar at the University of Virginia's Mountain Lake Biological Station in 1978. In 1981 he began working with Don on independent fern gametophytes in north-east USA. In 1983 they published, with Bruce McAlpin, the first report of *Vittaria* and *Trichomanes*, as gametophytes, in Pennsylvania, where sporophytes of these genera had not at that time been found, and later Jim published the results of an intensive survey of the distribution of independent gametophytes in Pennsylvania.

In the meantime, Jim had worked with Charlie Werth on an investigation, using allozyme analysis, of population structure in a stand of *Pteridium aquilinum* in Virginia, reporting the largest clone of bracken then known, at least 1.1km across. In 1993, Jim, accompanied by his wife Vicki, came to the UK to work with Stuart Lindsay and me at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Over a period of several months he conducted a comparative study of allozymes and frond and spore morphology in *Cystopteris dickieana* from the type locality and in other representatives of the *C. fragilis* complex. This work yielded no support for treating *C. dickieana* as a separate species. The following year Jim came again to Edinburgh to participate in the BPS meeting on 'Ecology and Conservation of Scotland's Rare Ferns', where he spoke about his work on *Cystopteris*. More recently, he participated in the BPS International Symposium 'Fern Flora Worldwide – threats and responses', presenting a paper he had prepared with S. Grund on 'Aspects of conservation action in a large nation; at-risk pteridophyte conservation in the USA'. At the time of his death he had plans to work with Jim Montgomery on a Field Guide to the Fern Flora of Pennsylvania, making use of his extensive field experience. He was due to retire from the University later in 2003 but was looking forward to continuing his fern interests as well as having more time with the families of his two daughters, Heather and Holly.

Many Millersville students will have cause to be grateful for his dedicated teaching; he saw this as his most important role as a botanist, and botanical colleagues in the USA will feel the loss of his detailed knowledge of the distribution and ecology of the flora of Pennsylvania (not only the ferns). I will miss a good friend, whose enthusiasm for ferns, apposite quotations, wry sense of humour and thought-provoking comments on life and the world in general, provided stimulation, information and entertainment in equal measure.

Adrian Dyer

IN MEMORIAM

We were also sorry to learn of the death of the following members:

Mr J.K. McCormick of Co. Down, who joined the Society in 2001.

Mr Rudolf Schweizer of Switzerland, who joined the Society in 1985.

Mr Peter Hindle of Penwortham, Preston, who joined the Society in 1992. He was a stalwart of the North-West Group and recently became joint Group secretary. Our condolences to his wife, Joan, who is also a member.

MEMBERSHIP LIST: ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS

NEW MEMBERS

- * *new members 2002, ** new members 2003, # members rejoined 2002*
- * Adkins, Dr M.S., 1 Streamside, Fleet, Hants. GU51 3LX
- * Alexander, Mr W., 28 Mount Eagle Rise, Leopardstown Heights, Dublin 18, Ireland
- * Anderson, Mrs I.G., Greystones, Ley Lane, Olveston, Bristol BS35 4DG
- ** Askham Bryan College, Attn. Mrs Lynn Gray, Askham Bryan, York YO23 3FR
- ** Baggott, Mr M.A. & Mrs L.C., The Nutshell, Canon Frome, Nr. Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2TB
- * Ball, Mr P.G., 33 Clovelly Drive, Newburgh, West Lancs. WN8 7LY
- * Bamrough, Mr N.J., 17 Hadrian Drive, Coleshill, Warwicks. B46 1HW
- * Barker, Dr J.H.A., IACR - Long Ashton Research Station, Long Ashton, Bristol BS41 9AF
- * Barker, Mr M.S., Department of Botany, Miami University, Oxford OH 45056, USA
- * Bass, Mr L., 2 Pascoli Place, Banbury, Oxon OX16 7FG
- * Beaton, Mr W.M.Y., 105 Henderson Row, Edinburgh EH3 5BB, Scotland
- * Beety, Mr E., 28 Barton Terrace, Leeds LS11 8TP
- ** Betts, Dr T.C., 30520 Sodaville Mtn Home Road, Lebanon, Oregon 97355, USA
- * Bishop, Mr M., St Michael's Lodge, Hinton Admiral, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 7DY
- ** Brown, Mr B.N., 4 Bank Parade, Otley, West Yorks. LS21 3DY
- * Budd, Mr J.R., 31 Walsall Road, Little Aston, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B74 3BA
- * Burrow, Miss H.L., Room 9, Burwood House, Maynes Row, Tuckingmill, Camborne, Cornwall TR14 8QP
- ** Butler, Mr N.J., 4 Higher Hollicombe Cottages, Hollicombe Lane, Preston, Torquay, Devon TQ3 2DS
- ** Byfield, Mr A.J., 21 Fishers Road, Totton, Southampton, Hants. SO40 9HW
- * Cameron, Mrs J., 58 Torsway Avenue, Layton, Blackpool, Lancs. FY3 8JZ
- * Cass, Mr N., Orchard End, Dublin Road, Rishangles, Eye, Suffolk IP23 7QB
- * Cogan, Mr B.H., Oakside, The Street, Catfield, Norfolk NR29 5AZ
- * Collecott, Miss B., Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB
- * Cook, Mrs N.A., 11367 Eastside Road, Hamersville, Ohio 45130, USA
- * Corcoran, Ms C.R.L. & Mr R.P.S. Barnwell, 3 Bryn Place, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire SA15 2PE, Wales
- * Crow, Mr G., 155 Gilbert Road, Smethwick, West Midlands B66 4PY
- ** Donnelly, Mrs C.J., Flat 2, 41 Palace Court, London W2 4LS
- ** Drury, Miss G.E. & Mr A.R. Gray, 4 Peterson Court, Euxton Lane, Chorley, Lancs. PR7 1PS
- * Dunham, Ms S.J., AEN Division, IACR - Rothamsted, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 2JQ
- * Fletcher, Mrs A., Huitson House, Aldwark, Alne, York, North Yorks. YO61 1UB
- * Garrett, Mr P., 7 Roxburgh Croft, Leamington Spa, Warwicks. CV32 7HT
- * Gebruers, Dr R., Jachtstraat 35, Mol, 2400, Belgium
- ** Green, Mr P.R., Coombegate Cottage, St Ive Cross, Liskeard, Cornwall PL14 3LZ
- * Harris, Mr R.C., 2 Creynolds Close, Cheswick Green, Solihull, West Midlands B90 4EW
- * Harrold, Mr S.C.P., Fair Oak, North Street, Westbourne, Emsworth, Hants. PO10 8SP
- * Hawkins, Mr J.J., Näktergalen 39C, Hjärup, S-24562, Sweden
- * Heywood, Mr M. & Mrs V.P.M., 62 Station Road, Rolleston on Dove, Burton on Trent, Staffs. DE13 9AA
- * Hunt, Miss H.V., St John's College, Cambridge CB2 1TP
- * Husby, Mr C.E., FIU Biological Sciences, OE167, 11200 S.W. 8th Street, Miami, Florida 33199, USA
- * Laue, Dr B.E., 133 Harrow Road, Wollaton Park, Nottingham NG8 1FL
- * Longstaffe-Gowan, Dr R.T., Malplaquet House, 137-139 Mile End Road, London E1 4AQ
- ** Lough, Mr E.F. & Mrs R.L., 12 Westfield Rise, Saltdean, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 8HR
- * Macbeth, Ms M.A., 41 Babbacombe Gardens, Ilford, Essex IG4 5LZ
- ** Mandeville, Ms S., 743 Crest Lane, Springfield, Oregon 97477, USA
- * Mandt, D.P., 12616 Ibbetson Ave., Downey, CA 90242-5050, USA
- * Manwell, Mr A.W., 24 Craighendarroch Walk, Ballater, Aberdeenshire AB35 5ZB, Scotland
- * Manze, Mr P.T., 11 Sinnels Field, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxon OX7 6EJ
- ** Marsden, Mrs P., 24 Hollingthorpe Grove, Hall Green, Wakefield, West Yorks. WF4 3NR
- * Maud, Mr D.G., Flat 2, Hunston House, 8 St Ronans Road, Southsea, Portsmouth PO4 0PT
- * Meharg, Prof. A.A., Dept. Plant & Soil Science, University of Aberdeen, Cruickshank Building, St Machar Drive, Aberdeen AB24 3UU, Scotland
- * Merritt, Mr M.L., 12 Lyme Grove, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 2AD
- * Mirwitch, Mr J.S., Little Chiswick House, 2 Corney Road, Chiswick, London W4 2RA
- * Moore, Mr S.-J., Lab. of Plant Taxonomy, Herbarium, Dept. of Biology, College of Science, Nat'l Taiwan Normal University, No. 88, Sec. 4, Ting-Chow Rd., Taipei 116, Roc, Taiwan
- * Moore, Miss S.E., Dept. of Earth Sciences, Cardiff University, PO Box 914, Cardiff CF10 3YE, Wales
- * Morton, Mr R.L., School of Horticulture, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB
- * Moths, Mr A., Schwansenstr. 2, Hamburg, D-22049, Germany

- * Munro, Mr N.F., 6 Pitmaston Court, Goodby Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 8RJ
- ** Muse, Mr A.P., 26 Diksmuide Drive, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9QA
- * Myhrvold, Dr N.P., 1422 130th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98005, USA
- * Noakes, Mr R., 25 Stukeley Road, Holbeach, Spalding, Lincs. PE12 7LQ
- * Northwood, Mr G., 2 High Causeway, Much Wenlock, Shropshire TA3 6BZ
- ** Ogden, Mr W.R.F., 20 Clifton Road, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, West Midlands WV6 9AP
- * Orgee, Mr M.R., Ferne Park, Berwick St John, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 0EU
- * Partridge, Mr R., 26 Park Close, Cheslyn Hay, Staffs. W56 7DA
- ** Pasek, Mr S.R. & Ms D.M. Pasek-Atkinson, 29 Kingrove Avenue, Chilwell, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 4DQ
- * Pohl, Mr H.G., Place de Baileux, 33, 6464, Belgium
- * Polkey, Prof. C.E., 121 Court Lane, Dulwich, London SE21 7EE
- * Ponder, Mr L.J., 71 Station Road, North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 0BW
- * Powell, Dr G., Adonis Studios, 25 South William Street, Dublin, Ireland
- * Quinn, Mr N.A., 93 Linwood Close, London SE5 8UX
- * Rajan, Dr J.A., 11 Wendover Close, St Albans, Herts. AL4 9JW
- * Robinson, Mr K.S., Ivy Cottage, Ixworth Road, Honington, Suffolk IP31 1QY
- # Rogers, Cllr K., 8 Birch Coppice, Droitwich Spa, Worcs., WR9 7QA
- ** Ross, Mr I.W., 37 Saint Magdalenes Road, Perth PH2 0BT, Scotland
- * Sanders, Mr J., Creacombemoor Cottage, Rackenford, Tiverton, Devon EX16 8EW
- * Schwartz, Mr D.K., 9715 Chirtsey Way, Bakersfield, California 93312-5617, USA
- * Searle, Mr C., 105 Buckingham Road, Chorlton, Manchester M21 0RG
- * Sharp, Mr G., 5 Bentley Court, Plane Street, Hull, East Yorks. HU3 6BZ
- ** Smethurst, Mr B. & Mrs S.E., 117 Newington Drive, Bury, Lancs. BL8 2EG
- * Super Channel Enterprise Corp., c/o Museum of Natural Science, P.O.Box 43-478, Taipei, 110, China
- * Thomas, Mr S., Hen Ardd, Carreg y Garth, Rhiwlas, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 4HD, Wales
- * Tindley, Mr P.B., 15 Beacon Way, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 6QS
- * Torres, Mr S.M., Sunnybank House, Moor Monkton, York, North Yorks. YO26 8JA
- ** Tucker, Mrs S.M., Woodlands, Shurton, Nr Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 1QE
- * Warren, Mr D.R., 18 Birch Tree Avenue, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9EJ
- * Watkins, Jr, Mr J.E., 1018 NW 10th Ave, Gainesville, Florida 32601, USA
- * White, Mrs A.L., 59 Whitebridges, Honiton, Devon EX14 2RZ
- * Wilding, Miss F., RHS Garden, Rosemoor, Great Torrington, Devon EX38 8PH
- * Wilks, Mr D.S., Winnstan, 3A Heol Maes, Yr-Haf, Pencoed, Mid Glamorgan CF35 5QJ, Wales
- ** Wilmott, Mr O., 22 Long Walk, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3EJ
- * Yansura, Mr D., 330 Carmel Avenue, Pacifica, California 94044, USA

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- Ashcroft, Dr C., 53 Keppel Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester M21 0BP
- Atkinson, Miss W.J., Botany Section, Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN
- BIOSIS, Source Log In, Two Commerce Square, 2001 Market Street, Suite 700, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-7095, USA
- Boudrie, M. rue Jules Vallès, F-87000 Limoges, France
- Britton, Dr D.M., 81 James St W., Guelph, Ontario N1G 1E7, Canada
- Brown, Mr S., 1 Holmstead Court, 37 South Park Hill Road, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 7DZ
- Bungard, Dr S.J., Ceol-na-Mara, West Suisnish, Isle of Raasay, By Kyle, IV40 8NX, Scotland
- Davies, Dr W.A.D., The Rectory, 56 Lichfield Road, Stone, Staffs. ST15 8PG
- Dickinson, Mr T.M., 3 Prospect Road, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire TF1 3BE
- Earnshaw, Dr M., 2 Kings Terrace, Brough, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria CA17 4BU
- Gias, Mr M., 77 Howard Street, Apt. 2202, Toronto, Ontario M4X 1J9, Canada
- Gray, Mr P.J., 73 Kenilworth Road, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE25 8BB
- Kelly, Mr G.J., 12 Mitchell Street, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, Ireland
- Laws, Dr H., PO Box 9, South Hobart, TAS 7004, Australia
- Lellinger, Dr D.B., 326 West St N.W., Vienna, VA 22810-4151, USA
- Lindsay, Dr S., Harvard University Herbaria, 22 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts MA 02138-2094, USA
- Merryweather, Dr J.W., The Farm, Attadale, Strathcarron, Wester Ross IV54 8YX, Scotland
- Milbourn, Mr P.E., 14 Elm Road, Southborough, Kent TN4 0HD
- Mullin, Mrs F.M., Midfield Cottage, Lower Simpson Fold, Blackburn Road, Higher Wheelton, Chorley, Lancs. PR6 8HL
- Mundy, Dr N.I., 12 Bogs Gap Lane, Steeple Morden, Herts. SG8 0PN
- Quinn, Mr N.A., 93 Linwood Close, London SE5 8UX
- Schmitt, Mr L., Flurweg 12, Griebelschied, D-55608, Germany
- Turner, Dr L., 23 Cuxham Road, Watlington, Oxon OX49 5JW
- Warren, Dr J.G., 8 Moor Edge, Crossgate Moor, Durham, County Durham DH1 4HT
- Womack, Dr J.G., 25 Eastville Terrace, Harrogate, North Yorks. HG1 3HJ
- Wong, Mr L.M., 50 Shambrook Road, Cheshunt, Waltham Cross, Herts. EN7 6WB

MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2003

- Meetings Secretary:** P.J. Acock
Meetings Subcommittee: R.G. Ackers, N.J. Hards, J.M. Ide, A. Leonard, P.H. Ripley
- Sat. 22 March **Spring Meeting & AGM – Natural History Museum, London**
Leader: Graham Ackers
- Sat. 24 - Sat. 31 May **Week Field Meeting – South-West Ireland**
Leaders: Stephen & Karen Munyard
- Sat. 21 - Sun. 22 June **Weekend Field Meeting – Machynlleth, Mid Wales**
Leaders: Barry Thomas & Pat Acock
- Tues. 15 - Fri. 25 July **Overseas Field Meeting & Garden Excursion – Seattle, Washington State, USA**
Leader: Sue Olsen
- Thurs. 21 - Sat. 23 Aug. **Southport Flower Show: BPS Stand**
Further Info.: Matt Busby
- Fri. 22 - Sat. 23 Aug. **Meeting to coincide with Southport Flower Show**
Leader: Pat Acock
- Sat. 13 - Sun. 14 Sept. **Weekend Field Meeting – Ilfracombe, North Devon**
Leader: Paul Ripley
- Sat. 8 Nov. **Autumn Meeting on Tree-Ferns – RBG Kew, Surrey**
Leaders: Graham Ackers & Alastair Wardlaw
- 8 - 19 Jan. 2004 **Overseas Field Meeting – Trinidad, West Indies**
Leaders: Yasmin Baksh-Comeau & Graham Ackers

For further details of these and other meetings of interest to members, including information on accommodation, please see the separate Meetings Programme sheet. This can be sent to overseas members on request.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

For details of additional meetings in the following areas, please contact the regional organisers, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

- Leeds & District** B. Wright, 130 Prince Rupert Drive, Tockwith, York YO26 7PU
e-mail: Leeds@eBPS.org.uk
- South-East England** P.H. Ripley, North Lodge, Dene Park Gardens, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9NS; e-mail: SouthEast@eBPS.org.uk
- East Anglia** B.R. Stevenson, Willow Cottage, Cowlinge, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 9QB
e-mail: EastAnglia@eBPS.org.uk
- North-West England** Mrs F. Haigh, 56 Church Street, Milnthorpe, Cumbria LA7 7DZ
e-mail: NorthWest@eBPS.org.uk
- Cornwall** I.J. Bennallick, Lower Polmorla St, Wenn, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 5PE
e-mail: Cornwall@eBPS.org.uk
- Scotland** Dr H.S. McHaffie, 180 Granton Road, Edinburgh EH5 1AH
e-mail: Scotland@eBPS.org.uk

SPORE LIST ADDENDUM

Spores of the following five taxa were not included on the spore list:

- | | | | |
|------|---------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|
| 36 | <i>Adiantum peruvianum</i> | 1071 | <i>Platyserium lemoinei</i> |
| 1705 | <i>Platyserium bloomei</i> | 1706 | <i>Platyserium ridleyi</i> |
| 1066 | <i>Platyserium elephantotis</i> | | |

Barry Wright