

# HORTICULTURAL SHOWS

## GARDENING SCOTLAND, EDINBURGH – 3-5 June

Frank McGavigan

At the outset I have to confess that garden shows are not my thing – too contrived, too crowded, too commercial, so when it was first suggested that the BPS take a stand at Gardening Scotland, I was reluctant. However, my colleagues on the Education Subcommittee, Alison Evans, Yvonne Golding and Bridget Laue, were keen and, as if to prove me wrong, put on a magnificent display that caught the judges' eyes and won us a gold medal – no monetary prize, as we found out later, just glory. But what a magnificent achievement – well done, girls.



*photo: A.F. Dyer*

### **Yvonne Golding & Frank McGavigan on Gold Medal stand at Gardening Scotland 2011**

Selecting from their own ferns and from some on loan from Binny Plants, and under the critical eye of Yvonne (who has an intuitive idea of what the judges are after, rejecting more ferns than she selected), the team built up a display of contrasting frond shapes and defect-free plants over an intensive one and a half days of getting everything just right. Even the display of BPS leaflets was fussed over to perfection. The theme was to show off to the gardening public the beguiling beauty, intriguing interest, and huge variety of ferns that can be grown outside, in the greenhouse and in the home. I won't bore you with the list of ferns on display, not that I can remember them all; suffice it to say that there were enough that did not look like typical ferns to draw curious visitors in for a general chat about ferns and fern cultivation. With luck, some of these will be encouraged to grow more ferns in their own gardens, and perhaps even become members of the BPS.

Ferns were also on display on the stands of Binny Plants, Hartside Nursery, Kevock Garden Plants, and a magnificent display was put on by Martin Rickard for Bowden (a new venture for this hosta specialist). Additional publicity was gained from an article on ferns in the

gardening section of *The Herald* (Scotland's premier quality newspaper) a fortnight before the show, and from an interview that Mary Gibby gave BBC Radio Scotland on the stand. Binny Plants have told me that since the show they have received enquiries about our 'Fern Gardens of Scotland' leaflet.

This, surely, is the point: if we want to increase the Society's membership and more generally promote the cultivation of ferns, we must access the gardening public and certainly one of the best ways of doing this is to exhibit at shows. But, boy, is it hard work. We all agreed that the BPS needs a Shows Subcommittee to help and guide regional groups to exhibit at their local shows. There's enough interest in ferns out there – it just needs a bit of encouragement, and shows are the way to do it. I confess it – I'm converted.

## **SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW – 18-21 August**

**Michael Hayward**

The new layout of the Societies Marquee at Southport, introduced last year, is now well established. This year we were allocated a corner stand in the central block, which gave us an increased area of table space to make use of. Each year the Show has a theme, introduced to try and prevent exhibits becoming stereotyped. The theme this year was 'Heritage', and we made use of an enlarged photograph of BPS members at the 1898 meeting in Bowness, flanked by full-size facsimiles of Jones Nature Prints, with matching ferns in the exhibit below. The potted ferns were arranged on three levels, with a small planted area on the lowest level. The Society posters were mounted behind the sales table on the other corner and a display on growing from spores completed the table. The judges were very favourably impressed, commenting that they particularly liked the educational content of our exhibit. They also liked the fact that all of our pots in the main exhibit were matching, and they liked to see a planted area. We were very pleased to be awarded a gold medal.



*photo: M. Hayward*

### **Robert Crawford on BPS stand at Southport Flower Show 2011**

blemishes for the show and it was not surprising that entries for the competitive classes were significantly down. Yvonne Golding again won the BPS challenge cup for the individual championship. Exhibiting for the first time, Robert Crawford won the Happilands Trophy for the highest number of first prizes in the remaining classes. Martin Rickard, who was judging, was particularly pleased to see a well grown specimen of the

The Show was well attended this year, despite the recession. In the Societies Marquee the mornings were relatively quiet, with increasing numbers of visitors from lunchtime onwards. This year we were able to give away free ferns to those newly joining, thanks to the generosity of Tim Penrose of Bowden's Ferns, and eight new members were recruited for the Society.

After a very difficult year for fern growing, many of us had problems in preparing ferns free from

original *Athyrium filix-femina* 'Victoriae' with fronds well over 100 centimetres in length, exhibited by Robert in class 10.

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 Y. Golding, 2nd B. Russ (2 entries)
- Class 9 One Foreign Fern Hardy in Great Britain: 1st Y. Golding, 2nd S. Manser, 3rd B. Russ (3 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): (no entries)
- Class 12 One Greenhouse Fern: 1st R. Crawford, 2nd O. Fairclough, 3rd M. Hayward (3 entries)
- Class 13 One *Asplenium scolopendrium*: 1st R. Crawford, 2nd Y. Golding, 3rd B. Russ (3 entries)
- Class 14 One *Polypodium*: 1st Y. Golding, 2nd R. Crawford, 3rd S. Manser (3 entries)
- Class 15 Three *Polystichum* (3 distinct varieties): (no entries)
- Class 16 Three *Athyrium* (3 distinct varieties): 1st S. Manser (1 entry)
- Class 17 Three *Asplenium* excluding *A. scolopendrium* (3 distinct varieties and/or species): (no entries)



photo: M. Hayward

### **BPS Gold Medal stand at Southport Flower Show 2011**

Many thanks to Ruth Berry-Pearce, Robert Crawford, Roland Ennos, Yvonne Golding, Alec Greening, Rita Hardman, Joan Hindle, Trevor Pearce and Harvey Shepherd for manning the stand this year. We would welcome occasional visits from members from further afield to assist on the stand. We aim to have four members on duty each day, with two manning the stand and the other two exploring the show, and it is a very sociable occasion. Southport is a good stopping point on the way to visit the Lake District, and sleep-overs can be arranged as necessary. The dates for next year's show are 16-19 August 2012.

## 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 2012** – The 109th AGM will take place on Saturday 14th April 2012 at The Natural History Museum, London at 2p.m.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS 2012** – Members are reminded that subscriptions were due on 1st January and should be paid to the Membership Secretary. Cheques should be made payable to ‘The British Pteridological Society’. Current rates are given inside the front cover of this issue. Payment can be made by **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 are reminded that according to Clause 11 of the Constitution “Any member whose subscription is unpaid within six calendar months of it becoming due shall be liable to have his/her name removed from the list of members of the Society”. Defaulting members who do not amend their Standing Orders with their bank and are still paying 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 such times as Standing Orders are 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 2011 we were able to claim for 164 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 £4 donation to the Society.**

**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*. Members who wish to have their e-mail address added, changed or removed are requested to inform 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 Society field meetings should be aware of the Society's *Safety Code* (see 2000 *Bulletin* 5(5): 275), as well as the *Code of Conduct for the Conservation and Enjoyment of Wild Plants* (see 1999 *Bulletin* 5(4): 199), and are required to sign an annual Declaration form (circulated with the autumn mailing). Copies of these documents can be obtained from the Meetings Secretary or 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 by phone or e-mail request.

**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 fifth J.W. Dyce award will be made at the AGM 2012 to the author(s) of the best paper, article, book or other substantial piece of work published during 2011 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.

**BACK NUMBERS OF JOURNALS** – We have a large number of back issues of our journals and it is a shame that more members of the Society do not avail themselves of them. Those that do frequently wish they had done so long ago as they contain a wealth of fern material. They can be obtained from the Back Numbers Organiser, Pat Acock, who will gladly lighten his loft. You can also have a sample pack for £6 including postage.

**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).

**NEW CULTIVAR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP** – The Cultivar SIG was recently formed for anyone with a specialist interest in cultivars. They organise field trips, speakers and garden visits. Information is available from Tim Brock and Julian Reed at [Cultivars@eBPS.org.uk](mailto:Cultivars@eBPS.org.uk).

**BPS WEBSITE** – [www.eBPS.org.uk](http://www.eBPS.org.uk) (hosted by The Natural History Museum.) In today's internet-oriented world, it is increasingly important for the Society to see its website as a major means of communication. The website provides information for the membership, but it is also, and perhaps more importantly, 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 enhancements to the website, 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](http://www.fernforum.net/bb). There is a system of 'content providers' for specific areas of the website, which is designed to improve the quantity of good quality information. Members with views on what the website should provide and/or with offers to help with content should 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 Committee Secretary, Graham Ackers.

**FERNS IN MEMBERS' GARDENS** – 'Ferns in Members' Gardens' is now live on 'Pteridowiki' [www.fernforum.net/mediawiki](http://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](mailto:rg@rogergolding.co.uk).

**AMERICAN FERN SOCIETY** – The AFS has a reciprocal payment arrangement with the BPS through their respective Membership Secretaries. See AFS advert on p. 375.

**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](http://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 and mugs are also for sale. There are also some newer lines including jute bags and reasonably priced hand lenses. 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** – It has become more difficult to find second-hand fern books at reasonable prices 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.

**SPORE EXCHANGE** – The current spore list is published on our website or can be obtained from Matt Busby.

**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.

**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. 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** – Our Publicity and Marketing Officer has certainly made an impact since she was appointed in 2011. Three issues of the on-line newsletter *Fern World* have already been published. Please send her 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.

**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. Their addresses are available from the BSBI website or BSBI yearbook (available to all BSBI members); for those without access to the Internet or yearbook please contact the BPS Recorder for details. Fred has developed a new recording card, which is available on our website or directly from Fred.

#### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS, 2012:**

**SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW, 16th-19th 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 2012:**

**ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH, 9th June** – Fern Identification: a 1-day course. Tutor: Heather McHaffie. To book, contact RBGE education office 0131-248-2937 or e-mail education@rbge.org.uk.

**FSC KINDROGAN FIELD CENTRE, 2nd-6th July** – Fern Identification: a residential course. Tutor: Heather McHaffie. To book, contact the Field Studies Council on 01250-870150 or e-mail admin.kd@field-studies-council.org.uk.

**FSC PRESTON MONTFORD FIELD CENTRE, 18th August** – Field Guide to Fern Identification: a 1-day course. Tutor: Mark Duffell. To book, contact the Field Studies Council on 0845-3307378 or e-mail admin.pm@field-studies-council.org.uk.

**FSC RHYD-Y-CREUAW – DRAPERS' FIELD CENTRE, 10th-13th August** – Fern Identification: a residential course. Tutor: Chris Metherell. To book, contact the Field Studies Council on 01690-710494 or e-mail admin.rc@field-studies-council.org.uk.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

**MINUTES** of the 108th Annual General Meeting of the British Pteridological Society held on Saturday 9th April 2011 at the Dunchurch Park Hotel, Rugby at 14.00 hrs.

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

**PRESENT:** Graham Ackers, Pat Acock, Clive Brotherton, A.R. (Matt) Busby, Peter Champion, Jonathan Crowe, Brian Dockerill, Sue Dockerill, John Edgington, Alison Evans, Roger Golding, Yvonne Golding, Alec Greening, Malcolm Hancock, Eleanor Hards, Nick Hards, Michael Hayward, Clare Kitchen, Mark Kitchen, Elise Knox-Thomas, Brian Laney, Andrew Leonard, Howard Matthews, Frank McGavigan, Karen Munyard, Steve Munyard, Alan Oden, Alison Paul, Anthony Pigott, Tim Pyner, Michael Radley, Martin Rickard, Paul Ripley, Pamela Simpson, Brenda Smith, Bryan Smith, Gill Smith, Ray Smith, Barrie Stevenson, Sandy Strang, Peter Tindley, Alistair Urquhart.

**Item 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Rob Cooke, Peter Freshwater, Jennifer Ide, Matt Stribley, Alastair Wardlaw, Joan Watson, Lesley Williams.

**Item 2 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Minutes of the 107th Annual General Meeting of the British Pteridological Society held on Saturday 10th April 2010 and published in the *Bulletin* (Vol. 7, No. 3) were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Item 3 – MATTERS ARISING:** There were none.

**Item 4a – REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY:** This report, which was published in the *Bulletin* (Vol. 7, No. 3) was read out by its author, Yvonne Golding.

**Item 4b – REPORT OF THE TREASURER:** The Society's accounts for 2010 were published in the *Bulletin* (Vol. 7 No. 3), and the Treasurer, Gill Smith, related some of the highlights as published in the Notes to the Accounts. In particular, the significance of Note 9 was emphasised, where the new Credit Card Protection Scheme required everyone accepting credit cards to pay £22.50 per month. Because of this, efforts would be made to encourage people submitting payments to use PayPal instead.

**Item 5 – QUESTIONS ON OFFICERS' REPORTS:** The Officers' Reports were published in the *Bulletin* (Vol. 7, No. 3). There were no questions or comments.

**Item 6 – QUESTIONS ON COMMITTEE APPOINTEES' REPORTS:** The Committee Appointees' Reports were published in the *Bulletin* (Vol. 7, No. 3). There were no questions or comments.

## **Item 7 – ELECTIONS**

**Vice-Presidents.** Matt Busby and Adrian Dyer had come to the end of their three-year term of office, but both were available for re-election. This was proposed by Frank McGavigan, seconded by John Edgington, and both were duly re-elected as Vice-Presidents for another three-year term.

**Officers.** As Rob Cooke had indicated his wish to retire as Meetings Secretary, during the year the Committee had appointed Bryan Smith in his place. The formal election of Bryan to this Officer's post was proposed by Paul Ripley, seconded by Nick Hards, and he was duly elected. The committee had also appointed Liz Evans to the new post of Publicity and Marketing Officer. Her formal election to this Officer's post was proposed by Anthony Pigott, seconded by Frank McGavigan, and she was duly elected. The remaining Officers were all available for re-election, proposed by Michael Hayward, seconded by Martin Rickard, and they were duly re-elected en bloc. [General Secretary: Yvonne Golding, Committee Secretary: Graham Ackers, Treasurer: Gill Smith, Membership Secretary: Mike Taylor, 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.]

**Elected Committee Members.** Having served her five-year term of office, Sylvia Martinelli retired at the AGM. Bryan Smith, having been elected to the Officer's post of Meetings Secretary thereby also stood down as an Elected Committee Member. Although there were now three Elected Committee Member vacancies, no new nominations had been received. The seven existing members were all available for re-election, and this was proposed by Clare Kitchen, seconded by Matt Busby and they were duly re-elected en bloc. [John Edgington, Roger Golding, Bridget Laue, Howard Matthews, Frank McGavigan, Paul Ripley, Matt Stribley.]

**Independent Examiners.** Nick Hards and Alex Storie had agreed to continue in this capacity.

#### **Item 8 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**J.W. Dyce Award.** Martin Rickard announced that this had been won jointly by Daniel Yansura for his *Pteridologist* article 'The use of scales in tree fern identification', and Joan Watson for her *Pteridologist* article 'Pteridophytes in the English Mesozoic'. Unfortunately neither could be present to receive their awards.

**Fern Horticultural Workshops.** Matt Busby suggested that the Society should organise some one-day fern horticultural workshops, perhaps with an emphasis on propagation, and run in different parts of the country. Alison Evans pointed out that Liz Evans was in the process of analysing results from a recent survey of members' preferences for workshop subjects and will put them into the next electronic newsletter. Yvonne Golding suggested that workshops could form initiatives at Regional Group level. As Meetings Secretary, Bryan Smith reported that the Subcommittee were proposing that 2013 be designated as the BPS year for fern cultivation. The 2012 Autumn meeting would be focused on fern biology. Pat Acock pointed out that the 2011 Autumn meeting at Kew would also focus on fern cultivation.

**Publicity Newsletter.** Alison Evans reported that Liz Evans would be issuing a new newsletter soon, and requested that any contributions should be sent to Liz. Nick Hards pointed out that the electronic newsletter format and print size made it difficult to read.

**E-mail Circulation to All Members.** Graham Ackers encouraged all members with e-mail to subscribe to Liz's newsletter, as that would enable wide e-mail circulation to members, which could prove very useful in 'emergency' type situations [e.g. the change of an AGM venue!].

**Volunteers for Scottish Shows.** Frank McGavigan requested volunteers for the 'Gardening Scotland' horticultural show BPS stand on 3-5 June, and the 'Ferns and Fossils' event at the RBGE Gateway on 24/25 September.

**Contributions to BPS Publications.** Anthony Pigott highlighted all the various publications, both electronic and paper, that the Society produces, and thought it most commendable that we were 'punching above our weight' for a Society of our size. He encouraged all members to consider contributing to these publications.

**Spore Exchange.** Matt Busby reported that he had found it useful to put a reminder on the Fern Forum for people to submit their spore requests, and this had resulted in several more submissions.

Mary Gibby closed the meeting at 14.40 by thanking the Committee for all their hard work.

**Graham Ackers**  
**Committee Secretary**

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#### **ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2011** (*see overleaf*)

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.

**Alexander Storie AIB Scot., Independent Examiner, Gordon, Berwickshire, 8 March 2012**

## BPS ACCOUNTS FOR 2011

	2010	2011
<b>ORDINARY ACCOUNT</b>		
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions ( <i>see note 1</i> )	£13,877.46	£12,619.07
Interest ( <i>see note 9</i> )	£141.03	£182.54
Booksales	£2,008.00	£3,124.18
Merchandise	£1,697.31	£689.55
Inland Revenue Gift Aid	£1,003.83	£896.16
Publishers Licensing Society	£474.19	£449.04
Donations ( <i>see note 10</i> )	£315.30	£409.00
Kindrogan field course	n/a	£1,980.00
Other	£293.46	£15.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£19,810.58</b>	<b>£20,364.54</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Pteridologist	£5,248.83	£5,587.30
Fern Gazette ( <i>see note 8</i> )	£3,308.24	£2,801.90
Bulletin	£5,569.46	£6,195.08
Printing & Stationery	£1,225.67	£315.98
Administration & Postage	£602.38	£389.72
Subscriptions to Societies	£38.00	£126.00
Plant & Spore Exchanges	£82.60	£83.56
Meetings (including Kindrogan field course 2011)	£372.88	£2,209.00
Merchandise	£1,516.31	£538.94
Trustees' Expenses	£985.10	£739.15
Archive Storage	£78.03	n/a
Booksales	£131.00	£2,016.06
Special Awards	£185.14	£100.00
Autumn Mailing ( <i>see note 11</i> )	£1,571.78	£490.97
Credit Card Charges ( <i>see note 7</i> )	£363.51	£307.72
Computer Leasing ( <i>see note 5</i> )	£506.82	£462.37
Promotion & Advertising ( <i>see note 2</i> )	£1,104.21	£224.99
Other ( <i>see note 6</i> )	n/a	£370.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£22,889.96</b>	<b>£22,958.74</b>
<b>Balance (income minus expenditure)</b>	<b>–£3,079.38</b>	<b>–£2,594.20</b>
Brought Forward from previous year	<b>£34,880.87</b>	<b>£31,801.49</b>
<b>Total in Ordinary Account</b>	<b>£31,801.49</b>	<b>£29,207.29</b>

### CENTENARY FUND (Restricted Account)

Interest	£29.57	£38.73
Interest brought forward from previous year	£1,729.38	£1,164.29
Grant	£594.66	£0.00
<b>Total Interest</b>	<b>£1,164.29</b>	<b>£1,203.02</b>
Capital brought forward from previous year	£5,583.73	£5,583.73
<b>Total in Centenary Fund</b>	<b>£6,748.02</b>	<b>£6,786.75</b>

**GREENFIELD FUND (Restricted Account)**

Interest	£11.11	£12.97
Interest brought forward from previous year	£1,696.72	£1,207.83
Grant	£500.00	£0.00
<b>Total Interest</b>	<b>£1,207.83</b>	<b>£1,220.80</b>
<hr/>		
Capital brought forward from previous year	£1,051.00	£1,051.00
<b>Total in Greenfield Fund</b>	<b>£2,258.83</b>	<b>£2,271.80</b>
<hr/>		

**PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT**

Brought forward from previous year	£10,960.96	£11,703.73
Income	£748.45	£637.36
Interest	£44.32	£67.18
Expenditure	£50.00	£27.50
<b>Total in Publications Account</b>	<b>£11,703.73</b>	<b>£12,380.77</b>
<hr/>		

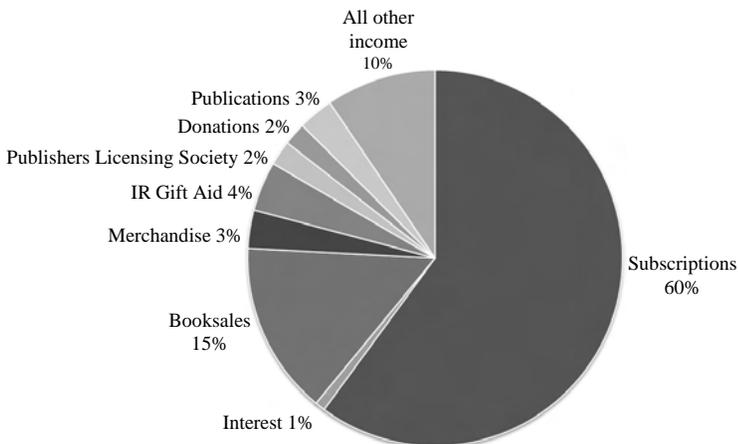
**TOTAL FUNDS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2011**

Ordinary Account	£31,801.49	£29,207.29
Centenary Fund	£6,748.02	£6,786.75
Greenfield Fund	£2,258.83	£2,271.80
Publications Account	£11,703.73	£12,380.77
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£52,512.07</b>	<b>£50,646.61</b>
<hr/>		

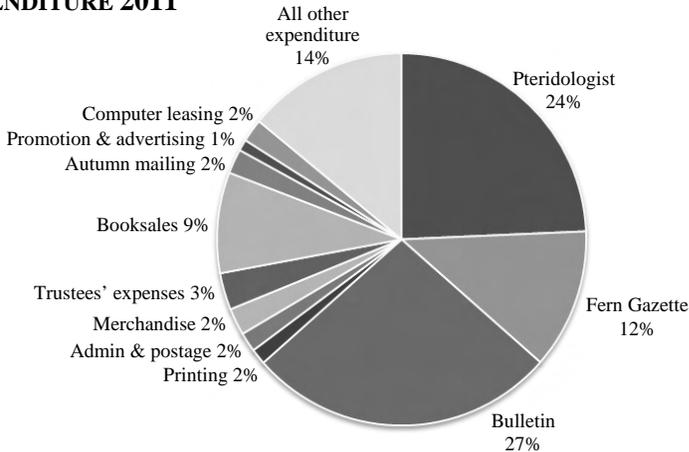
**REPRESENTED BY**

Charitable Organisations Investment Fund (COIF)	£43,921.23	£39,222.65
Bank of Scotland & Others	£8,590.84	£11,423.96
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£52,512.07</b>	<b>£50,646.61</b>
<hr/>		

**INCOME 2011**



## EXPENDITURE 2011



## 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.
- The Society possesses the following stock: FSC Key to Common Ferns – 100 valued at £200. Back issues of the *Bulletin*, *Fern Gazette* and *Pteridologist* valued at approximately £2,000. Merchandising valued at approximately £2,500 & capital of £1,537.65. Booksales – new and second-hand books valued at approximately £5,500 & capital of £3,777.95. BPS Special Publications entitled (no. copies) valued at: 2. Fern Names and their Meanings (49) £220; 3. Cultivation and Propagation (215) £1,075; 4. History of British Pteridology (642) £1,926; 5. BPS Abstracts & Papers (338) £1,006; 6. CD Rom – BPS Minute Book (19) £190; 7. Polystichum Cultivars (7) £87.50; 8. New Atlas of Ferns (47) £423; 9. Fern Books Before 1900 (343) £5,145; 10. Occasional Paper of the BPS (11) £27.50.
- Only the 'Interest' section of the Restricted Funds is available for payment as grants. No grants were awarded in 2011.
- Computers for specific BPS officers' use are being leased from Dell Computers. This gives the Society the ability to keep up with computer technology without having to invest capital funds.
- A donation of £250 was given to Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Federation of Botanical Recorders (CISFBR) to help with the publication of *Ferns, clubmosses, quillworts and horsetails of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly*.
- As Credit Card charges are very high in proportion to the quantity and value of transactions AND BPS is encountering a lot of data input problems, it has been decided to withdraw this facility. PayPal is now the recommended payment route; this system is just as secure as credit cards but easier to use and with lower administration charges; you do not need to set up a PayPal account.
- Only one issue of *The Fern Gazette* was produced in 2011 but this was the second 2010 issue. BPS has now two issues of *The Fern Gazette* outstanding, largely due to lack of copy. A small team has been set up to actively encourage submission of papers for the *Gazette*, which will hopefully bring us back in line by the middle of 2013.
- Interest rates have still been very low and interest is no longer paid by Bank of Scotland on our current account. The COIF account interest rate started the year at 0.565% and finished the year on 0.757% – a very slight rise, which meant that only £182 interest was earned in 2011. This was the second year with little interest added to the funds, so a small amount (£5,000) had to be withdrawn from the deposit account to keep the current account afloat.
- Donations include £200 prize money from Southport Show.
- The 2011 Autumn Mailing was a trial run for sending information to members via e-mail. This was a partial success; some failures were due to the vagaries of different mail hosts and others due to the size of the documents mailed. Lessons have been learnt and this could be a money saver for the future as demonstrated by the lower cost of the 2011 mailing.

Gillian Smith, Treasurer

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE APPOINTEES FOR 2011**

### **GENERAL SECRETARY – Yvonne Golding**

In 2011 the BPS committee first met in January at The Natural History Museum in London. We travelled to Dunchurch in Warwickshire for our AGM where we heard talks predominantly about urban ferns that could be found in London and Birmingham and alien ferns that occur in the UK. Changes in our Committee included the appointment of Liz Evans to the new post of Publicity and Marketing Officer, and Bryan Smith filled the vacant post of Meetings Secretary. This new committee met in May at Manchester Museum and again in October at The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. As you can see, your Committee travel up and down the country in order to run your Society.

At our AGM we awarded the fourth J.W. Dyce award jointly to Dan Yansura for his article *The use of scales in tree fern identification* published in *Pteridologist* and to Joan Watson for *Pteridophytes in the English Mesozoic* also published in *Pteridologist*. The award (of £100) is open to anyone who writes an interesting and informative article for any of our publications.

We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Lesley Marshall-Williams in October. Lesley joined the Society in 1990 and was a regular on BPS excursions. We shall all miss her very much and send our condolences to her husband, Graham Ackers. We were also sorry to hear of the death of two other members. Margaret Kingston had been a member since 1964 and was a regular at meetings until the late 1980s. Rosemary Powis joined in 1999 and participated in South-East Group meetings. Their obituaries are published in the *Bulletin*.

The newly formed Education Subcommittee continues to work hard to inform the general public about ferns and last year more material was produced to enhance our presence at shows and for educational events. This included what has proved to be a popular give-away leaflet 'Ferns to grow in your garden'. We also developed a PowerPoint presentation to complement this leaflet. During the year I gave talks to Manchester Museum, Poynton Garden Club and Manchester Field Club. 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 presentation. In September the Education Subcommittee took our 'Ferns and Fossils' roadshow to The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. This was co-ordinated by Heather McHaffie who produced some stunning new materials for use at these events. We hope to continue holding this event at different venues in future years.

An exciting new development for our Society was collaboration with the National Trust to organise fern walks at their properties. This was supported by a new fern guide, developed by Alison Evans, which describes the most commonly found ferns. The first event was held over four days in October at Nymans Estate in Sussex. We hope that Regional Group Organisers can link up with NT wardens in their area.

One of our aims in the BPS is to attend more shows and 2011 was particularly successful in this respect. In June we were represented for the first time at 'Gardening Scotland', which was hosted in Edinburgh by the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society. The event was co-ordinated by Frank McGavigan with support from the Education Subcommittee. We were very proud to be awarded a Gold Medal for our display of ferns and we thank Binny's Plants for the loan of some additional plants to further enhance our display. In addition we attracted some new members. At Southport Flower Show we already have an historic annual presence, which is organised by Michael Hayward. This year was particularly successful, with Michael also earning a Gold Medal and your Secretary winning the BPS Challenge Cup for the second year running. In addition, many new members were acquired and we thank Bowden's Ferns for donating some additional incentives in the form of free plants. You will

have noticed that there seems to have been a strong northern bias in terms of events and shows. We urge all members, particularly those in the south, to get involved with shows in your area. It is a very enjoyable way to help raise the profile of our Society as well as ferns.

Another new development was the formation of a Special Interest Group (SIG) devoted to cultivars, run by Tim Brock and Julian Reed. We hope that those interested in cultivars will support this new group. If you have an interest in a specific group of ferns then why not start your own SIG?

We are delighted to have appointed Liz Evans to the new post of Publicity and Marketing Officer. Liz has been very busy devising Fern World, an on-line quarterly newsletter and dragging us into the 21st Century by enabling us to blog and twitter! She has also set up our own Facebook page. We hope this will encourage younger people to participate and join our Society.

Our regional groups continue to grow and we are pleased to announce a new Wessex Group, which is jointly run by Jo Basil and Mike Hill. We hope members will continue to support their local groups, many of which are actively involved with monitoring fern sites and collecting field records. This is a very valuable resource. I would like to encourage Regional Group Organisers to both continue and expand this important work by participating in the Photographic Recording Project, which involves visiting sites on a regular basis and keeping a photographic record. Further details are on the website.

I should say it has been another successful year for the Society but now, along with other similar societies, our membership is beginning to decline. We would like all our members to help raise the profile of the BPS by supporting our activities and initiatives, by perhaps organising your own events or by giving talks and, importantly, by encouraging friends and family to join the BPS and take an interest in ferns.

Happy ferning in 2012!

#### **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY – Mike Taylor**

I am sorry to have to report that the number of members has dropped by 69 to 645. This is made up of 459 Full (of which 49 are family members), 74 Optional (of which 4 are family members), 32 Complimentary, 8 Honorary and 5 Student members, and 67 Subscribers. The number of Subscribers has again decreased, this year by 12 and the number of members who pay via the AFS has decreased by 9 to 81. This decrease in numbers is undoubtedly due in part to the current financial situation where membership of a learned society is probably not very high on most people's list of financial priorities.

#### **MEETINGS SECRETARY – Bryan Smith**

I took over this role from Rob Cooke early in 2011 after he had admirably led the Meetings Subcommittee for several years; I am grateful and relieved that Rob decided to remain on the subcommittee! We had a planning meeting in February but most of our business has been conducted by e-mail.

During 2011 we had another successful meetings programme with weekend visits to Exmoor and Leicestershire/North Derbyshire (both organised by Paul Ripley) and Perthshire/Angus (organised by Heather McHaffie), and a week's visit to the Isle of Man (organised by Jennifer Ide). One-day meetings included the AGM near Rugby (organised by Matt Busby) and a visit to Kew including fern propagation (organised by Nigel Rothwell). Overseas meetings included a week in Madeira (organised by Andrew Leonard) and the South-East USA (organised by the HFF). Reports on all of these meetings can be found in this *Bulletin*.

Details of meetings we have planned for 2012 were circulated with the autumn mailing and include visits to Wiltshire, Northumberland, South Africa and Austria/Bavaria, and two meetings at the NHM, London.

As always, the success of these meetings is dependent on members who voluntarily give up their time and effort to organise the trips. 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. In this context, we have also been updating the 'Guidelines for the Organisation of BPS Meetings' which, hopefully, will be available on the website as you read this. Please do let us know if there are any areas you would like to visit and study ferns.

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

#### **CONSERVATION OFFICER – Fred Rumsey**

There have been some very well publicised losses of plants this year, including the apparent removal of a large patch of *Hymenophyllum tunbrigense* from a National Trust property in Sussex. Sadly, whenever this happens members of the Society inevitably fall under suspicion. I am sure that such suggestions have no basis in fact and we all deplore such acts of vandalism; some 'losses' are almost certainly explicable through natural causes but we should all be vigilant and ensure that we continue to act responsibly. Members are quietly doing sterling work, monitoring rare species and getting their hands dirty doing practical conservation locally, yet this goes less noticed.

Some concerns have surfaced during the year that conservation work for other, dare I say more charismatic, organisms with more vocal lobbies (yes it's birds...) have been responsible for the damage and loss to a population of the Critically Endangered *Dryopteris cristata*. I will be looking into this, and if so trying to ensure that such collateral damage doesn't occur in future.

#### **RECORDING OFFICER – Fred Rumsey**

My thanks go to all those who have helped to make records, and to those who have collated the data and forwarded it to me. This year has again seen more records made on field meetings feeding back into the wider biological recording network and more members communicating with their local recorders, both of which are very encouraging.

The record card is now available to download and print off the BPS website. I would encourage all to use this. Please contact me if you want this and can't access it.

Herbarium studies continue to turn up overlooked and presumably native taxa (identity to be revealed in a future *Fern Gazette*!) and molecular work is helping to clarify the identity of others where long-standing doubts have been voiced. This includes a second British and first English site for the recently recorded *Equisetum × meridionale* (*E. ramosissimum* × *E. variegatum*), which, as with the first find, was previously misidentified as *E. × trachyodon*.

With a milder winter promised, please keep coming those records or observations of alien fern species escaped from gardens.

#### **PUBLICATIONS SECRETARY – Martin Rickard**

The *Bulletin* and *Pteridologist* continue to go from strength to strength. A change of editorship of the *Pteridologist* was hopefully not noticeable! Both editors still, however, need the continued support of the wider membership to maintain their extremely high standards. Our third journal, the *Fern Gazette*, is running late. This is due to the intensive non-Gazette workload of our Editor/President and lack of suitable copy. Copy is now at hand and hopefully the publication will shortly be back on schedule.

There have been no Special Publications for a few years now but several are in the pipeline. The next to appear will probably be a magnificently researched booklet on the Jones nature prints by Michael Hayward. It will run to about 100 pages and be supplied with a searchable DVD of all the published Jones prints. Copies will be produced on a 'print on demand' basis.

### **FERN GAZETTE EDITOR – Mary Gibby**

Publication of the *Fern Gazette* has been interrupted through lack of appropriate copy. I am now able to report that thanks to the efforts of the committee in helping encourage potential authors, more manuscripts are now anticipated. The next part will be published in February 2012, and I anticipate a further part in early summer.

### **PTERIDOLOGIST EDITOR – Alec Greening**

The 2011 *Pteridologist* again ran to 80 pages thanks to the support of the many authors who submitted articles for publication. The content was well received amongst the members, many commenting on the variety and depth of the publication. The previous printing error has now been overcome and the images in this issue were much improved. Hopefully this will continue as the new printing system allows proof checking at any stage.

This was my first issue as the main editor and, whilst there were typo errors, I was pleased with the final product and the positive feedback from members. The 2012 *Pteridologist* should contain at least 80 pages, with a wide range of articles ranging from horticultural advice on many subjects to the ferns of Paraguay and China. It is on track for publication in late May or early June. If you would like to submit articles for consideration in next year's issue please contact me.

### **BULLETIN EDITOR – Alison Paul**

The 2011 *Bulletin* is another bumper issue with 100 pages, which demonstrates what an amazing number and range of meetings and other activities we have to report on. Many thanks to all those who sent in their contributions in good time, to those who submitted photographs and to everyone who responded so quickly to my – often last minute – queries!

### **WEBSITE EDITOR – Anthony Pigott**

The website continues to develop, both with the usual updates of BPS information and with new features. 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 (<http://www.fernforum.net/bb/>) continues to grow and now has about 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.

We have also been trialling some innovative ways 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 some 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 given on the website.

### **EDUCATION OFFICER – Alison Evans**

The Education Subcommittee has had a busy and exciting year. We have been involved in events to increase public awareness of ferns, both in horticulture and in the countryside, and we have continued to make links with other organisations. We have also been developing educational material in the form of leaflets, posters, and web-based documents.

In May, Yvonne Golding and Alison Evans visited Moorbank Botanic Garden, University of Newcastle, to meet their Education Officer, manager, and a volunteer who is reorganising their fern collection. We hope to be able to collaborate with them on educational events in future, as well as helping them with fern identification. Yvonne has visited again recently and is well on the way to listing all their existing ferns.

In early June we had a stand at the 'Gardening Scotland' show in Edinburgh, where our fern display won a Gold Medal. Bridget Laue, Frank McGavigan and Yvonne Golding worked tirelessly to produce the display, which was very highly praised by the judges. There was considerable interest from the public, and also some media attention as we had been featured in *The Herald* newspaper, and our President, Mary Gibby, gave an interview to Radio Scotland. A full report appears elsewhere in the *Bulletin*.

Our next major venture was a weekend 'Ferns and Fossils' event for the public in the John Hope Gateway at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh in September. Heather McHaffie did the lion's share of the organisation for this extremely successful event, which attracted several hundred visitors over the weekend. Volunteers were kept busy talking to people about the fern and fossil displays, showing people how to go about growing from spores, and supervising the children's activities tables. We were able to re-use some of the interpretation material from our Manchester 'Ferns and Fossils' event, but Heather had to devise and produce several more posters for this event. Our aim is to develop a collection of interpretation material that can be used in a 'Ferns and Fossils' road show in different parts of the country. We hope to be able to try this out in the Yorkshire Museum in 2012, as there is already a well developed fernery there.

The 'Ferns and Fossils' event also gave us the opportunity to launch our leaflet on what ferns are suitable for different garden conditions. As this was well received, we are having the leaflet professionally printed for distribution at garden shows and when BPS members give talks on growing ferns. Yvonne Golding has developed a PowerPoint presentation that is complementary to this leaflet. We hope that both will be available on the BPS website.

We applied for an OPAL grant to fund the production of two basic leaflets on ferns. One of these will explain how ferns are different from other plants, and will include a new drawing of the fern life-cycle by Michael Hill. The second leaflet will be a basic photographic guide to the most common British native ferns, to be distributed to visitor centres where there are woodland trails. The aim is to encourage people to look for and possibly record ferns when they walk the woodland trails. Unfortunately, our application was not successful, but we are continuing to work on the design of the leaflets in the hope of attracting funding. The National Trust has been interested in collaborating with us, and in October we held guided fern walks for the public over four days at the National Trust's Nymans Gardens in Sussex. Here we were able to pilot our identification guide, 'customised' for the ferns at Nymans. We had enthusiastic feedback from the walk participants, and an invitation to repeat the event next year. We hope that regional group organisers will be able to arrange visits to National Trust properties in their area, to assess their suitability for similar events.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions about the educational resources provided by the BPS – please e-mail [Education@eBPS.org.uk](mailto:Education@eBPS.org.uk) with your ideas.

#### **PUBLICITY & MARKETING OFFICER – Lizzie Evans**

There were some exciting events to publicise in 2011 – especially when the BPS stands at Gardening Scotland and the Southport Flower Show both won Gold Medals. Other than this, and a few items for the on-line *Fern World* Newsletters (which were published in January, May and August) not a lot of news has been sent to me, and so I have struggled to keep finding things with which to update the Social Media sites in between Newsletters. However, I do feel it is very important to at least have a presence on Facebook and Twitter, even if they are not frequently updated, and these sites link directly back to the BPS website so that on-line visitors can find out as much as they want to about the Society.

The mailing list I created currently has 163 subscribers, and as of December 2011 the three Newsletters have a combined viewing figure of 1,087. I think it is clear from these figures that the Newsletters are reaching the wider public and not just BPS members. The

Newsletters are available for viewing at: <http://issuu.com/pterrythe-fern> and details of how to sign up to the mailing list are included in each issue.

I also produced flyers for, and undertook the evaluation of, the fern event at Nymans, which the Education Officer has mentioned in her report.

This year has been a learning curve, and I hope to improve the Publicity channels in 2012. As always, if anybody would like a news item included in a Newsletter, or wishes to publicise an event through the Social Media channels, please contact me via the [Publicity@eBPS.org.uk](mailto:Publicity@eBPS.org.uk) e-mail address. Thank you.

### **PROJECT OFFICER – Anthony Pigott**

We currently have four main projects underway:

**Recording & Mapping.** This project will implement a number of items all aimed at increasing the participation of the BPS in the recording and analysis of pteridophyte distribution in Britain and Ireland. This will include encouraging members to make records and working with the BSBI to facilitate the input of new data and access to existing records. New recording cards have recently been produced and more progress is expected in the next year. (See also Recording Officer's report.)

**Photographic Recording.** This project is separate from but complementary to the Recording & Mapping Project. It invites people to take photographs of fern sites at different points in time with a view to learning about variations in conditions and abundance. The project was launched in April 2009 with full details on the website. Members are strongly encouraged to participate.

**On-line Journals.** The BPS decided to make back numbers of all its journals available on-line (other than issues from the most recent two years). There is a tremendous wealth of pteridophyte knowledge in those pages that is currently difficult to access and search. This project has looked at the technical and administrative issues involved. We intend to have the rest of our back numbers on the website in the next year.

**Website Development.** We see the website as being of increasing importance to the BPS and the way it communicates with its members and the public. 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 104 requests were completed and sent out before the 1st April. Each year I look forward to adding new species to the list and I was pleased to see 15 new items added to the 2011 list. Each year any three-year-old spores are deleted from the list and I was pleased to take them to the AGM again for free distribution to members. I look forward to doing this every year. I should also like to advise members that my offer of *Osmunda* spores is in addition to the normal allowance of 20 items from the Spore Exchange list.

I make my usual plea to members for donations of spores to the Spore Exchange at any time. There is no need to clean the spores, just place fertile fronds in envelopes with a comment 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. I am always pleased and willing to answer any queries about donating spores. Please e-mail any queries to [Spores@eBPS.org.uk](mailto:Spores@eBPS.org.uk).

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

### **PLANT EXCHANGE ORGANISER – Jonathan Crowe**

Donor forms were distributed with the spring 2011 mailing. The Plant Exchange List was compiled and first distributed early in July 2011 followed by an augmented list early in August.

Statistics for taxa offered are shown below:

Status Code	Plant Status Description	No. in 2007	No. in 2008	No. in 2009	No. in 2010	No. in 2011
Sp0	Sporeling less than 1 year old	0	6	13	0	3
Sp1	Sporeling 1-2 years old	13	17	18	17	15
Sp2	Sporeling 2-3 years old	7	19	16	19	18
Esp	Established plant	7	20	30	42	12
Bul	Bulbil	1	6	5	4	3
Rhs	Rhizomes	1	1	4	6	3
	Plant status not stated by donor	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>54</b>

The statistics for participants are shown below:

Category of Participant	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Donors only (thus only offering plants)	7	4	6	6	6
Donors also having 'wants'	-	3	2	3	1
'Wanters' only (thus not offering plants)	-	-	-	2	1
List requesters only (neither offering plants nor having 'wants')	13	3	17	15	5
<b>Total number of participants</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13</b>

By comparison with last year, participation in the scheme has halved and the number of taxa offered has dropped by almost 40 per cent.

#### **BOOKSALES ORGANISER – Frank Katzer**

Yet again it was very busy year for BPS Booksales and it was also a very successful year, with the sale of over £3,000 worth of books. The highlight of 2011 was the donation of Alastair Wardlaw's book collection at the beginning of the year, which I valued at £1,200 for Booksales purposes. I acquired another fern book collection to increase my stocks of older books and also copies of the latest books on ferns of La Réunion island and of Southern Africa. Otherwise, stocks of new books have been run down a bit because I moved house in the last quarter of 2011; please note my new contact details at the end of this report. I aim to increase book numbers again in 2012.

I have to thank Yvonne Golding for all her support and help with Booksales. Yvonne has taken books to many regional and committee meetings for me and thereby made books available to many more BPS members than I would have had contact with.

As usual, BPS Booksales will always welcome bequests of books or offers to purchase either individual books or whole collections. Please keep in mind that I can't offer internet prices, but then neither would bookshops. To contact me please use either my work e-mail: Frank.Katzer@more.dun.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 860 307.

#### **MERCHANDISE ORGANISERS – Bryan & Gill Smith**

Merchandise sales seem to be somewhat cyclic from year to year, and 2011 turned out to be a bit of a quiet year. We had around 20 mail orders (from the UK, USA, Denmark and

Switzerland), which compared with around 35 (from the UK, Australia, Canada, Germany, Netherlands and USA) in 2010. Face-to-face selling continued, and we sold merchandise at the Rugby AGM in April, and, 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 Gardening Scotland show in Edinburgh in June, at the Southport Flower Show in August and at the AGM of the North-West Regional Group in October. Overall, sales amounted to just under £500, much less than in previous years. Further details can be found in the Merchandise section of the Treasurer's accounts.

Although the 2011 BPS calendar was reasonably successful, we decided to try and improve on sales by having the next one ready earlier in the year. As a consequence, we did not produce a 2012 calendar, but hopefully the 2013 calendar will be available for the 2012 AGM. It is still a struggle to encourage members to submit photos for the calendar, and even an appeal in the September on-line Newsletter proved unsuccessful.

The current merchandise list (March 2011), which was distributed with the *Bulletin* mailing, boasts some 18 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**

It has been a quiet year for me in this role. I received only three requests for advice and I am pleased to report that I was able to help resolve the problems. I am always pleased to help members with any cultural problems they may have with their fern collections but I am also happy to advise on other plant groups.

### **ARCHIVIST – Matt Busby**

The Society's archive is now housed 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 lunchtimes 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; collection can be arranged for heavy or bulky items.
- 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.

This past year several people have utilised the archive, including a request from a researcher asking for a copy of a paper in a volume of the *Fern Gazette*.

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 *Osmunda regalis* register prepared by Matt Busby is virtually ready for publication. The much larger *Polypodium* register has stalled this year. Roger Golding has produced a working document based on my 1998 draft 'List of cultivars of the *Polypodium vulgare* agg.', which needs modification into registrar format and updating. This job has fallen to me but I regret that I have made virtually no progress this year.

## OBITUARIES

### **Margaret Mary Kingston**

1933 – 2011

It was with much sadness that we learned of the death of Margaret Kingston in January. She and her friend, the late Marjorie Castellan, were larger than life members who always had much to bring to our gatherings. Margaret, an assistant librarian, had been a member of this Society since 1964.

Being unable to drive, Margaret, along with a third companion, Winifred Baines, relied on Marjorie's car for travelling to and around meetings. All three were great friends of Jimmy Dyce, who always referred to Marjorie and Margaret as 'the castle and the king'. All were very keen naturalists and had gathered much expertise from forays around their native Staffordshire. I was able to attend Marjorie's interment at Rugeley Church in 1988, so it was with a feeling of loss to me that we only learned in April of Margaret's death.

Our thanks to Margaret's cousin, David Kingston, for informing us of Margaret's passing, and our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

**A.R. Busby**

### **Lesley Anne Marshall-Williams**

1945 – 2011

Lesley was introduced to the BPS around 1990 after her partner Graham Ackers first joined the Society. Lesley and Graham met through a joint interest in marine conservation and they had been together for more than 30 years when Lesley died on 12th October after struggling with cancer for three and a half years. During her illness she remained positive and demonstrated remarkable bravery. She worked for many years as a teacher in schools and later taught environmental studies to residential students in Field Centres. Outside of work her main hobbies were gardening, horticulture and botany. She had an insatiable urge to propagate and I was one of those lucky recipients who inherited some of her nurtured plants. I first met Lesley on the BPS excursion to Trinidad and found her very knowledgeable, friendly and sociable. She was very fit and could walk for miles, even uphill when the rest of us were flagging. Personally I will particularly remember her great kindness during another BPS excursion, to La Réunion, when she rescued me from the volcano! After walking across a hot and unforgiving lava field and reaching the perimeter of the volcano, I felt that I just couldn't go any further. Lesley not only stayed with me and accompanied me back but also shared her lunch with me. Many BPS members and friends attended her green burial at Oakfield Wood, Cranleigh, Surrey in early November. We send Graham our deepest sympathy.

**Yvonne Golding**

## IN MEMORIAM

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

**Mrs Rosemary A. Powis** of Canterbury, Kent (1999). The South-East Group gradually came to know Rosemary about four years ago when she was determined to get to know the ferns of Kent as well as possible. She was a very gentle and interesting person and when one year I had not seen her at a meeting I mentioned it while in contact with her brother Eric Philp, the Kent vice-county recorder and author of two splendid works on the Kent Flora. He mentioned that sadly Rosemary had been diagnosed with cancer. I was in contact with Rosemary a couple of times before she unfortunately died.

**Pat Acock**

## MEMBERSHIP LIST: ADDITIONS & AMENDMENTS

### NEW MEMBERS

\* *new members 2011*, \*\* *new members 2012*, # *members rejoined 2011*, ## *members rejoined 2012*

- \* Allison, Mrs E., P.O. Box 367, Woodlawn, Ontario K0A 3M0 Canada. lis@pine-ridge.ca
- \*\* Amos, Rev. R.S., 16 Murray Road, Rugby, Warwicks. CV21 3JN. rogera@clara.co.uk
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## CHANGE OF NAME

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## FERN RECORDS

Mike Porter

Following the request to the BPS committee to publish new fern distribution records, a short list, drawn from BSBI Plant Records, was published in the 2009 *Bulletin*. As indicated at the time, our intention was to publish further records from this source, possibly on a biennial basis, and the second tranche of records follows below.

Twice a year, the BSBI publishes in one of its journals (*Watsonia* until 2010, the *New Journal of Botany* from 2010) under the title of Plant Records, a list of species new to any of the vice-counties of the British Isles. Additionally, those species that have recently been recorded for the first time since 1970 are also published. With the permission of the BSBI, we have selected from these lists the species of particular interest to members of the BPS and these are set out below. These records are drawn from the journals published in 2010 and 2011. Please note that only records actually sent to the Plant Records Editor are published.

Each entry contains the Latin name of the species as given in *Watsonia* / *New Journal of Botany* (in bold), the number (in bold) and name of the vice-county, the habitat, the location, a grid reference, the name of the recorder, the year the record was made, (where appropriate) the name of the expert who determined or confirmed the record, (where appropriate) the name of the herbarium where the specimen is lodged (in bold) and (sometimes) a comment giving more information about the plant, its status or its discovery.

**N.B.** An asterisk \* before the vice-county number indicates a new record for that vice-county.

**Adiantum capillus-veneris** \***83**, Midlothian: south-facing wall, opposite herbarium, about 1m above pavement with abundant *Asplenium ruta-muraria*, Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, NT248756, H. McHaffie, 2003. Since weed-killed by Council. \***H36**, Tyrone: walls in Caledon Estate, H747436, I. McNeill & J. Faulkner, 2000. Probably escaped from nearby greenhouses.

**Asplenium obovatum** subsp. **lanceolatum** **101**, Kintyre: dolerite dyke on coast, Ardnacross, NR76642554, I. & C. Russell, 2007, det. F. McGavigan & H. McHaffie. 141 plants over 2x10m (18 in 1971). 1st record since 1971. Only known site in Scotland.

**Diphasiastrum alpinum** \***82**, E. Lothian: several on stony margin of track beside electricity power line at 370m, Killpallet Heights, NT612615, M.E. Braithwaite, 2010. Recent colonist.

**Dryopteris** × **ambroseae** (**D. dilatata** × **D. expansa**) \***62**, N.E. Yorks.: single plant, edge of boggy patch in deciduous woodland, East Arnecliffe Wood, Glaisdale, NZ792048, K. Trewren, 1995. Confirmed by chromosome count. About 200 plants known in the wood in 2008.

**Dryopteris** × **deweveri** (**D. carthusiana** × **D. dilatata**) \***106**, E. Ross: Orrin Bridge, NH504532, A.C. Jermy & R.M. Walls, 1996. Further record made by R. Golding in 2009, confirmed by K. Trewren, at edge of pine plantation near Munloch at NH647520.

**Dryopteris × mantoniae** (**D. oreades** × **D. filix-mas**) \*42, Brecon: stone wall, Mynydd Epynt, 8km SW of Builth Wells, SN976461, A. Orange & R.G. Woods, 2008, det. G. Hutchinson.

**Dryopteris × sarvelae** (**D. carthusiana** × **D. expansa**) \*62, N.E. Yorks.: five plants (possibly one connected plant) in damp deciduous woodland, East Arnecliffe Wood, Glaisdale, NZ791047, K.Trewren, 2007. Confirmed by chromosome count.

**Dryopteris affinis** subsp. **borreri** \*106, E. Ross: Orrin Bridge, NH504532, A.C. Jermy & R.M. Walls, 1996. Further record made by R. Golding in 2009 at edge of pine plantation near Munloch at NH647520.

**Dryopteris affinis** subsp. **cambrensis** \*5, S. Somerset: single plant in hedge bank, N side of track, Maundown Hill, ST060284, M. J. Sibley, 2007, conf. K. Trewren. \*62, N.E. Yorks.: steep wooded slope below cliffs, Kay Nest, Tripsdale, SE583986, V. Jones & K. Trewren, 1996.

**Equisetum × rothmaleri** (**E. arvense** × **E. palustre**) \*62, N.E. Yorks.: large patch on waste ground of a long-abandoned nursery, near Love Lane, Pickering, SE802847, V. Jones & W.A. Thompson, 2008, conf. P.J. Acock, **herb. V. Jones, herb. P.J. Acock.** \*89, E. Perth: side of burn, Allt Coire Lagain, Shinagag, Killiecrankie, NN951687, H. McHaffie, 2004, conf. C.N. Page, **RBG Edinburgh (E).**

**Equisetum × willmotii** (**E. fluviatile** × **E. telmateia**) \*101, Kintyre: roadside ditch, Cloanaig bay, NR872563, P. Stanley, B. Laney & K. Turner, 2007, det. P.J. Acock. A few stems among *E. telmateia*.

**Huperzia selago** 81, Berwicks.: one plant on forestry trackside, Hartside Hill, NT445543, M.E. Braithwaite, 2009. 1st record since 1896.

**Lycopodium annotinum** 106, E. Ross: wet heath at 530m, Meall na Speireig, NH304700, B.R. & C.B. Ballinger, 2009. Site extends into NH36 at NH309699.

**Polypodium × shivasiae** (**P. interjectum** × **P. cambricum**) \*5, S. Somerset: patch in hedge bank, West Leigh, ST114311, M. J. Sibley, 2007, conf. R. Cooke.

**Polypodium interjectum** \*91, Kincardines.: rocks, Den of Finella, St Cyrus, NO76T, U.K. Duncan, 1961, det. A.C. Jermy, **Aberdeen (ABD).**

**Trichomanes speciosum** H36, Tyrone: shady rocks at Strabane Glen, H3598, R. Northridge, 2005. Gametophyte. 1st record since 1891, when sporophyte was recorded 'within 5 miles of Strabane', possibly at same site. H36, Tyrone: shady rocks at St Patrick's Chair, H597496, R. Northridge, 2008. Gametophyte.

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## THE AMERICAN FERN SOCIETY

The AFS invites all readers of this *Bulletin* to join the American Fern Society. You are welcome to visit the AFS website: [amerfernsoc.org](http://amerfernsoc.org). Regular members receive *Fiddlehead Forum* five times a year, a newsletter published for those who are interested in growing ferns, hunting for them and expanding their knowledge of ferns. Journal members also receive the scientific quarterly *American Fern Journal*. Membership costs \$22 and \$40 per annum respectively for members residing outside USA, Canada or Mexico, including postage for airmail-assisted delivery. For particulars please write to Dr George Yatskievych, Missouri Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 299, St Louis, Missouri 63166-0299, USA ([george.yatskievych@mobot.org](mailto:george.yatskievych@mobot.org)). Online credit card payment is now available for the AFS via the AFS website.

**AFS SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENTS:** Our societies have an exchange arrangement whereby members of the BPS can pay their AFS subscription through the BPS Membership Secretary and *vice versa*. To take advantage of this, prospective members residing in Great Britain should contact Mr M.G. Taylor, Westlea, Kyleakin, Isle of Skye IV41 8PH ([Membership@eBPS.org.uk](mailto:Membership@eBPS.org.uk)).

# MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2012

**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. 18 Feb. - Fri. 2 March **Overseas Field Meeting – South Africa**

Leader: Jennifer Ide

Sat. 14 April

**AGM & Spring Indoor Meeting – Natural History Museum, London**

Leader: Pat Acock

Fri. 8 - Sun. 10 June

**Weekend Field Meeting – Wiltshire**

Leader: Nick Hards

Thurs. 5 - Sat. 14 July

**Overseas Field Meeting – Austria & Germany**

Leader: Rolf Thiemann Contact: Pat Acock

Thurs. 16 - Sun. 19 Aug.

**\*Southport Flower Show: BPS Stand**

Contact: Michael Hayward

Thurs. 20 - Sun. 23 Sept.

**Long Weekend Field Meeting – Northumberland**

Leader: Rob Cooke

Sat. 17 Nov.

**Autumn Indoor Meeting – Natural History Museum, London**

Leader: Fred Rumsey

*\* 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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