

HORTICULTURAL SHOWS & OTHER EVENTS

URBAN FERNS AROUND MANCHESTER MUSEUM – 28 July Dave Bishop

On the last Saturday in July, BPS Secretary Yvonne Golding gave a presentation on *Urban Ferns* to members of the public and three BPS members at Manchester Museum. Around 15 people attended. Yvonne first gave an introduction to the BPS from its formation in 1891 to the current day. Following on from this we saw an excellent video *The Secret Life of Ferns*, which explains the complicated fern life-cycle in a simple and understandable way. We then put this knowledge into practice when we were shown how to grow ferns from spores and we were able to examine a selection of living prothalli, which many people present had never seen before.

After tea we saw a slide-show of ferns in urban environments, including some exotic species living in a London basement (courtesy of John Edgington), native species living in Oxford drains (Nick Hards), York downpipes (Alison and Liz Evans), Sheffield cemeteries, the back streets of Scarborough, Manchester walls and Edinburgh men's toilets. After the show we went on a short walk around the Museum, finding ferns growing on walls, in drains and gutters, along downpipes and even on an old extractor fan. We soon found eight species: *Asplenium ruta-muraria*, *A. scolopendrium*, *A. trichomanes*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *D. filix-mas*, *Polypodium vulgare* and not forgetting *Equisetum arvense*. Yvonne and I then went to the pub as it was my birthday!

Having seen John Edgington's photo of forked spleenwort in London, I've been scouring the streets of Manchester in search of equally exciting ferns. So far, the most interesting finds have been two *Cyrtomium* specimens, growing in walls in the South Manchester suburb of Chorlton-cum-Hardy. These garden escapes are so stunted by habitat restriction that they have proved very difficult to identify to species level; this is often a problem with ferns in walls.

SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW – 16-19 August

Michael Hayward

We again had a corner site for the BPS stand, allowing us to display ferns on two levels along the long side, and a selection of posters, Society goods and spore-growing display along the short side. Posters included a diagram of the life-cycle of the fern by Mike Hill and an expanded version of the new Society leaflet for children. The pleasing result of all this was the award of The Charles H. Curtis Trophy for the exhibit of greatest horticultural interest and/or educational value. This is only the second time in the history of Southport Flower Show that the trophy has been awarded to a specialist society, and my grateful thanks are due to the members of the BPS Education Subcommittee and to Mike Hill, whose combined efforts were largely responsible for this award. Although garden ferns had made more growth than usual during this exceptionally wet summer, when it came to selecting ferns for the display there were many damaged fronds to be removed, leaving the display a little thin. Nevertheless we still achieved a silver gilt medal for our display.

Visitor numbers were very disappointing and the numbers of entries in the competitive section were poor. The number of fern classes will be reduced next year but hopefully there will be more entrants from BPS members. Brian Russ won the BPS challenge trophy (unopposed) and Robert Crawford the Happilands trophy. Martin Rickard judged.

The winners of the competitive classes were:

- Class 8 Individual Championship. Four hardy British Ferns (dissimilar), two Greenhouse Ferns (dissimilar) and two Foreign Ferns Hardy in Great Britain: 1st B. Russ (1 entry)
- Class 9 One Foreign Fern Hardy in Great Britain: 1st R. Crawford, 2nd B. Russ, 3rd A. Smith (6 entries)
- Class 10 One British Fern (any genus or variety): 1st R. Crawford, 2nd O. Fairclough, 3rd M. Hayward (7 entries)

- Class 11 Three Hardy British Ferns (3 distinct species, not varieties): 2nd R. Crawford (one fern not as schedule) (1 entry)
- Class 12 One Greenhouse Fern: 1st J. Abbott, 2nd P. Stewart, 3rd R. Crawford (4 entries)
- Class 13 One *Asplenium scolopendrium*: 1st R. Crawford, 2nd A. Smith, 3rd B. Russ (3 entries)
- Class 14 One *Polypodium*: 1st R. Crawford, 2nd M. Hayward (2 entries)
- Class 15 Three *Polystichum* (3 distinct varieties): 1st R. Crawford (1 entry)
- Class 16 Three *Athyrium* (3 distinct varieties): 1st R. Crawford (1 entry)
- Class 17 Three *Asplenium* excluding *A. scolopendrium* (3 distinct varieties and/or species): (no entries)



photo: M. Hayward

Michael Hayward at BPS stand at Southport Show 2012, with The Curtis Cup

The pool of members serving on the BPS stand has been steadily increasing. This year my thanks are due to Ann Haskins, Steven Coleman, Robert Crawford, Alison Evans, Ann Gill, Alec Greening, Rita Hardman, Joan Hindle, Trevor and Ruth Pearce and Harvey Shepherd. We still need more volunteers and an enjoyable day is guaranteed whatever the weather! We aim to have four or more members on duty each day, with two manning the stand and the others exploring the show and it is a very sociable occasion. Sleep-overs can be arranged as necessary. The dates for next year's show are 15th to 18th August 2013.

GUIDED FERN WALKS AT NYMANS, WEST SUSSEX – 13-16 September

Alison Evans

The woods adjoining the garden at the National Trust property of Nymans at Handcross in Sussex are botanically rich, having an Atlantic flora, including *Dryopteris aemula* and *Hymenophyllum tunbrigense*. Following on from last year's successful series of guided walks, Jennifer Ide, Paul Ripley, Patrick Acock and Alison Evans again led fern walks in the Nymans woods. One of the walks was for Nymans woodland rangers, contributing to our aim of passing on field identification skills to members of staff at the properties, so that in future they may be able to resource walks 'in house'. Numbers of participants were small but the level of engagement and interest from members of the public made us feel that the time was well spent. This year we were able to use our new waterproof fern identification

guide, and fortunately we did not have the opportunity to prove how waterproof it is! Several people bought copies of the guide following the walks.

The woodland walk makes the most of the early opportunity for participants to discover four different ferns for themselves, male fern, lady fern, broad buckler fern, and hard fern. This is slightly complicated by the relative rarity of *Dryopteris filix-mas*, the dominant male fern being *D. borrieri*, with a few magnificent specimens of *D. affinis*. After learning the common ferns, the challenge is then for participants to spot different ferns – the *Dryopteris aemula* near to the path was rather smaller than last year, but there is a fine specimen a little further on down to the left of the path, clearly different from the broad buckler fern. *Oreopteris limbosperma* grows in profusion by the path along the valley floor, and this year there was more *Dryopteris carthusiana* in evidence here. Bracken also makes a good talking point, as well as the different redwoods growing here. The circuit for the rest of the walk gives time for revision, but no new ferns.

An extension of the original walk, to see the *Osmunda regalis* and *Asplenium scolopendrium* by the lakes and *Polypodium interjectum* at the base of a lane-side tree, was added by request of participants on Saturday afternoon. There is also a stand of *Equisetum arvense* near the holiday cottage and a wild service tree a little further along the lane.

We did not do a formal evaluation of the walks this year, though we did have good verbal feedback from participants. We would be willing to repeat the walks next year, perhaps only at weekends.

FERNS AND FOSSILS AT THE YORKSHIRE MUSEUM, YORK –

29-30 September

Alison Evans

The Yorkshire Museum has a huge collection of fossils, mostly donated by members of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, who founded the Museum. In addition, the Museum Gardens have a splendid fernery as well as several species of native ferns, so this seemed to be the ideal location for our ‘Ferns and Fossils’ event. Their curator of natural history, Isla Gladstone, and the assistant curator, Stuart Ogilvy, worked with us so that in our displays we were able to link living ferns with their fossil ancestors. Yvonne Golding, Neil Timm and Alison Evans provided plants for the displays and were on hand to talk to people about the displays. Thanks also to Bruce Brown, Roland Ennos, Chris and Lizzie Evans, Ann Robbins, Pam Simpson, Bryan and Gill Smith and Julia Wilkins for various help with setting up, manning the displays, leading the guided walks and packing up in a timely fashion on Sunday.

The main display of ferns and the guided walks around the fernery and gardens were free to members of the public. The activity room was inside the main Museum, so only available to those paying for Museum entry or having a York residents’ card.

Ferns and Fossils display

This was in a room near to the Museum entrance, and included a range of ferns and lycophytes, where possible next to their fossil ancestor. Many different habitats and types of fern were represented, including a selection of British native ferns, together with interpretation sheets explaining their ecology and features. Where the fossils were too fragile to be displayed by the plant, a photo of the fossil specimen was used and the fossil itself displayed in the activity room display case.

Particular highlights in this room were *Trichomanes speciosum* in a beautifully illuminated fish tank, weird ferns such as *Psilotum nudum* and some ant ferns, the epiphytes *Drynaria* and *Platyserium* and the climbing fern *Lygodium*. Living specimens of *Marattia*, *Todea* and *Osmunda* were used to show the similarities with the fossils of *Marattia anglica*, *Todites williamsonii* and *Cladophlebis lobifolia*, all of which were collected from Jurassic deposits in North Yorkshire. Moving back in time to the Carboniferous, we had wonderful fossils of *Calamites* and *Lepidodendron* to display next to a living horsetail and a pressed specimen

of *Lycopodium clavatum* respectively. We also had a bowl of water with *Lycopodium* spores on top – we had mixed reactions when people put a finger in and found it did not get wet.

We displayed BPS posters and leaflets in this room. Joan Watson kindly gave her permission for us to reproduce her reconstruction of a Jurassic scene as a poster (this appeared in Joan's article in the 2010 *Pteridologist*), thus setting the scene for the ferns and dinosaurs theme that we used to encourage children to take part in our activities. Over 100 people visited the exhibition during the weekend. We had hoped for more as the Museum usually has many more visitors over a weekend, but it is likely that the flooding in York had caused people to stay away.

Activity room

Upstairs in the Museum we had a range of children's craft activities and a quiz. Children were also encouraged to look at fossils and ferns through microscopes and watch the 'dancing' *Equisetum* spores, which were a favourite with all ages. Other activities in this room included the Fern Life-cycle DVD, a spore-sowing demonstration, an identification quiz of six British native ferns, and information about fern horticulture, the identification and recording of ferns, and the BPS. We also had display cases of fossils, a selection of herbarium specimens, fern-decorated ceramics and some antique books on ferns.

Very few people found their way to this room, although we did have some very enthusiastic families who worked their way through all the activities – one Mum thought her boys might become 'Fernologists' as they were so interested!

Our big lesson for future events is that we need to be more proactive in publicising the event to local groups and schools. On the other hand, we had time to talk to people individually about the exhibits and so might have stimulated their interest in ferns.

RHS PLANT SOCIETY OPEN DAYS – 5 October

On 5th October the RHS opened their four main gardens to the public with free admission. Each garden invited affiliated societies to put on a display to help promote their particular area of interest. Amazingly, the BPS was able to have a presence at all four gardens: Harlow Carr in Yorkshire, Hyde Hall in Essex, Rosemoor in Devon and Wisley in Surrey. Here are reflections on the day.

HARLOW CARR

Alison Evans

The BPS was one of twelve plant societies putting on stands in the Jubilee Room in the Bramhall Learning Centre at Harlow Carr. Alison and Lizzie Evans supplied the plants and set up the stand. We were supported by Chris Evans over lunch-time and Bruce Brown in the afternoon and for take-down. The room was almost constantly busy from 10a.m. to just after 4p.m., and we rarely had a couple of minutes when we weren't talking to people. We were delighted at the number of people interested in growing ferns and asking us about their own garden situations. The first question asked by most people was how to pronounce 'Pteridological', and then what it meant. The ferns themselves obviously attracted people's attention. I was amazed and relieved at how well the *Athyrium filix-femina* 'Axminster' stood up to being fondled by almost everyone who came past. We sold some merchandise and recruited one new member, as well as giving out a large number of leaflets.

We felt that the day was extremely worthwhile, and would be keen to have a stand if the event is repeated next year. We felt that the content of our stand was just about right, although it would have been good to have more space to display plants. It was fortunate that we had our own poster-boards and plant stand, as the tables and board provided were too small for our display, and there was no room for the tree-fern to be displayed. The aisles between the stands were quite narrow, so we felt rather crowded all day, but at least there was never any intimidating empty space in front of the stand. There is the possibility of having stands in two rooms at Harlow Carr, and perhaps this should be considered by the RHS organisers next year.

HYDE HALL

Bryan Smith

At Hyde Hall, six BPS members – Yvonne Golding, Tim Pyner, Michael Radley, Barrie Stevenson and Gill and Bryan Smith – met at 9a.m. in the Events Barn to set up the BPS display. We quickly filled our allocated two tables (each six feet by two feet), but managed to get another one to increase the overall size of our ‘plot’. Our display was magnificent! Thanks to the wonderful potted ferns from Yvonne, Michael and Barrie, the fern bench had a real ‘wow’ factor, which immediately attracted visitors. If there had been an award for the best display in the barn, we would have won it easily! On our other benches, we had displays of fern propagation, merchandise items for sale, a selection of promotional material and a few spare ferns also for sale. On the walls behind us we put up some of our posters.



photo: Y. Golding

BPS stand at Hyde Hall, RHS Open Day

Tim Pyner, Yvonne Golding, Michael Radley, Gill & Bryan Smith, Barrie Stevenson

Visitors tended to come in waves, so it was fortunate that there were enough of us to answer the various questions that were thrown at us. Definitely a strong reason for not changing the Society’s name is the number of times you get asked what ‘pteridological’ means and how to pronounce it – always a good opener. Although we didn’t sign up any new members, several people were very keen and took away membership forms. The spore leaflets also proved popular and a number of visitors were tempted to ‘have a go’. By about 3.30 the rain had set in and very few people were visiting the garden, so we packed up, pleased with our efforts and the good response we’d had.

ROSEMOOR

Nick Hards

Matt Stribley, Eleanor and I enjoyed ourselves at Rosemoor and spoke to a lot of people. We did not sign up any new members though we sold quite a few postcards and a calendar, and gave out several membership forms. We all felt that our presence was a valuable shop window for the Society (apart from a lot of moans about our unpronounceable name!) We were situated next to the Chrysanthemum Society, in a marquee, where altogether seven societies were exhibiting. A large *Davallia* was the centrepiece of our stand and was much admired (and the rhizomes got stroked a few times!) We had a useful chat to Penny King, who is the Rosemoor fern specialist and who came in although it was her day off. With luck she and Matt will be arranging a *Polypodium* workshop. Penny also planned to post a blog on the RHS website about our visit.



photo: M. Stribley

Nick Hards on BPS stand at Rosemoor, RHS Open Day

WISLEY

Paul Ripley

The BPS was one of about a dozen specialist societies invited to exhibit in a covered hall at the RHS Wisley headquarters. The RHS is dependent to some extent on the expertise of specialist plant societies, and although advertising and signing of the event could have been better, we were well received and helped by RHS staff. Six of us were present on the day and probably spoke individually to at least 60 to 70 visitors. Many of these were garden visitors, but some of the greatest interest was shown by members of the other exhibiting societies. Pat Acock, Julian Reed, Andrew Leonard, Jude Lawton, Roger Golding and John Edgington had generously provided an eclectic selection of very well grown ferns in pots, and Pat and Andrew provided a visually impressive poster backdrop. I thought the display was stunning, easily the best in the hall. Distribution of plantlets from a prolific *Asplenium* 'Maori Princess' was a bonus appreciated by many visitors. I hope we have a few new recruits to the Society as a result of the day, but personally I found it rewarding and enjoyable. With such fantastic help and support from our SE membership I hope the day can be repeated next year.



photo: A. Leonard

BPS stand at Wisley, RHS Open Day

Andrew Leonard, Paul Ripley, Roger Golding,
John Edgington, Jude Lawton, Pat Acock

FINAL COMMENTS

Yvonne Golding

Thanks to all 20 BPS members up and down the country who were involved in this mammoth effort, which I'm sure raised the profile of ferns and our Society.

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 2013 – The 110th AGM will take place on Saturday 6th April 2013 at The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh at 2p.m.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2013 – Subscriptions were due on 1st January and should be paid to the Membership Secretary, Mike Taylor. Current rates are given inside the front cover of this issue. Cheques should be made payable to ‘The British Pteridological Society’. Payment can also be made by **PayPal**, which is quick, cheap and easy to manage. Instructions are given on the renewal form. **Standing Order** forms are printed on the reverse of renewal forms and are also available from the Membership Secretary and the BPS website. 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.

Members who do not amend their Standing Orders with their bank and pay at the old rate shall be notified that they will not receive the *Fern Gazette* until such time as their Standing Orders are updated. Members still paying even earlier rates shall be notified that their name will be removed from the Membership List until the Standing Order is updated or cancelled. Any monies received from old Standing Orders will be treated as a donation.

GIFT AID – Since 2003 the BPS has been a registered charity. This enables us to claim back from the Inland Revenue 20p for every pound paid in the annual subscription for each member who authorises us to do so. In 2012 we were able to claim for 179 members, which brought in almost £900. While this is obviously an extremely valuable addition to the Society’s annual income, it could be considerably more if all eligible members authorised it. All that is required is a minimal amount of form filling and a second class stamp. **Even better, the form has only to be filled in once.** The small number of provisos is set out below:

1. Gift Aid is available only to members who reside in the UK.
2. Members on whose subscription Gift Aid is claimed must be paying income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the amount claimed.
3. Members whose subscriptions are allowed as an expense in connection with their employment may not claim Gift Aid.

If the Inland Revenue allows us to claim relief on your membership subscription please authorise us to do so. It’s the equivalent of a yearly donation to the Society of £5 for a full membership and £4.20 for an optional membership.

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.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES – These are published in the Membership List “for members who have a relatively stable e-mail address and who keep up-to-date with their messages”. A supplementary list and amendments are published in the *Bulletin*. To have your e-mail address added, changed or removed, please contact the Membership Secretary by e-mail.

NOTIFYING CHANGES OF ADDRESS – Please inform the Membership Secretary of changes of address and telephone number. He is responsible for notifying any other officers and appointees who need to know.

CODES OF SAFETY, CONDUCT AND DECLARATION FORM – All members attending BPS field meetings should be aware of the Society’s *Safety Code* (see this *Bulletin* p. 475), as well as the *Code of Conduct for the Conservation and Enjoyment of Wild Plants* (see p. 474), and are required to sign an annual Declaration form (circulated with the autumn mailing). Copies of these documents can also be obtained from the Meetings Secretary, Bryan Smith, or the BPS website.

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES – The Treasurer has *Rules for Seeking Reimbursement of Personal Travelling and Administrative Expenses* by Officers and Members acting on behalf of the Society. Forms for claiming these expenses can be obtained from the Treasurer.

COPYRIGHT – All contributors to the BPS journals and website 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.

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 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. Anyone wishing to apply for this funding should contact the General Secretary.

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. Anyone wishing to apply for this funding should contact the General Secretary.

THE J.W. DYCE AWARD – This award was set up in 2007 to honour the memory of Jimmy Dyce who was a member from 1935 until his death in 1996. The sixth J.W. Dyce award will be made at the AGM 2013 to the author(s) of the best paper, article, book or other substantial piece of work published during 2012 in any of the three BPS journals, on the BPS website or as a special publication. The award, which is a cash prize of £100, is open to everyone, whether professional or amateur pteridologist, horticulturalist or fern enthusiast.

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 the identification or cultivation of ferns should be sent to the Horticultural Information Adviser, Matt Busby.

BACK NUMBERS OF JOURNALS – Holdings of back numbers of our journals, although not complete, grow each year by 4 to 6 A4-sized boxes and shrink by about ten journals. This is a great pity as I have to have a cull every so often to fit them in my loft. The loft is now totally full so the Society will have to decide how many of each volume to keep to create space for future years, especially as we have a few more Special Publications in the pipeline. If people reading this and thinking they would like to have a few more of these valuable sources of fern knowledge were to download the list from the web or write to me immediately before they forget I think we could move a few more. As a special incentive this year I am willing to sell the first colour *Pteridologist* (Vol. 3) and index at £9 including postage. Try your best to empty my loft. *Pat Acock*. BackNumbers@eBPS.org.uk

FOREIGN FERN SOCIETY JOURNALS HELD BY THE SOCIETY – The Society exchanges journals with a number of other fern societies in the world. We have a collection from societies in America, Australia, India and the Netherlands. If members would like to browse these, please contact Tim Pyner (t.pyner@btinternet.com) who holds the stock.

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 Tim Pyner (t.pyner@btinternet.com).

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP: CULTIVARS – The Cultivar SIG welcomes anyone with a specialist interest in cultivars. They organise field trips, speakers and garden visits. For information contact Tim Brock (tim.brock108@gmail.com) or Julian Reed (julianreed@waitrose.com).

BPS WEBSITE – www.eBPS.org.uk (hosted by The Natural History Museum.) It is increasingly important for the Society's website to be a major means of communication. It provides information for the membership, but is also a 'shop window' to present the Society and pteridology to the wider world. Our aim is to make our website the premier source on the internet of information about pteridophytes and pteridology. In addition to the usual website enhancements, we continue to support our public bulletin board or 'forum' for the discussion of all aspects of ferns and other pteridophytes – www.fernforum.net/bb. If you have views on what the website should provide and/or could help with content, please contact the Website Editor, Anthony Pigott. Good digital photographs of members involved in fern-related activities are particularly welcome as are suggestions or contributions for wild sites, gardens and nurseries for *Where to See Ferns*.

E-BPS DIARY SYSTEM – On our website there is an eBPS Diary System, enabling us to see all the Society's events on one calendar. With meetings happening all over the country it is only too easy for events to overlap; we hope the diary system is helping to alleviate this and proving to be a useful planner for members. The system relies on regular updates so please send details of your BPS events to the Publicity Officer, Liz Evans.

FERNS IN MEMBERS' GARDENS – 'Ferns in Members' Gardens' is live on 'Pteridowiki' www.fernforum.net/mediawiki. Lists of ferns that members of the Society grow in their gardens are being compiled. In part, this is to build up a picture of which ferns grow in the different conditions around Britain. However, it is not limited to outdoor ferns, nor is it limited to Britain – contributions from members elsewhere in the world are welcome. When you contribute your list of ferns a general location (without detailed addresses) will be included together with contact details if you are happy for other members to see your garden. Browse around and see what you think. There are only a few contributions so far so to help build up a wider picture please contribute by contacting Roger Golding at rg@rogergolding.co.uk.

AMERICAN FERN SOCIETY – The AFS has had a reciprocal payment arrangement with the BPS for many years and this is available through their respective Membership Secretaries. See AFS advert on p. 443.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY – Our Society is affiliated to the RHS. This enables a limited number of members to enjoy certain privileges in connection with RHS Shows, competitions and services. Some RHS Journals are available free to members at indoor meetings. Further information is available from the Treasurer.

BRITISH WILDLIFE – Concessionary individual subscriptions to *British Wildlife* magazine are available to BPS members: www.britishwildlife.com. This excellent journal occasionally carries articles on ferns and reviews fern publications.

MERCHANDISE – Have you bought a BPS sweatshirt, polo shirt or fleece yet? These are all dark green with a small embroidered BPS logo in yellow. Other items, such as BPS ties, metal badges, ferny greetings cards, bookmarks, pens, calendars, mugs and jute bags are also for sale. A cheap, take-in-the-field fern guide is a new line. Can't find your order form? Contact the Merchandise Organisers or look on the website for details. The Organisers also welcome suggestions for new stock.

BOOKSALES – Finding second-hand fern books at reasonable prices is becoming more difficult to so if you are thinking of selling any of your books please consider first offering them to the Society. Frank Katzer would also be pleased to receive any donated or bequeathed books that could then be offered to members at affordable prices. Contact him by e-mail if possible.

PLANT EXCHANGE – This scheme enables UK and EU members to dispose of surplus ferns to the advantage of those who would like to acquire some different species and varieties. Most of the plants offered are young sporelings. A request form is enclosed with the *Bulletin* mailing inviting members to list ferns they wish to offer or indicate any they are seeking or merely to request a copy of the consolidated list when compiled. On receipt of the list, members contact one another using the details provided. Contact the Plant Exchange Organiser for further details.

SPORE EXCHANGE – The current spore list is published on our website or can be obtained from Brian and Sue Dockerill.

NURSERY ADVERTISEMENTS – Members with nurseries that offer ferns are reminded that they may place an advertisement in the *Bulletin*, *Pteridologist* and on the website free of charge in return for the inclusion of a note about the Society in their catalogues/websites. The Website Editor can include an image if required. If members wish their nursery to be included, in the first instance please contact the General Secretary.

PUBLICITY & MARKETING – The on-line newsletter *Fern World* is now well established and keeps members up-to-date with BPS news. Please send the Publicity Officer any ferny news or anything you want publicised. She has also set up our own BPS blog on Posterous and we are on Facebook and Twitter. Please contribute by signing up. Contact Liz Evans.

EDUCATION – The Education Subcommittee would be very pleased to hear your ideas on how we can develop the educational role of the BPS. If you have information about any fern-related educational initiatives or resources that you have found useful please contact the Education Officer, Alison Evans.

FERN RECORDS – Members are reminded that records of ferns, horsetails, clubmosses and quillworts in the wild should be sent in the first instance to the BPS Recorder, Fred Rumsey, who will forward them to the Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI), or members may like to contact the appropriate vice-county recorders directly. Recorders' addresses are available from the BSBI website or BSBI yearbook, which goes to all BSBI members; for those without access to the Internet or yearbook please contact the BPS Recorder for details. The BPS recording card is available on our website or directly from Fred.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS, 2013:

RHS HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW, 9th-14th July – We will be exhibiting at this prestigious show for the first time. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Yvonne Golding or Gill Smith.

SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW, 15th-18th August – Why not spend a few hours or a day helping to look after the Society's stand? You do not need to be an expert on ferns or fern growing, just prepared to spend a few hours or a day with us. Expenses are available, as well as free entry to the Show. If you grow ferns, why not consider entering your best specimens; Southport is one of the few shows with amateur classes for ferns. Details are available from Michael Hayward, 6 Far Moss Road, Blundellsands, Liverpool L23 8TQ; mhaywardL23@blueyonder.co.uk.

FERN COURSES 2013:

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH, 8th June – Fascinating Ferns: a 1-day course. Tutor: Heather McHaffie. To book, contact RBGE education office 0131-248-2937 or e-mail education@rbge.org.uk.

FSC BLENCATHRA FIELD CENTRE, Lake District, 25th-30th August – The Fern Guide: a residential course. Tutor: James Merryweather. To book, contact FSC on 01768-779601 or e-mail enquiries.bl@field-studies-council.org.

FSC KINDROGAN FIELD CENTRE, Perthshire, 5th-8th July – Fern Identification: a residential course. Tutor: Heather McHaffie. To book, contact FSC on 01250-870150 or e-mail enquiries.kd@field-studies-council.org.

FSC PRESTON MONTFORD FIELD CENTRE, Shropshire, 3rd August – Field Guide to Fern Identification: a 1-day course. Tutor: Mark Duffell. To book, contact FSC on 0845-3307378 or e-mail enquiries.pm@field-studies-council.org.

FSC RHYD-Y-CREUAW – DRAPERS' FIELD CENTRE, Snowdonia, 16th-19th August – Fern Identification: a residential course. Tutor: Chris Metherell. To book, contact FSC on 01690-710494 or e-mail enquiries.rc@field-studies-council.org.

ACS DISTANCE LEARNING – Home study fern course: Ferns BHT 314 – To book contact ACS on 0800-3284723 or see www.acsedu.co.uk/courses/plant-varieties/ferns-bht314-161.aspx.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

MINUTES of the 109th Annual General Meeting of the British Pteridological Society held on Saturday 14th April 2012 at The Natural History Museum, London at 14.00 hrs.

IN THE CHAIR: The President, Prof. Mary Gibby.

PRESENT: Pat Acock, A.R. (Matt) Busby, Brian & Sue Dockerill, John Edgington, Alison Evans, Roger Golding, Yvonne Golding, Alec Greening, Nick Hards, Michael Hayward, Jennifer Ide, Stephen Jury, Trevor Lording, Frank McGavigan, Karen & Steve Munyard, Alison Paul, Trevor & Ruth Pearce, Tim Pyner, Michael Radley, Julian Reed, Martin Rickard, Bryan & Gill Smith, Barrie Stevenson, Sandy Strang, Matt Stribley, Richard Treganowan, Alastair Wardlaw, Sarah Whittingham.

Item 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Graham Ackers, Ian Bennallick, Rob Cooke, Jonathan Crowe, Adrian Dyer, Liz Evans, Frank Katzer, Elise Knox-Thomas, Bridget Laue, Heather McHaffie, Alan Ogden, Fred Rumsey, Mike Taylor.

Item 2 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Minutes of the 108th Annual General Meeting of the British Pteridological Society held on Saturday 9th April 2011 and published in the *Bulletin* (Vol. 7, No. 4) were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Item 3 – MATTERS ARISING: There were none.

Item 4a – REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY: This report by Yvonne Golding was published in the *Bulletin* (Vol. 7, No. 4). There were no comments.

Item 4b – REPORT OF THE TREASURER: The Society's accounts for 2011 were published in the *Bulletin* (Vol. 7, No. 4). The Treasurer, Gill Smith, pointed out that funds in our current account had been decreasing due to low interest rates and consequently we have been eating into capital [see also Item 9]. She also drew attention to the questions in the *Bulletin* mailing document regarding e-mailing information to members; this considerably reduces the cost of mailings, so she made a plea for members to ensure that the Membership Secretary, Mike Taylor, always has their current e-mail address.

Item 5 – OFFICERS' REPORTS

The Officers' Reports were published in the *Bulletin* (Vol. 7, No. 4). There were no questions or comments.

Fern Gazette Editor. Mary Gibby reported that Bridget Laue and Adrian Dyer have taken on the role of reviews editors; they have already commissioned some review articles, the first of which would be published later in the year.

Item 6 – COMMITTEE APPOINTEES' REPORTS

The Committee Appointees' Reports were published in the *Bulletin* (Vol. 7, No. 4). There were no questions or comments.

Merchandise Organiser. Bryan Smith drew attention to the fact that postage has gone up considerably so it is well worth taking advantage of opportunities to buy merchandise, Special Publications and other books at meetings or to pre-order items to collect at meetings.

Item 7 – ELECTIONS

President-elect. It was explained that being President-elect for a year allows the future President to learn the ropes before their three-year term of office as President. Prof. John Edgington had been nominated by the committee and was elected unanimously (proposed by Nick Hards, seconded by Jennifer Ide).

Vice-Presidents. Patrick Acock had come to the end of his three-year term of office but was not standing for re-election. Jennifer Ide was also at the end of her three-year term but was available for re-election. Robert Sykes and Roger Golding had been nominated to stand

as Vice-Presidents. Election of these three was proposed by Frank McGavigan, seconded by Julian Reed, and they were all duly elected as Vice-Presidents for a three-year term. Our other Vice-Presidents are Matt Busby, Rob Cooke and Adrian Dyer.

Officers. All Officers were available for re-election, proposed by Roger Golding, seconded by Michael Hayward, and were duly re-elected en bloc. [General Secretary: Yvonne Golding, Committee Secretary: Graham Ackers, Treasurer: Gill Smith, Membership Secretary: Mike Taylor, Meetings Secretary: Bryan Smith, Conservation Officers: Heather McHaffie and Fred Rumsey, Project Officer: Anthony Pigott, Publications Secretary: Martin Rickard, *Fern Gazette* Editor: Mary Gibby, *Pteridologist* Editor: Alec Greening, *Bulletin* Editor: Alison Paul, Website Editor: Anthony Pigott; Education Officer: Alison Evans, Publicity and Marketing Officer: Liz Evans.]

Elected Committee Members. Having served their five-year term of office, John Edgington, Roger Golding, Howard Matthews and Matt Sibley retired at the AGM. Ian Benallick and Stephen Jury had been nominated for the committee. The other existing members – Bridget Laue, Frank McGavigan and Paul Ripley – were all available for re-election. These five were unanimously elected/re-elected en bloc having been proposed by Alec Greening and seconded by Martin Rickard. Nominations/volunteers were invited from the floor to fill any of the remaining five committee vacancies. Julian Reed volunteered and was proposed by Roger Golding, seconded by Yvonne Golding and unanimously elected.

Grateful thanks were given to Pat Acock, Matt Sibley and Howard Matthews for their various valuable contributions.

Committee Appointments. The only change was that Brian and Sue Dockerill were taking over the Spore Exchange. Gratitude was expressed to Matt Busby for all he has done in this role over the last three years, and Brian and Sue were thanked for taking on the job.

Item 8 – Appointment of Independent Examiners. Dr Nick Hards and Mr Alex Storie had agreed to continue in this capacity, and Gill Smith thanked Alex for examining the 2011 accounts.

Item 9 – Proposal to increase subscription rates for 2013. A document from the Treasurer, Gill Smith, outlining the need to increase subscription rates for 2013 and with proposed new rates was circulated with the *Bulletin*. Our rates have not gone up since 2002 but an increase is now unavoidable, due to rising costs of producing and mailing our journals combined with extremely low interest rates. The proposal was to increase all rates by 25% (see table below), which is in line with decisions by other similar societies.

	Current rate	New rate
Full Personal Members	£20	£25
Optional Members (not receiving <i>Fern Gazette</i>)	£16	£21
Student Members	£10	£12.50
Family Members	£2	£2.50
Subscribers	£33	£42

Jennifer Ide asked about airmail postage rates. These have been increased to £10 for all journals and £5 for those not receiving the *Fern Gazette*.

Surprise was expressed that subscriptions had not been increased sooner, and Matt Busby congratulated the Committee and in particular the Treasurer for keeping going for so long without having to do so. When asked if the increase was sufficient, Gill replied that hopefully there would be a financial upturn but regardless it is enough for now, especially if we keep up with airmail postage rates.

The new rates proposed by Gill were seconded by Julian Reed and were unanimously agreed.

Michael Hayward raised the issue of people joining at Southport Flower Show in August and having to pay again for the next year. It was pointed out that they could opt to pay just for the next year. Members are given the most recent Bulletin when they join. At some events there have been buy-one-get-one-free offers so that in effect people are getting the remainder of their first year free. Alternatively, at the RHS days in October we could offer 15 months for the price of 12, which sounds good and does not cost the Society anything. The Committee will discuss these issues.

Item 10 – Formation of a Shows Subcommittee. Yvonne Golding gave a short presentation on this topic. As a charity we are accountable for what we do and some of our activities must be for the public benefit, including the advancement of education, the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science and the advancement of environmental protection or improvement. We do a lot already, especially in terms of education, but we need to attract new members and continue to tell the public about ferns and encourage people to grow them. Shows are one of the best ways to do this. We have had a stand at Southport for many years and have had award-winning stands at other shows over the last few years. However, a lot of organisation is needed and we really need a Shows Subcommittee to enable us to keep up the impetus and enable us to do more, e.g. local shows. If anyone is interested in being involved with shows please contact Yvonne.

Yvonne also mentioned that giving talks at local gardening clubs was another good way of fulfilling our charitable aims. She has developed a PowerPoint presentation that complements our free leaflet *Ferns to Grow in your Garden* and is available for use by members.

Item 11 – J.W. Dyce Award. Martin Rickard announced that this had been won by Graham Ackers for his *Pteridologist* article ‘The strange case of *Asplenium bulbiferum*’, which was judged to be the best published contribution in 2011. Unfortunately, due to ill health Graham could not be present to receive his award.

Item 12 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Affiliation to the RHS and Plant Heritage (formerly NCCPG). Gill Smith drew attention to an RHS scheme that gives members of affiliated societies such as the BPS reduced joining rates for one year (£35.70 instead of £51 single or for two adults at the same address £51.10 instead of £73); in addition our Society will get £5 for each BPS member who joins the RHS at this reduced rate, plus new members will get a £5 RHS shop voucher. Existing RHS members cannot benefit from this. E-mail Gill for a copy of the information leaflet.

Tim Pyner asked about other benefits of affiliation. Currently the only other benefits are that we have free use of RHS garden facilities and we will have a presence at the four fairs for specialist societies at RHS gardens on 5th October.

Resources available. Nick Hards would be leading a health walk in Oxford to show people ferns and asked what resources were available. Alison Evans suggested the new BPS basic fern identification guide *What's that fern?* (printed on waterproof paper and available from Merchandise for £2) that was produced for National Trust walks. This focuses on woodland species and it was agreed that a version on wall ferns would be useful. Yvonne Golding said that she would need something similar for an ‘Urban Naturalist’ event in Manchester.

Mary Gibby closed the meeting at 15.35.

Alison Paul
p.p. **Committee Secretary**

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2012

I have examined the accounting records maintained by the Treasurer of the British Pteridological Society. I certify that the Accounts are a true and fair view of the financial position of the Society.

Nick Hards, Independent Examiner, 6 March 2013

BPS ACCOUNTS FOR 2012

	2011	2012
ORDINARY ACCOUNT		
INCOME		
Subscriptions (<i>see note 1</i>)	£12,619.07	£14,104.72
Interest (<i>see note 11</i>)	£182.54	£199.21
Booksales (<i>see note 4</i>)	£3,124.18	£1,459.62
Merchandise (<i>see note 4</i>)	£689.55	£1,257.43
Inland Revenue Gift Aid	£896.16	£897.00
Publishers Licensing Society	£449.04	£414.49
Donations (included prize money in 2011)	£409.00	£448.00
Kindrogan field course	£1,980.00	n/a
Prize Money (<i>see note 12</i>)	£15.00	£250.00
TOTAL INCOME	£20,364.54	£19,030.47
EXPENDITURE		
Pteridologist	£5,587.30	£5,893.47
Fern Gazette (<i>see note 10</i>)	£2,801.90	£7,303.22
Bulletin	£6,195.08	£5,813.86
Printing & Stationery	£315.98	£1,117.00
Administration & Postage	£389.72	£750.93
Subscriptions to Societies (incl. Insurance 2011)	£126.00	£47.00
Plant & Spore Exchanges	£83.56	£72.36
Meetings (incl. Kindrogan field course 2011)	£2,209.00	n/a
Merchandise	£538.94	£383.05
Trustees' Expenses	£739.15	£868.20
Booksales	£2,016.06	£1,220.00
Special Awards	£100.00	£100.00
Autumn Mailing (<i>see note 13</i>)	£490.97	£2,753.55
Credit Card Charges (<i>see note 9</i>)	£307.72	£520.30
Computer Leasing (<i>see note 7</i>)	£462.37	£434.38
Promotion & Advertising (<i>see note 2</i>)	£224.99	£184.78
Other (Insurance fee in 2012)	£370.00	£55.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£22,958.74	£27,517.10
Balance (income minus expenditure)	-£2,594.20	-£8,486.63
Brought Forward from previous year	£31,801.49	£29,207.29
Total in Ordinary Account	£29,207.29	£20,720.66
CENTENARY FUND (Restricted Account)		
Interest	£38.73	£46.29
Interest brought forward from previous year	£1,164.29	£1,203.02
Grant	£0.00	£0.00
Total Interest	£1,203.02	£1,249.31
Capital brought forward from previous year	£5,583.73	£5,583.73
Total in Centenary Fund	£6,786.75	£6,833.04

GREENFIELD FUND (Restricted Account)

Interest	£12.97	£15.50
Interest brought forward from previous year	£1,207.83	£1,220.80
Grant (<i>see note 6</i>)	£0.00	£115.12
Donation to Greenfield Fund (<i>see note 8</i>)	£0.00	£200.00
Total Interest	£1,220.80	£1,321.18
Capital brought forward from previous year	£1,051.00	£1,051.00
Total in Greenfield Fund	£2,271.80	£2,372.18

PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

Brought forward from previous year	£11,703.73	£12,380.77
Income	£637.36	£1,063.44
Interest	£67.18	£84.44
Expenditure	£27.50	£250.00
Total in Publications Account	£12,380.77	£13,278.65

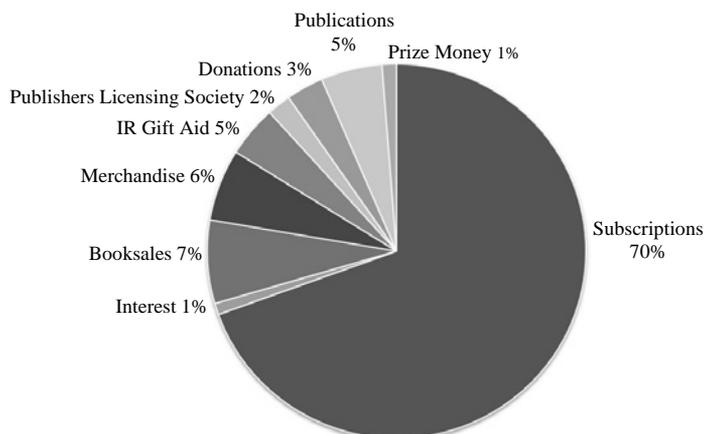
TOTAL FUNDS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2012

Ordinary Account	£29,207.29	£20,720.66
Centenary Fund	£6,786.75	£6,833.04
Greenfield Fund	£2,271.80	£2,372.18
Publications Account	£12,380.77	£13,278.65
Total Funds	£50,646.61	£43,204.53

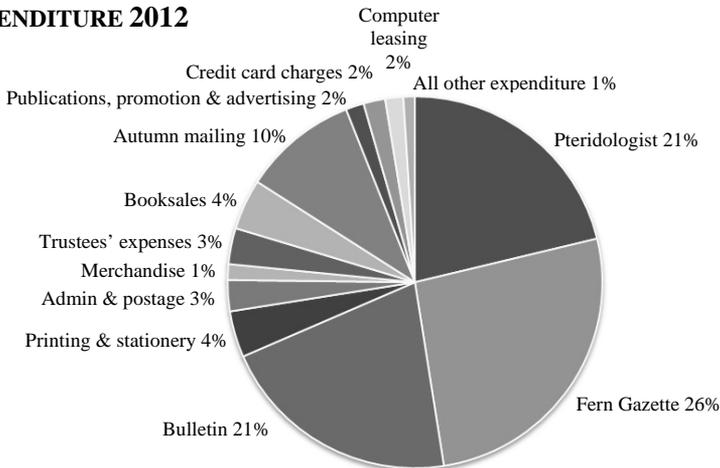
REPRESENTED BY

Charitable Organisations Investment Fund (COIF)	£39,222.65	£39,568.09
Bank of Scotland & Others	£11,423.96	£3,636.44
Total Funds	£50,646.61	£43,204.53

INCOME 2012



EXPENDITURE 2012



NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

- The accounts reflect the subscriptions actually received in the year.
- The Society has not paid an agency for advertising but has been promoting and advertising the Society where possible via RHS, BBC, county and national shows and public display days. Details of these appear in the *Bulletin*.
- The Society possesses the following stock: FSC Key to Common Ferns – 80 valued at £160. What's that Fern? booklet – 350 valued at £700. Back issues of the *Bulletin*, *Fern Gazette* and *Pteridologist* valued at approximately £2,000. Merchandising valued at approximately £2,500 & capital of £1,903.44. Booksales – new and second-hand books valued at approximately £4,800 & capital of £2,420.57. BPS Special Publications (no. copies): no.3. Cultivation and Propagation (203) £1,015; no.4. History of British Pteridology (635) £2,540; no.5. BPS Abstracts & Papers (331) £1,324; no.6. CD Rom – BPS Minute Book (19) £190; no.8. New Atlas of Ferns (32) £320; no.9. Fern Books Before 1900 (328) £4,920; no.10. Occasional Paper of the BPS (9) £22.50. The Society received a bequest of fern books from R. Graham Ackers – these books have still to be individually valued so no stock value has been attributed to them for the purpose of these accounts.
- Full details of Merchandise and Booksales Accounts can be obtained from the Managers.
- Only the 'Interest' section of the Restricted Funds is available for payment as grants.
- A Grant of £115.12 was paid to install an automatic watering system for the fern house at Manchester University – an article about this will be published in the 2013 *Pteridologist*.
- Computers for specific BPS officers' use are being leased from Dell Computers. Dell has now refused to lease any further machines to small Societies so purchase may be the only way for these to be replaced.
- An anonymous donation of £200 was given to enhance the Greenfield Fund.
- An exorbitant termination fee (Contractual) had to be paid to the Bank of Scotland Merchant Services to end the Credit Card provision.
- Three issues of *The Fern Gazette* were produced in 2012: the two 2011 issues plus one for 2012. The outstanding 2012 *Fern Gazette* will be produced as an extra in 2013. The team set up to commission review papers for the *Gazette* has seen publication of the first review.
- Interest rates have still been very low but the Society has not had to withdraw any funds from the deposit account. The COIF account interest rate started the year at 0.841%, rose slightly above this during the year but finished the year on 0.816%; £345.44 interest was earned in 2012. This was the third year with little interest added to the funds so it was agreed at the 2012 AGM to increase Subscriptions from January 2013.
- £250 prize money was won for a Silver Gilt medal and the Charles Curtis Award at the Southport Show 2012.

Gillian Smith, Treasurer

REPORTS OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE APPOINTEES FOR 2012

GENERAL SECRETARY – Yvonne Golding

In 2012 the BPS committee first met in January at Manchester Museum. The 109th Annual General Meeting was held in April at The Natural History Museum, London. Changes in our Committee included the appointment of our President-elect John Edgington, two new Vice-presidents: Robert Sykes and Roger Golding, plus three new trustees: Ian Benniallick, Julian Reed and Stephen Jury. In addition we welcomed Brian and Sue Dockerill as our new Spore Exchange Organisers. The new committee met for the first time in May at RHS Harlow Carr, Harrogate, and in October we were back at The Natural History Museum in London. As you can see, your BPS Committee continues to travel around the country in order to run your Society.

At our AGM in London we awarded the fifth J.W. Dyce award to Graham Ackers for his article on *Asplenium bulbiferum*, which was published in the *Pteridologist*. The award (of £100) is open to anyone who writes an interesting and informative article for any of our publications. Graham was too ill to attend the AGM to receive his award in person though expressed delight at receiving it. He sadly died a month later. Many BPS members attended Graham's green burial in a peaceful woodland site in Surrey. I worked with him very closely and miss him very much, as do all the members of our Committee. Graham generously left his fern book collection to the BPS, which we will be offering for sale to members. This gives you the opportunity to obtain one of Graham's books and help raise funds for our Society. Graham's obituary is published in this issue of the *Bulletin*. Sadly, I need to mention other members that died in 2012: Barbara-Joe Hoshizaki of the US whom many of you will know as the author of *The Fern Grower's Manual*; David Davies; Terry Peterson; Linda Pickering; Ivor Price; Sue Sykes and Marie Winder. We send our condolences to all their families.

This past year I have been 'Flying the Flag for Ferns' in Manchester both at the museum and at the University Botanical Grounds better known as The Firs. I have donated ferns to expand the greenhouse collections at Henbury Hall in Cheshire and at Chatsworth House in Derbyshire. In the autumn the Manchester Group planted around 100 ferns (all donated by BPS members) at Jodrell Bank, where over the next few years we plan to expand the fernery and make a self-guided fern trail for visitors. Are you flying the flag? If you give talks about ferns then please let us know. Alternatively if you would like to give talks but do not know where to start then please ask for a loan copy of our PowerPoint presentation. Another way in which you can help to raise our profile is by taking a stand at your local flower show. This needn't be elaborate, just a few choice ferns on display with some BPS literature. We can advise about this. The important thing is to chat to people about ferns and encourage them to grow them and of course join our Society!

One of the ways of raising the profile of the BPS is to link up with other larger organisations. Currently we are working on our collaboration with the National Trust to organise fern walks at their properties. This is supported by the fern guide developed by the Education Subcommittee, which describes the most commonly found ferns. We hope that Regional Organisers can link up with NT wardens and organise fern walks in their local area. We are also working with the RHS. In October 2012 twenty BPS members represented our Society at open days held at all four RHS gardens: Rosemoor in Devon, Harlow Carr in Yorkshire, Hyde Hall in Essex and Wisley in Surrey. In July 2013 the BPS will be participating for the first time at the prestigious RHS Flower Show at Hampton

Court. If you are going to the show then please come and see us. Alternatively if you would like to join our help rota then do get in touch.

In addition the BPS worked in 2012 to raise the profile of the Society by attending events at three nationally important museums: in May we were at The Natural History Museum in London for a 'Big Nature Day', in June the Yorkshire Museum in York for a BioBlitz, in July Manchester Museum with 'Urban ferns' and in September the Education Subcommittee returned to the Yorkshire Museum with our BPS road-show 'Ferns and Fossils'. If you know of a venue in your area for this event then please get in touch.

Once again congratulations are due to Michael Hayward who triumphed at Southport Flower Show in August when the BPS stand was awarded the coveted Charles H. Curtis Trophy, together with a Silver-gilt medal.

On another horticultural note, a small grant from our Greenfield Fund was made to the volunteers at The Firs to buy an automatic watering system to help irrigate the Moss House, which perhaps more correctly should be renamed 'The Filmy Fern House'. You will be able to read about this in the next edition of *Pteridologist*.

In 2012 I visited Austria and Germany with the BPS and enjoyed the wonderful alpine flowers and ferns as well as the good company of BPS friends. I had the pleasure of leading our Manchester Group to some exciting local locations where we continue to find new sites and monitor historic ones. And in November I attended the excellent research day at NHM organised by Fred Rumsey and Alison Paul. I also enjoyed reading the first of a series of what I think are going to be excellent review articles in the *Fern Gazette*, and I continue to enjoy our excellent publication *Pteridologist*, edited by Alec Greening. I'm sure this goes a long way to attracting new members, as people see it at the shows and other events that the BPS is running up and down the country for the general public. As a charity this is exactly what we should be doing!

Happy Ferning in 2013!

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY – Mike Taylor

Although 48 new members were recruited for 2012, the number of members decreased overall by 17 to 628. This is made up of 426 Full (of which 47 are family members), 90 Optional (of which 4 are family members), 31 Complimentary, 8 Honorary and 7 Student members and 67 Subscribers. The number of Subscribers is unchanged. About 70 members took advantage of the facility to pay via the AFS. At the time of writing we already have 18 new members for 2013, though quite a number of existing members have indicated that they will not be renewing for 2013.

The Society aims to publish four journals a year, the *Bulletin*, the *Pteridologist* and two issues of the *Fern Gazette*. If you think you are missing a journal please contact me as they do go missing for various reasons.

MEETINGS SECRETARY – Bryan Smith

The Meetings Subcommittee held a planning meeting in February but, as is the usual case, most of our business was conducted by e-mail. Apart from overseeing and helping with the year's programme, we also finalised the Guidelines for the Organisation of BPS Meetings, which is now on the website.

During 2012 we had another successful meetings programme, with a June weekend visit to Wiltshire (organised by Nick Hards) and a September long weekend visit to Northumberland (organised by Rob Cooke). One-day meetings included the April AGM at the NHM (organised by Pat Acock), the Autumn indoor meeting also at the NHM about demystifying current fern research (organised by Fred Rumsey), and an annual event, the BPS

stand at the August Southport Flower Show (organised by Michael Hayward). Overseas meetings included two February weeks in South Africa (organised by Jennifer Ide) and two July weeks in Germany and Austria (organised by Rolf Thiemann). Reports on all of these meetings can be found in the rest of the *Bulletin*.

Details of meetings planned for 2013 were circulated with the Autumn mailing and include visits to the Western Isles (June), Lincolnshire (July) and Cornwall (September), as well as an AGM weekend in Edinburgh (April) and the Autumn indoor meeting at Harlow Carr (November). As before, BPS will be at the Southport Flower Show (August), but for the first time we will also be at the RHS's prestigious Hampton Court Flower Show (July).

As always, the success of these meetings is dependent on members who voluntarily give up their time and effort in the organisation. This is no mean feat, but the rewards are well worth it. If you fancy organising such a meeting, please do let one of the committee know. You won't be going it alone, as we always allocate a subcommittee member as a liaison point for each meeting. Even if you don't fancy leading, please do let us know if there are any places you would like to visit and study ferns.

Finally, I would endorse the fine work that Regional Meetings Organisers do in arranging trips 'on your doorstep'. Even if you are just visiting an area on holiday, it is worth checking the on-line calendar or contacting the Regional Organiser to see if there's a meeting you can join.

CONSERVATION OFFICER – Fred Rumsey

Work continues to assess the conservation status of our native fern species, many actions now being devolved necessitating reviews at the country level. Several recently recognised critical taxa such as *Lycopodium lagopus* and *Dryopteris pseudodisjuncta* are still considered Data Deficient but sterling work by Roger Golding and others has helped provide more detailed recent records from which a more informed assessment can start to be made. In both cases questions surround their distinctness, relationships and people's ability to generally recognise them – publication of better guidance, such as that prepared by the late Ken Trewren will hopefully help, as will molecular work currently being undertaken at the NHM.

Of the species of most conservation concern nationally it is encouraging to report good levels of survival for transplanted plants of *Woodsia ilvensis* at several sites – the real test of the success of this work will be evidence of natural regeneration, which, as yet, we don't have.

On a sadder note, Mark Jannink reported the loss of the only known extant *Asplenium* × *jacksonii* from the Guernsey lane-bank where my wife Sue first found it in 2008, probably the victim of the annual vegetation cutting which, however, also does so much to stimulate the production of these hybrids. Its loss was partially alleviated by the discovery very close by of a new *A.* × *microdon*!

I was also interested to see that Plantlife in their report 'Our Vanishing Flora', published in December, have included *Dryopteris cristata* in their 'Unlucky 13' – the next likely candidates for national extinction. It is over ten years since we last did a complete national survey of this plant, although I know that the East Anglia group have been doing work on this, supporting the view that it has continued to decline. I hope this work can be built on this coming year, in collaboration with Tim Pankhurst at Plantlife, to try to secure the future of this species.

RECORDING OFFICER – Fred Rumsey

The year saw that rarity, the addition of a probably native species to the British list. Herbarium studies revealed the past presence of *Diphasiastrum tristachyum*, previously overlooked as *D.* × *issleri*; sadly it hasn't been seen at its Hampshire locality for over 140 years and is unlikely to be re-found in the British Isles. Reconsideration of herbarium specimens by Marcus Lubienski has also led to the recognition of another (?second) English

site for *Equisetum* × *trachyodon*, very welcome following the earlier redetermination of plants referred to this from the Cheshire coast as *E. × meridionale*. The year closed with news from Christopher Fraser-Jenkins, who believes that amongst his old herbarium material currently being worked through in Edinburgh, are collections of *Cystopteris diaphana* from Skye. If so, this would constitute a considerable extension of range and possibly first natural occurrence in Scotland. Elsewhere in Scotland, Claudia Ferguson-Smyth discovered the very rare but potentially overlooked hybrid *Isoetes* × *hickeyii*, again new to the country.

Once again I'm delighted to have the opportunity to thank all those who have sent me or their local vice-county recorders and record centres their records, and to try to encourage those who never have that you can get involved! Your records really are a valuable resource. While adding a species to the UK list is perhaps unlikely for most of us and even new vice-county records are hard to get, general recording is still vital. There is something very satisfying about adding dots to the map and you can now very easily see the current maps displayed online at www.bsbimaps.org.uk to see what's been recorded and where. The six different recording periods (<1930, 1930-69, 1970-86, 1987-99, 2000-9, 2010-) are given different bright colours, the dots looking like Smarties and so within the recording community there is now talk about getting Smarties whenever a new hectad record is made, or updated causing the colour to change. I should offer a prize for the BPS member who gets the most Smarties to encourage our recording activity! Happy hunting to all in 2013.

PUBLICATIONS SECRETARY – Martin Rickard

The *Pteridologist* and *Bulletin* continue to be produced to a very high standard. Both editors, Alec Greening and Alison Paul respectively, are to be congratulated on the quality of the issued journal. The *Fern Gazette* is also in rude health. Mary Gibby, the editor, has recently appointed an Editorial Board of seven or eight specialists based in the Americas, Africa, Asia and Australasia as well as Europe. This should ensure a continual stream of high quality material, in various disciplines, for the foreseeable future.

There have been no new publications issued this year. Two potential publications referred to last year are nearing completion. These are John Edgington's account of first records of British ferns and lycophytes, and Michael Hayward's study of the Jones nature prints. Having seen both drafts I am sure both will be very well received within the Society and the botanical world in general.

FERN GAZETTE EDITOR – Mary Gibby

The *Fern Gazette* is getting back on track with three parts published during the year. It was good to be able to dedicate one of these to Clive Jermy on his 80th birthday; Clive did so much for the BPS – enthusing members new and old, organising meetings and conferences, being a great President and establishing the *Fern Gazette* as a significant scientific publication. I am striving to make it this again, and am grateful to help from others. First I must mention Adrian Dyer and Bridget Laue who have voluntarily taken on the task of acting as commissioning editors for a series of review papers for the *Gazette*, the first of which was published in Volume 19 Part 3. I hope you have enjoyed reading this. Second, I have been in touch with a range of fern researchers from across the globe, and invited them to join the *Fern Gazette* Editorial Board. I am delighted to say that every one of them immediately responded positively to the invitation and I look forward to working with them in the future to increase the number and diversity of papers in the *Gazette*.

PTERIDOLOGIST EDITOR – Alec Greening

The 2012 *Pteridologist* ran to 84 pages, plus cover, and was the largest issue to date. Many members commented on the quality of the images and I am glad that this problem area has been resolved. The range of articles was a direct result of many new members submitting

articles and I hope that this trend will continue. The appeal for proof-readers was very fruitful and I am enjoying working with them.

The biggest problem was the late issue of the magazine. With the extra help and a strict schedule on my part, I am confident that the 2013 *Pteridologist* will be published in May.

This next issue will be the final part of Volume 5. Time has flown since Martin Rickard and I agreed to take on the *Pteridologist* whilst ferning in Derbyshire six years ago and I am already looking forward to starting Volume 6. If you would like to submit articles for consideration please contact me.

BULLETIN EDITOR – Alison Paul

The 2012 *Bulletin* is another bumper issue with 100 pages, a reflection of the impressive number and range of the Society's meetings and other activities.

WEBSITE EDITOR – Anthony Pigott

The website continues to develop, both with the usual updates of BPS information and new features. There have been a series of technical problems with the Society's web host, which seriously hindered update of the website for part of the year. These have apparently been overcome but we are taking steps to ensure that the BPS website has greater flexibility and resilience in the future.

We continue to work with a system of 'content providers' to enable more people to be involved in the acquisition and update of material for the website.

The BPS Fern Forum (www.fernforum.net/bb/) now has over 200 registered members. The Forum enables experts and enthusiasts from all over the world to exchange information about all aspects of pteridophytes. We see this as a significant service provided by the Society and one that enhances its visibility and standing. In addition, we have continued to implement features such as an expanded and revamped 'Where to see Ferns', 'Ferns in Members' Gardens' and a 'Hardy Ferns Guide' using wiki software that allows easy editing by several people. We expect more of this to 'go live' in the coming year.

We continue to expand the use of e-mail and 'social networking' to enhance the way the Society communicates with its members. These are covered in more detail in the Publicity Officer's report.

As always, offers of contributions and other help are extremely welcome. A list of ways that people can help, large and small, is on the website.

EDUCATION OFFICER – Alison Evans

The Education Group has had another busy year, with several events and publication of educational leaflets. Our Subcommittee meeting in March 2012 focused on planning for these, and was also used to prioritise our future activities.

The early part of the year saw the production of the professionally printed leaflets 'Ferns for different garden conditions', and the more ambitious waterproof fern identification guide, 'What's that fern'. We are also very fortunate in that Michael Hill has produced a drawing of the fern life-cycle to our specifications for use by the BPS. We have incorporated this into a very popular leaflet 'The Private Life of Ferns'. This has been a great asset when explaining about ferns to members of the public at our events. We have also launched a poster for children – 'Ptery the Fern's Top 5 Facts about Ferns', which seems to be popular with all ages.

In May, Manchester University held an open day. Around 40 interested members of the public were bussed down to The Firs where Yvonne Golding was on duty to show people the excellent fern collection in the Greenhouse and Moss House and to tell them about the complexities of the fern life-cycle. This was supported by our educational leaflets and posters.

Our next event was the OPAL-funded 'Big Nature Day' at the Natural History Museum on 27th May. A wide range of natural history societies was present, so it was a good opportunity for networking as well as engaging with the public. Pat Acock, Alison Evans, Roger Golding and Tim Pyner manned the stand, with help from Fred Rumsey when he was free from his NHM duties. We had an impressive collection of British native ferns, mostly provided by Roger, so that we could demonstrate the ferns in the ID guide. The stand attracted a lot of attention, and several children completed our quiz, the winner living in Switzerland! It was a gloriously sunny day, so we had to reverse our plans and put the poster stands out on the grass to make way for our ferns in the shade.

On 16th of June we had a BPS stand at a BioBlitz in the grounds of the Yorkshire Museum, in central York. In contrast to the previous event we had to cope with heavy rain and high winds, but again the stand attracted many visitors, and several people undertook the guided walks to see the wild ferns in the grounds, and the well-stocked fernery. Here we proved that our fern identification guide is completely waterproof, and we sold several copies. We were also able to supply the local records centre with the fern records for the Museum grounds.

In July, Yvonne Golding gave a presentation to members of the public on 'Urban ferns' at Manchester Museum, part of an ongoing programme of lectures called 'The Urban Naturalist'. This was followed by a short walk around the Museum site, where eight species were identified.

Our educational resources were further developed by Michael Hayward, who produced a large poster of our life-cycle diagram, with text from the 'Private Life' leaflet and encouragement to grow ferns from spores. He also produced a larger poster of 'Pteris the Fern's Top 5 Facts about Ferns'. These were used at Southport Flower Show, 16th to 19th August, where the stand was awarded the Charles H. Curtis Trophy for 'the exhibit of greatest horticultural interest and/or educational value in the show', in addition to a Silver-gilt medal.

September 13th to 16th saw a repeat of the woodland fern identification walks at the National Trust property, Nymans, in Sussex. Pat Acock, Alison Evans, Jennifer Ide and Paul Ripley led walks for the public and for the rangers at Nymans. The event is described in a separate report.

Throughout the year, members of the Education group have been visiting sites to assess their potential and plan for future events. The Longshaw Estate National Trust property was included in the Manchester and North Midlands group visit to the nearby Padley Gorge. The possibility of holding a classroom fern identification session here followed by a field excursion has been suggested for 2013. There was also a visit to Mrs Darwin's greenhouse in Cambridge, a possible site for an event in 2013 relating to Victorian ferneries. There were three visits to the Yorkshire Museum to prepare for the BioBlitz and for the Ferns and Fossils event in September, which is reported separately.

The Education group were also pleased to support the local members who put on stands at the four RHS gardens on the Plant Societies' Open Day on 5th October, also reported in this *Bulletin*.

Finally, in November the Manchester Group began planting a fernery with BPS-donated plants at Jodrell Bank Arboretum. This is an ongoing project with the aim of making a fern trail supported by our 'What's that Fern?' booklet, which will be on sale at the Jodrell Bank Visitor Centre.

One task for the Education group in the coming months is to decide how best to use our limited resources to provide information for the public. We would welcome your comments and suggestions about how we can be most effective – please e-mail Education@eBPS.org.uk with your ideas.

PUBLICITY & MARKETING OFFICER – Lizzie Evans

In my role as Publicity and Marketing Officer this year I have continued to produce the on-line *Fern World* Newsletter and maintain the BPS presence on Facebook, Twitter and Posterous. For the Education Group I designed and produced the 'Ptery the Fern' poster aimed at children, as well as a limited hand-printed run of new members' packs for display and distribution at shows and events. I also collaborated with Gill Smith in redrafting the lapsed member reminder letters, and I took on the role of keeping the on-line meetings diary up-to-date. I have also been testing a mass e-mailing system, which is intended to reach the entire membership quickly with important updates. As always, if you would like any more information about any of the Publicity channels, or wish to submit a news item, please e-mail Liz Evans at Publicity@eBPS.org.uk. Thanks.

PROJECT OFFICER – Anthony Pigott

Recording & Mapping. This is aimed at increasing the participation of the BPS in the recording and analysis of pteridophyte distribution in Britain and Ireland. We encourage members to make records, and recording cards are available to download from the website, or contact Fred Rumsey. We are working with the BSBI to facilitate the input of new data and access to existing records.

Photographic Recording. We invite people to take photographs of fern sites at different points in time with a view to learning about variations in conditions and abundance. Full details are on the website. Members are strongly encouraged to participate.

On-line Journals. A few years ago the BPS decided to make back numbers of its journals available on-line. There is a tremendous wealth of pteridophyte knowledge in those pages that is difficult to access and search on paper. Most of the Society's journals over two years old have now been scanned and are available at the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL). Go to: www.biodiversitylibrary.org/ and search for 'British Pteridological Society'. We also hope to have them on our website in the next year.

Website Development. This project continues to look at ways to get more people involved and to make our web activities easier to expand and develop. For more details, please see the Website Editor's report.

SPORE EXCHANGE ORGANISER – Matt Busby

I am pleased to report that all 107 requests were completed and sent out before the 1st April 2012. Each year I look forward to adding new species to the list and I was pleased to see some seven new items added to the 2012 list. Each year any three-year-old spores are deleted from the list and I was pleased to take them to the 2012 AGM for free distribution to members.

In June I handed over responsibility for the Spore Exchange to Brian and Sue Dockerill. I was very reassured knowing that the scheme would be taken over by Brian and Sue who are obviously very keen; it bodes well for the future of this important part of our Society's activities. Their address is 19 Westfield Road, Glyncoch, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, CF37 3AG, UK.

Brian and Sue will be pleased to receive donations of spores for the Spore Exchange at any time. There is no need to clean the spores, just place fertile fronds in envelopes with notation naming the species and the donor's name. It is a good idea to check through the 2012 list and see if you have items in your collections that are missing from the list. Please e-mail any queries to Spores@eBPS.org.uk.

I thank all the 2011 donors for their support and for the advice received from various Committee members.

PLANT EXCHANGE ORGANISER – Jonathan Crowe

Donor forms were distributed with the spring 2012 mailing. The Plant Exchange List was compiled and first distributed early in July 2012.

Statistics for taxa offered are shown below:

Status Code	Plant Status Description	No. in 2008	No. in 2009	No. in 2010	No. in 2011	No. in 2012
Sp0	Sporeling less than 1 year old	6	13	0	3	0
Sp1	Sporeling 1-2 years old	17	18	17	15	18
Sp2	Sporeling 2-3 years old	19	16	19	18	9
Esp	Established plant	20	30	42	12	18
Bul	Bulbil	6	5	4	3	1
Rhs	Rhizomes	1	4	6	3	0
	Plant status not stated by donor	0	0	0	0	0
	Totals	69	86	88	54	46

The statistics for participants are shown below:

Category of Participant	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Donors only (thus only offering plants)	4	6	6	6	5
Donors also having 'wants'	3	2	3	1	2
'Wanters' only (thus not offering plants)	-	-	2	1	1
List requesters only (neither offering plants nor having 'wants')	3	17	15	5	11
Total number of participants	10	25	26	13	19

By comparison with last year, participation in the scheme has increased by 46 per cent but the number of taxa offered has decreased by 15 per cent.

Although I organise the Plant Exchange I generally have no knowledge of the extent to which the scheme is used (except in respect of the plants that I myself have offered). So this year I sent out feedback requests to Donors. This revealed that just over 50 plants were sent out in response to requests from nine members, most of whom were also donors.

BOOKSALES ORGANISER – Frank Katzer

BPS booksales had a busy year, with one new book being sourced for sale to members. This was Sarah Whittingham's *Fern Fever, the Story of Pteridomania*. Yvonne Golding arranged for these to be sold at the Spring/AGM meeting, with the author present to sign them. Another major event was the sad death of Graham Ackers, who bequeathed his fern book collection to BPS booksales. These books were delivered to me in the last quarter of 2012 and all books have been catalogued since then. The BPS Committee will be deciding on how these books will be made available for sale to BPS members, which is likely to happen at the AGM in 2013.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Yvonne Golding for all her help and support this year. Yvonne has taken books to many regional and committee meetings, making books available to many BPS members, more than I would have had contact with.

As usual, BPS booksales will always welcome requests of books or offers to purchase either individual books or whole book collections. Please keep in mind that I can't offer internet prices, but then book shops would not offer sales values either when they purchase books. To contact me please use either my work e-mail: Frank.Katzer@moredun.ac.uk or the booksales e-mail: Booksales@eBPS.org.uk. Alternatively I can be contacted by post: Frank Katzer, Highfield House, Muirburn, Skirling, ML12 6HL, Scotland or by phone 0044 (0)1899-860307.

MERCHANDISE ORGANISERS – Bryan & Gill Smith

Merchandise sales were much higher in 2012 (over £1,200) than in 2011 (around £500), mainly for two reasons. Firstly, as anticipated, we produced the 2013 BPS calendar early in

the year to try and improve on sales, and it was ready for the 2012 AGM. This paid off, with more selling opportunities throughout the year. We plan to repeat the exercise by having the 2014 calendar similarly available – and hope that members will have been persuaded to submit their photos for inclusion. Secondly, we added a new item to the list – ‘What’s that fern?’, a low cost, simple, waterproof, colour field guide to 19 British ferns. This has proved very popular, particularly with the public when BPS members sold it at OPAL’s Big Nature Day at the NHM in May, at the BioBlitz in York in June, and at the RHS’s one-day October events at Harlow Carr, Hyde Hall, Rosemoor and Wisley.

We had just under 20 mail orders (from the UK, Denmark, Germany and Hungary), which compared with around 20 mail orders (from the UK, USA, Denmark and Switzerland) in 2011. Face-to-face selling continued, and we sold merchandise at the NHM AGM, at national meetings in Wiltshire and Northumberland, and at the Autumn indoor meeting, also at the NHM. As usual, members had the option to save postage by pre-ordering items for meetings we attended. Colleagues in the north sold merchandise at the Southport show, at the York Museum ‘Ferns and Fossils’ weekend, and at the Yorkshire Regional Group’s AGM. Further details can be found in the Merchandise section of the Treasurer’s accounts.

The current merchandise list (May 2012), which was distributed with the Autumn mailing, boasts some 19 ranges and a total of nearly 60 individual products. The list continues to be available through the BPS website, and we send out new order forms when we fulfil orders.

HORTICULTURAL INFORMATION ADVISER – Matt Busby

2012 has been a far more interesting year, with queries from members in both the UK and abroad. I received photographs of a fern that required identification from a grower in Italy. By consulting with other notable members, we were able to decide its genus but lack of fertile material prevented a more definite identification. Other queries included the control of scale infection, where to obtain difficult to acquire species and the addresses of UK nurseries.

I am always pleased to help members with any cultural problems they may have with their fern collections and I am also happy to help with other plant groups.

ARCHIVIST – Matt Busby

The Society’s archive remains at the University of Manchester Museum, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL. Access is dependent on museum staff being available to accompany visitors to the archive. Members are advised to contact the Society Archivist for advice before visiting the museum. Please note the following:

- There is no access to the archive at weekends, and weekday lunch-times should be avoided.
- Arrangements for visiting the archive should be made by contacting Dr Rachel Webster: Rachel.E.Webster@manchester.ac.uk. The museum phone number is 0161-275-2648.
- Items for the archive should be sent to the Archivist, A.R. Busby, at his home address;.
- Items can only be loaned if prior permission has been received from the Archivist.
- Any items removed from the archive should be entered in the Archive Loans Book.
- A copy of the current archive catalogue can be obtained either by e-mail or post from A.R. Busby at 16 Kirby Corner Road, Canley, Coventry CV4 8GD (02476-715690).

We are always anxious to acquire photographs, documents, horticultural catalogues and press cuttings for the archive. Pre-1890 items are particularly valuable. Collection can be arranged for heavy or bulky items.

My thanks go to the Committee, and in particular to Yvonne Golding and the Manchester Museum staff for the valuable assistance given to me during the year.

CULTIVAR REGISTRATION SUBCOMMITTEE – Martin Rickard

The Subcommittee did not meet formally during the year but some progress has been made on a *Polypodium* register. Much still needs to be done and it is unlikely to appear in the next 12 months. The much smaller draft register of *Osmunda* should be ready sooner.

OBITUARIES

R. Graham Ackers

1941 – 2012

Graham was: teetotal, introduced the formative Rolling Stones to the Blues, knew all the right dances to the right music, suffered fools gladly. Well, one of these is true.

Graham was born in Blackpool on 3rd December 1941. Graham left the prestigious Arnold School in 1960 and moved to London. He took up a position at the Clerical and Medical Insurance Company, which was where he picked up his great love of foreign films. Early on in London, he formed a close friendship with Dave Williams, John Broven and the late Mike Leadbitter, who along with Graham's school friend Will Jones had a great love of blues and R&B music; Fats Domino and Jimmy Reed were Graham's favourite artists. In 1962 he drove the Rolling Stones' Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and Brian Jones in a hired van from London to Manchester for the first American Folk Blues Festival.

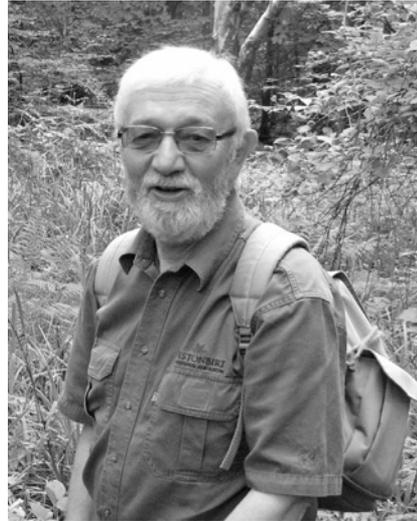


photo: P.J. Acock

Graham Ackers on SE meeting in Hertfordshire, June 2010

In the 1970s Graham joined the Aldershot Dolphins, an underwater diving club. He spent many of his holidays diving, especially loving visits to the Red Sea. Graham had inherited his father's interest in Botany and Zoology and typically while others hunted for their dinner he studied the smaller creatures and developed an interest in marine sponges, becoming an expert and naming a few new ones to science, some of which are preserved at The Natural History Museum. Graham had already developed a keen sense of the need for conservation and would take very little from the sea. However, when a fellow diver saw him surface with a particularly large lobster and asked him if he was going to return it to the sea, Graham replied in good humour "No! Not likely."

Just over 30 years ago Graham met his third wife Lesley through the Marine Conservation Society, and close friends said that this was the happiest period of his life. Lesley was the ideal partner for Graham, sharing his love of diving, the natural world and gardening.

Graham joined the BPS in 1989 and from the beginning was a regular at national and local group meetings. In 1993 Graham and Lesley organised a South-East meeting (*Bulletin* 4(4) p. 170) and we were invited to their delightful home, the Old Bakehouse, Abinger Bottom. It was then that Graham's extensive library, his marvellous collection of ferns and other plants and his love of travelling were revealed to us. Over the years Graham built up an outstanding collection of books on ferns and many other branches of natural history. Graham authored many well researched and varied *Pteridologist* articles, and won the J.W. Dyce Award for the best published BPS contribution in 2011.

In 1992 Graham was elected to the BPS committee and for the next twenty years he played a very active role in the Society. In 1996 I co-opted him on to the Meetings Subcommittee and at his first meeting Graham asked if we would like him to take minutes. This brought to our attention the critical, professional and efficient way that Graham went about all his business. He used his organisational skills very effectively in all the BPS offices he held: Committee member 1992-1995, 2000-2003, 2004-2006; Auditor 1996-2000; Plant Exchange Organiser 2002-2006; Committee Secretary 2006-2012.

Graham and Lesley had travelled extensively and he was soon cajoled into leading a trip to Madeira with Andrew Leonard. Following this success Graham organised a few other field meetings as well as many successful spring and autumn indoor meeting programmes, and he coordinated the organisation of the Society's international symposium in Guildford in 2001. Graham's biggest venture was to take the Society to the tropics. Contacting Yasmin Baksh-Comeau in the University of the West Indies, Graham set to work and planned this exotic tour to perfection. Graham was one of the stalwarts of the regular fern expeditions with the Hardy Fern Foundation to America and other places, and I was fortunate enough to share a room with him on a number of these tours. In Philadelphia we stayed in a posh hotel and the desk was cluttered with very fine stationery; to my amazement Graham just shovelled it into the bin so that he could settle down to his work. Graham mixed his studiousness and his love of collecting books with having great fun. He made many friends among our American colleagues and especially enjoyed the company of Sue Olsen, sharing their many experiences of growing ferns over a glass of wine or two on the long bus journeys or after dinner in the evenings.

Shortly after Lesley's funeral in November 2011, Graham asked Paul and I to put his ferns away for the winter. Having tea afterwards he said that he had no fear of death as he felt he had done everything that he had wanted to do. Roger Golding, Peter Clare, Paul Ripley and I were coming back from the New Forest in late spring and decided to call in and see Graham. He welcomed us all into his room in the hospice and was quite open about the fact that he probably only had a few weeks left. His nephew Alan had delivered his laptop so he could do a little work but he had not been able to start. He was bright and alert and enjoyed the banter but needed time to think through each of our questions before replying. It was as well we called in because he only said a few more words over the next couple of days and he died the following weekend on 19th May.

Two of the sad things for me are firstly that I keep thinking of all the things that Graham and I were still going to do together and secondly, Graham and Lesley's garden really was at the peak of its splendour. The previous year, while Lesley was quite ill, they resolved to improve certain features and characteristically succeeded; it was so sad to think that the new owners of the house might well not appreciate the wonder of it, and that so few of the people that would really have appreciated it ever saw it.

Pat Acock

Barbara Joe Hoshizaki

1928 – 2012

Barbara Joe Hoshizaki, born on 14th June 1928 in Oakland, California, died aged 83 on 30th May 2012 in Los Angeles.

Barbara attended public schools in Los Angeles and received her BS from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1951. There she met Mildred Mathias, a botany professor who became Barbara's mentor and encouraged her to study ferns. Her MS was awarded by UCLA in 1954. Barbara was Professor of biology and taught for 28 years at Los Angeles City College. She was also Curator of Ferns at the UCLA Herbarium.

Barbara travelled widely. Early in her career she spent three months in Costa Rica studying ferns with the Organization for Tropical Studies. She continually worked with and developed close relationships with her academic colleagues and also with amateur and professional growers around the world. She introduced many fern species into cultivation and wrote numerous scientific and popular papers on ferns. An avid taxonomist, she corrected scientific names of misidentified ferns through extensive research.

Barbara had been a BPS member since 1985. She was president of the American Fern Society, the Southern California Horticultural Institute, the Los Angeles International Fern Society and Vice-president of the Pacific Horticultural Foundation. She served on the boards of many horticultural and botanical organisations. She was an honorary member of the American Fern Society, the Los Angeles International Fern Society and the Tropical Fern and Exotic Plant Society, Inc.

She is well known for *The Fern Grower's Manual*, published in 1975. This seminal work established a bench mark for ferns in cultivation in the United States. A revised and expanded second edition with co-author Robbin Moran of the New York Botanical Garden was published in 2001.

Barbara was an academic who didn't confine her work to the herbarium – a gardener who actually grew the ferns she wrote about. Her garden, many years in the making, was her research library. This hands-on experience informed her work and made her an in-demand speaker for professional meetings and for amateur groups. It was a fabulous garden that was both a pleasure and a privilege to visit. Barbara was a good friend who shared her knowledge, expertise and plants from her garden. We shall miss her generosity and kindness.

She is survived by her husband, Takashi, two children, a grandson, a sister and brother, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Janet Keyes

IN MEMORIAM

We were also sorry to learn of the death of the following (date joined BPS in brackets):

Mr David Davies of Llanymdyfri (2001)

Mr Terry Peterson of Leamington Spa (1997)

Mrs Linda Pickering of York (1991)

Mr Ivor Price of Cardiff (1991), who supported the South Wales & Borders Regional Group.

Mrs Susan Margaret Jillian Sykes, 1939 – 2012

Sue Sykes, who died on 5th November 2012, was known to most of us as the wife of Robert, our immediate past President. As a very young couple, they began their married life in East Africa, where she demonstrated particularly her love of the great outdoors and all creatures great and small, a recurring theme for the rest of her life. On their return to this country, she raised a happy family in Kendal and, later, played an active part in the community as a truly compassionate social worker attached to the local hospital. After a move from town to country, they relished the village life of Crosthwaite, where she welcomed fern-lovers and music-lovers alike with warm hospitality.

At the end, the service of remembrance in St Mary's Church was made memorable by the lovingly poignant, spoken and musical contributions of her children and grandchildren.

Melville Thomson

Mrs Marie Winder, 1935 – 2012

Marie Winder, who died on 12th March 2012, was a founder member, with her husband Geoffrey, of the BPS East Anglia Group, having joined the Society in 1990. Though her earlier professional expertise lay in research into diseases of sugar beet, her horticultural interests included the raising of snowdrops, cyclamen and, of course, ferns, grown in association with uncommon trees and shrubs. Marie was a most hospitable hostess, and we are grateful to her for allowing us to use her home as a venue for our ever-popular October meetings. Above all we shall miss her uncanny knack of immediate recall of the most abstruse botanical names.

Barrie Stevenson

MEMBERSHIP LIST: ADDITIONS & AMENDMENTS

NEW MEMBERS

* *new members 2012*, ** *new members 2013*, # *members rejoined 2012*

- * Airey, Mr R.L. & Mrs R. Ros., 24 Avondale Road, Carlton, Nottingham, Notts. NG4 1AF.
rosairey@hotmail.co.uk
- # Baggott, Mr M.A., The Nutshell, Canon Frome, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2TB.
baggymagic@btopenworld.com
- * Barnett, Mr P., 406 S Royal Poinciana Dr, Tampa, FL 33609 USA. phillipwbarnett@gmail.com
- * Bezsmertna, Dr O.O., O.V. Fomin Botanical Gardens, Taras Shevchenko Kviv National University, Symona Petliuryi Street, 1, Kylv 01032, Ukraine. olesya.bezsmertna@gmail.com
- * Bradbury, Mr R.J. & Mrs J.A.E., Cragg Farm, Newland, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 7SJ
- * Bradbury, Mr J.F., 148 Nab Wood Drive, Shipley, West Yorks. BD18 4EW.
jim.f.bradbury@gmail.com
- * Butt, Mr J.A., 10 Kendalls Hall, New End, London NW3 1DD. j_a_butt@yahoo.co.uk
- * Cavrini, Mrs E., Via Dugliolo 5/A, Budrio, BO 40054, Italy. info@gardenstudio.it
- * Chiappetta, Dr V.J., Department of Natural Sciences, Yeshiva College, 500 W 185th St., New York, NY 10033-3299 USA
- ** Clarke, Mr W., 16 Greenfield Road, Stonesfield, Witney, Oxon. OX29 8EQ
- * Collins, Mr J.L., Comfrey Cottage, North Keiss, Wick, Caithness KW1 4XF, Scotland
- * Crowther, Mrs L.J., 11 Norton Mandeville, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 0LN. ljc.1@btinternet.com
- * Davey, Mr J.E., 40 Nover Wood Drive, Fownhope, Hereford, Herefordshire HR1 4PN.
jonathan@themapcentre.com
- ** Dean, Mrs E.A., Waddow Lodge, Clitheroe Road, Waddington, Clitheroe, Lancs. BB7 3HQ.
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BPS MEETINGS CODES

If you take part in a BPS meeting, you should first have read the BPS Safety Code and the Code of Conduct for the Conservation and Enjoyment of Wild Plants. To confirm that you have done so, you will need to have signed the Meeting Attendee's Declarations Form for the year in which the meeting takes place. This helps BPS to show that it is taking all reasonable care with your safety and is also taking a responsible attitude to conservation. The form is sent out annually in the autumn mailing along with the Meetings Programme, and copies of the signed forms are sent to the meeting leaders. The Safety Code was published in the 2000 *Bulletin* (Vol. 5 no. 5 p. 275) and the original Code of Conduct in the 1999 *Bulletin* (Vol. 5 no. 4 p. 199). The latter has been slightly updated and for convenience both documents are reproduced below. Both documents are also available on the BPS website, as is the full Code of Conduct published by the Botanical Society of the British Isles.

Bryan Smith
Meetings Secretary

CODE OF CONDUCT

FOR THE CONSERVATION AND ENJOYMENT OF WILD PLANTS

The above code was published by the Botanical Society of the British Isles. A copy is available at: http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/bps/Code%20of%20Conduct.htm. The main points relating to pteridophytes are outlined here. Members are urged to follow these guidelines. Although the information provided here relates only to the British Isles, similar legislation exists abroad. Members are urged to follow the same standards abroad as they do at home and always to act within local legislation.

Legal protection. All wild plants are protected by law in the United Kingdom. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is illegal to uproot any plant without permission from the landowner or occupier. Similar protection is given to plants in Northern Ireland under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order, 1985. Furthermore, many nature reserves, including National Trust land, have bylaws in force making it illegal to pick, uproot or remove plants. Several of our rarest plants are specifically protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act against intentional picking, uprooting and destruction, unless damage is a result of a lawful activity and could not reasonably have been avoided.

The pteridophytes listed on Schedule 8 are *Cystopteris dickieana*, *Equisetum ramosissimum*, *Ophioglossum lusitanicum*, *Trichomanes speciosum* (including its gametophytic form), *Woodsia alpina* and *W. ilvensis*. In Northern Ireland *Gymnocarpium dryopteris*, *Lycopodiella inundata*, *Pilularia globulifera*, *Polystichum lonchitis* and *Trichomanes speciosum* are similarly protected. In the Republic of Ireland the following pteridophytes are specifically listed: *Asplenium obovatum*, *A. septentrionale*, *Cryptogramma crispa*, *Gymnocarpium robertianum*, *Pilularia globulifera* and *Trichomanes speciosum*.

Responsible conduct. Collecting small amounts of plant material for private study, research or as voucher specimens is usually acceptable, except in the case of protected or rare species. However, no collecting of any plant material should be undertaken on a nature reserve or protected site without first obtaining permission, and in no circumstances should the bulk of a population be collected.

Habitat conservation. Rare plants are often rare because they require specific conditions, and unintentional damage to their habitats can easily occur. A particular threat is soil compaction. Should you visit a rare plant then please avoid doing anything which will alter the site conditions, such as disturbing the surrounding vegetation for photographic purposes, or excessive trampling of surrounding vegetation.

Introducing plants to the wild. It is an offence to introduce certain plant species into the wild. However, none of the listed species are ferns. Nevertheless, non-native plants should never be introduced into the wild, and one fern, *Azolla*, is now becoming a pest on some nature reserves in SE England, so particular care should be taken if wellingtons etc. have been used previously where *Azolla* occurs.

BRITISH PTERIDOLOGICAL SOCIETY SAFETY CODE

In common with other scientific and natural history societies, the BPS has drawn up a safety code for its meetings, in particular field meetings. Every meeting leader will have a copy for consultation by participants but every participant should read the code and take the appropriate responsible action for each meeting he or she attends.

PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS The BPS will, through the meeting leader, at the beginning of the meeting, draw the attention of participants to the points below. It is the duty of all participants to practise extreme care and common sense and not to take risks. The following points are particularly important in taking ultimate responsibility for your own safety:

1. Ensure that you are adequately clothed and equipped.
2. Never leave the main party without notifying the leader of your plans.
3. Pay particular attention to the hazards of the terrain and their potential danger, as a result of your actions, to others. For example, be careful not to dislodge loose stones and boulders.
4. Do not rock-climb without experience and the proper equipment.
5. Do not damage walls, fences, hedges, gates, etc.
6. Leave gates open/shut as the party finds them.
7. Take care not to start a fire.
8. Familiarise yourself with the procedure to adopt in the event of an accident in the field.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT Always carry windproof and waterproof outer clothing and wear suitable footwear, e.g. walking boots or, in certain circumstances, wellingtons. All clothing should be suitable for the job (e.g. jeans not recommended) and for the worst potential weather. Carry sufficient food and drink for the excursion, with some extra in case of emergency. A first-aid kit is also advisable.

In mountains, the following are necessary:

1. Two warm, long-sleeved sweaters of wool or similar material.
2. Properly fitting walking or climbing boots with commando-type or Vibram soles, worn over suitable woollen socks. Footwear should be waterproof but wellingtons should not be worn.
3. A rucksack with spare sweater and (if not being worn) anorak/cagoule and over-trousers.
4. A whistle, compass, maps, torch, first-aid kit.
5. A survival bag if more than ½-hour from the nearest inhabited place.

At all outdoor meetings, it is worth considering carrying an emergency survival blanket. They can be obtained, for approximately £3, from retail outlets selling outdoor leisure clothing and equipment. They are very light (c.85 g) and occupy very little space.

PROCEDURE IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT IN THE FIELD First-aid must be rendered at once, and medical and relief help should be sought if necessary. Prevention of exposure is almost always possible through adequate clothing, equipment and procedure, but if a case is suspected the initial treatment is additional warm clothing and a windproof or waterproof outer garment, plus ingestion of a source of rapidly absorbed food, such as sugar or glucose in solid or liquid form, preferably hot liquid.

THE INTERNATIONAL DISTRESS CODE IN MOUNTAINS

Six long flashes/blasts/shouts/waves in succession, repeated at 1-minute intervals.

The following publication may also prove helpful: Jackson, J. *et al.* (reprinted 1982) *Safety in Mountains*. Obtainable from the British Mountaineering Council, Crawford House, Precinct Centre, Manchester University, Booth Street East, Manchester, M13 9RZ.

(Adapted from the Safety Code of the British Bryological Society)

www.eBPS/meetings/BPS_Safety_Code_A4.doc

MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2013

- Meetings Secretary:** B.D. Smith
Meetings Subcommittee: P.J. Acock, R.J. Cooke, R. Golding, N.J. Hards, J.M. Ide, P.H. Ripley, M.H. Rickard, F.J. Rumsey
- Sat. 6 April **AGM & Spring Indoor Meeting – Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh**
Leader: Mary Gibby
- Sat. 8 - Sat. 15 June **Week Field Meeting – Western Isles**
Leader: Pat Acock
- Tues. 9 - Sun. 14 July ***RHS Flower Show, Hampton Court: BPS Stand**
Contacts: Yvonne Golding/Gill Smith
- Sat. 27 - Sun. 28 July **Weekend Field Meeting – Lincolnshire**
Leader: Neil Timm
- Thurs. 15 - Sun. 18 Aug. ***Southport Flower Show: BPS Stand**
Contact: Michael Hayward
- Fri. 27 - Sun. 29 Sept. **Long Weekend Garden/Field Meeting – Cornwall**
Leader: Martin Rickard
- Sat. 9 Nov. **Autumn Indoor Meeting – RHS Harlow Carr, Harrogate**
Leader: Jennifer Ide

** Event supported by, but not organised by, the BPS.*

For further details of these meetings please see the Meetings Programme sheets sent to members with the autumn mailing and also available on the BPS website. For general enquiries about meetings, contact the Meetings Secretary (Meetings@eBPS.org.uk).

REGIONAL MEETINGS

These meetings are open to all members, so if you are visiting one of the following areas you would be very welcome to join in. For details of meetings please see the BPS website or contact the regional organisers by e-mail, or by post enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

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- East Anglia** Tim Pyner, 182 Southchurch Boulevard, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 4UX; EastAnglia@eBPS.org.uk
- Manchester & N. Midlands** Yvonne Golding, 7 Grange Road, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6NH
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- North-West England** Peter Campion, Lake View, Castle Hill, Bassenthwaite, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4RG; NorthWest@eBPS.org.uk
- Scotland** Frank McGavigan, 12 Glenbank Avenue, Lenzie, Glasgow G66 5AA
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- South-East England** Paul Ripley, 2 Station Villas, Station Road, Appledore, Ashford, Kent TN26 2DF; SouthEast@eBPS.org.uk
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- Wessex** Jo Basil, 14 Royden Lane, Boldre, Hants. SO41 8PE
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- Yorkshire** Bruce Brown, 4 Bank Parade, Otley, West Yorks. LS21 3DY
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