

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 2008 – The 105th AGM will take place on Saturday 5th April 2008 at The Natural History Museum, London at 2p.m.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2008 – Members are reminded that subscriptions were due on 1st January 2008 and should be paid to the Membership Secretary. Cheques should be made payable to ‘The British Pteridological Society’. Current rates are given inside the front cover of this issue. Payment can be made by **Credit Card** – see renewal form. **Standing Order** forms are printed on the reverse of renewal forms and are also available from the Membership Secretary and the BPS website (www.eBPS.org.uk). Standing Orders may be paid on 1st January or 1st February. In either case, membership is deemed to be from 1st January to 31st December.

Members are reminded that according to Clause 11 of the Constitution “Any member failing to pay their subscription within six calendar months of its becoming due shall be liable to have their name removed from the List of Members of this 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 28p for every pound paid in the annual subscription for each member who authorises us to do so. Since 2003, increasing numbers of members have authorised us to claim Gift Aid on their behalf, and last year (2007) we were able to claim for 205 members, which brought in £1,131. While this is obviously an extremely valuable addition to the Society’s annual income, it could be considerably more. There are probably a further 200 members on whose subscriptions the Society could claim Gift Aid if these members authorised it and this could lead to perhaps another £1,000 per annum. All that is required is a minimal amount of form filling (about one minute) and a second class stamp. **Even better, the form has only to be filled in once.** The forms are retained by the Gift Aid Secretary and the same ones used year after year to make the claim.

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 £5 donation to the Society.

DIRECT DEBIT – The Society does not offer a Direct Debit facility for subscriptions. The reasons are two-fold. Expensive software is required to create a direct debit tape to send to the bank and is too expensive for a small Society like the BPS. With Standing Orders the bank does all the administration, whereas with Direct Debits a considerable additional workload would fall on the Society, in particular the Treasurer, and it is necessary to bear in mind that all officers offer their time and services on a voluntary basis.

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

E-MAIL ADDRESSES – These are now published in the Membership List, as agreed, “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: Membership@eBPS.org.uk.

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

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

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. Applications will normally be dealt with once a year and should be submitted by 1st November. Anyone wishing to apply for this funding should contact the General Secretary for further information.

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

THE J.W. DYCE AWARD – This award was set up to honour the memory of Jimmy Dyce who was a member from 1935 until his death in 1996. During this time he held all the key committee posts, virtually single-handedly saved the Society from extinction after the war, and contributed in so many other ways to shape the Society as it is today. The first award of £100 together with a certificate will be made at the AGM 2008 to the author of the best paper, article, book or other substantial piece of work published during 2007 in any of the three BPS journals, on the BPS website, or as a special publication. Winning entries, other than books, will be placed on the website for all to read. The award is open to everyone, whether professional or amateur, pteridologist, horticulturalist or fern enthusiast.

TREE-FERN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP – For further information, please either send a stamped addressed envelope to the organiser, Alastair Wardlaw, 92 Drymen Road, Bearsden, Glasgow G61 2SY, or contact him by e-mail: Tree-Ferns@eBPS.org.uk. Alastair, having been Convenor since 1997, has indicated that he would like to stand down at AGM 2009. Therefore if the Tree-Fern Group is to be kept going beyond that date, it would be necessary to have a replacement. Please contact him for particulars of what is involved.

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

READING CIRCLE – The Society operates a reading circle for the *American Fern Journal*, a quarterly publication containing much information for those seriously interested in ferns. The

Fiddlehead Forum, which publishes many ‘ferny’ items of interest to the amateur grower, accompanies it. To receive these journals contact the Horticultural Information Adviser.

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 of journals/newsletters from societies in the United States (2), Australia (3), New Zealand, India and the Netherlands. If members would like to browse these, they are welcome to get in touch with the Back Numbers Organiser for a list of our holdings. The journals can then be borrowed for just the cost of postage both ways.

BACK NUMBERS OF JOURNALS – Our Back Numbers are always a good source of Pteridological information. They contain articles written by an array of authors on interesting fern subjects. You can have a sample pack of six journals for £6. A full list of journal parts stocked is available from Pat Acock.

BPS WEBSITE – 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. Despite a number of serious problems outside our control, there have been a number of further significant enhancements to the website this year and the ‘look and feel’ and navigation of the whole site have been revised. There is an expanded Website Group to support the website, which helps to identify requirements, to support the work necessary to meet those requirements and to look at the future strategy. Members with views on what the website should provide and with offers to help with content should contact the Website Editor, Anthony Pigott. In particular, we would appreciate suggestions for wild sites, gardens and nurseries for ‘Where to See Ferns’; contributions should be sent to Frank McGavigan (frank@mcgavigan2.demon.co.uk), who is assembling this information.

BPS E-MAIL LIST – Members are reminded that there is an e-mail group or ‘list’ for BPS members only. Its purpose is for discussion of Society matters of common interest and for communication of information; it is not intended as a list to discuss the botany or growing of ferns, for which another list such as UK-FERNS or FERNS would be more appropriate (see the BPS website under ‘Links’). Send a blank e-mail to: BPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to subscribe. Unless your real name is obvious from your e-mail address, please send an e-mail at the same time to Webmaster@eBPS.org.uk in order to identify yourself as a BPS member. Members are encouraged to join as the potential benefits are greater with fuller participation. Contact the BPS Website Editor for further information.

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

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

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

MERCHANDISE – Do you have a BPS sweatshirt, polo shirt or fleece? 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 and mugs, are also for sale. 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 now 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 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: Booksales@eBPS.org.uk.

DESTINATION OF PTERIDOPHYTE RECORDS – Members are reminded that records of ferns, horsetails, clubmosses and quillworts in the wild should be sent to the appropriate Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI) Vice-county recorders, whose addresses are available from the BSBI website or BSBI yearbook, which is available to BSBI members. For those without access to the Internet or yearbook, records may be sent to the BPS Recorder, Fred Rumsey, who will forward them to the BSBI. These records are stored centrally at the Biological Records Centre, and can be accessed by the BPS.

SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW – Why not spend a few hours or a day helping man 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. Details are available from Michael Hayward, 6 Far Moss Road, Blundellsands, Liverpool L23 8TQ. mhaywardL23@blueyonder.co.uk.

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

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. A suitable form of words is available from the Secretary. The Website Editor can include an image if required. If members wish their nursery to be included, please contact the General Secretary.

AMERICAN FERN SOCIETY – The AFS has had a reciprocal payment arrangement with the BPS for many years through their respective Membership Secretaries. See AFS advert on p. 498.

NEW POST – PUBLICITY AND MARKETING Officer – The Society is considering creating a new post of Publicity and Marketing Officer. If you have these skills and would be prepared to help us draw up a job description or indeed if you would like to volunteer for this post, then please contact the General Secretary.

NEW POST – EDUCATION OFFICER – The Society already offers educational opportunities for its members. We would like someone to co-ordinate and expand upon these activities for the general public as well as for our members. We anticipate that any volunteer for this post would have some experience in adult education. Please contact the General Secretary if you are interested in helping to establish this post.

NEW – CULTIVAR REGISTRATION SUB-COMMITTEE – Following the successful meeting at Wisley in November 2007, this new sub-committee has been set up. The intention is to apply for the Society to be registered as an International Cultivar Registration Authority. It plans to start with cultivars of *Polypodium*. The existing FERN VARIETIES NOMENCLATURE SUB-COMMITTEE will continue to be available for naming new cultivars. The contact is Robert Sykes.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2007

MINUTES of the 104th Annual General Meeting of the British Pteridological Society held on Saturday 4th March 2007 at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh at 14.00 hrs.

[*Preamble.* These minutes were prepared by Graham Ackers using, for most of the Officers' and Committee Appointees' Reports, written reports supplied by the post holders. These minutes have been reviewed by Adrian Dyer, Robert Sykes, Yvonne Golding and Alison Paul, and their approval will be sought at the next Annual General Meeting on 5th April 2008. Notes, not being part of the minutes, are enclosed in square brackets as is this one.]

IN THE CHAIR: The President, Dr Adrian Dyer.

PRESENT: Graham Ackers, Pat Acock, Tony Braithwaite, Rob Cooke, Jonathan Crowe, Adrian Dyer, Grant Fortune, Mary Gibby, Tim Godfrey, Roger Golding, Yvonne Golding, Alec Greening, Michael Hayward, Jennifer Ide, Frank Katzer, Howard Matthews, Bridget Laue, Richard Lewis, Frank McGavigan, Heather McHaffie, Steve Munyard, Chris Nicholson, Alison Paul, Mike Porter, Tim Pyner, Martin Rickard, Paul Sharp, Harvey Shepherd, Bryan Smith, Gill Smith, Alex Storie, Matt Stribley, Robert Sykes, Mike Taylor, Ken Trewren, Alastair Wardlaw, Maurice Wilkins.

Item 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Matt Busby, John Edgington, Peter Freshwater, Andy MacGregor, James Merryweather, Joy Neal, Anthony Pigott, Paul Ripley.

Item 2 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Minutes of the 103rd Annual General Meeting of the British Pteridological Society held on Saturday 25th March 2006 and published in the 2006 *Bulletin* (Vol. 6, No. 5) were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Item 3 – MATTERS ARISING: There were none.

Item 4 – OFFICERS' REPORTS

Item 4a – REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY (Yvonne Golding): Prior to the AGM 2006 the Committee recognised that the duties of the Secretary had increased as the Society's activities expanded. As a result, following the retirement of Jennifer Ide as Secretary, it was agreed to split the post: Graham Ackers took on the role of Committee Secretary, which involves servicing the Committee meetings and the AGM, and Yvonne Golding took on the role of General Secretary, which deals with all other duties, including external matters. I am pleased to report that this has worked well.

There have been quite a few changes on the committee during 2006. We now have a new treasurer (Gill Smith), Membership Secretary (Mike Taylor), Chairman of Publications Sub Committee (Martin Rickard), Plant Exchange Organiser (Jonathan Crowe) and Booksales Organiser (Frank Katzer). We have created some new posts: a Data Integrity Officer (Michael Hayward) to reflect our growing dependence on computer technology and a Project Officer (Anthony Pigott) to mobilise our membership to increase and pool our knowledge about ferns.

The Society has a very busy programme at the regional level and we note that four out of our six regional group leaders are retiring: Barry Wright has run the Leeds and District group (now renamed The Yorkshire Fern Group) for ten years; Barrie Stevenson has managed the East Anglia Group for ten years; Ian Bennallick has run the Cornish group for four years and Robert Sykes the North-West Group for two years. We thank them for their service and wish their successors – Bruce Brown, Tim Pyner, Matt Stribley and Peter Campion – the best of luck in the future.

Finally, we note that James Merryweather, editor of *Pteridologist*, wishes to retire. During his two periods of office James will have edited ten issues with the publication of the 2007 edition. He has completely re-vamped the format, taking the *Pteridologist* into the world of colour. We know he will be a hard act to follow but we urgently need a successor who will be given all necessary support.

The Committee met in August and October 2006 and January 2007. One of the first things we did was to define the terms of appointment for committee positions. It was agreed that Executive Officers and Committee Appointments should serve five years initially but this could be renewable. We felt this was a less daunting prospect for potential newcomers considering taking up these positions. The term of office for the President remains unchanged at three years.

We looked again at the role of Vice-Presidents, concluding that this should be a working role, not automatically awarded for long service or having been a President. We can have up to six Vice-Presidents at any one time, each serving a period of six years, which is now renewable.

During 2006 the committee decided to award three pteridologists honorary membership, which they have all gratefully accepted. These are John Mickel, Chris Page and Alan Smith. You can read their citations in this issue of the *Bulletin*.

Last year we awarded a grant from the Centenary Fund to Ken Trewren to investigate fern hybrids in Ireland. A short account of his work appeared in the 2006 *Bulletin*.

You will also have read in the 2006 *Bulletin* that the committee has instigated the J.W. Dyce Award in memory of Jimmy Dyce. This will take the form of an annual cash prize (the first to be awarded for 2007) for the best piece of published work in any of the Society's publications or on the website.

Last year saw the realisation of the much-awaited BPS Special Publication No. 9 on Fern Books by Nigel Hall and Martin Rickard.

An important issue that the committee had to address was the use of the term 'fern allies'. In the light of recent developments in pteridology we took the decision not to use this term but instead to refer to 'lycophytes' (which are the clubmosses and quillworts) and 'ferns' (which include ferns and horsetails). The remit of the Society, however, remains unchanged, as will our name, and our focus will continue to embrace both groups. It will take a long time for this new nomenclature to be generally used, so if in doubt refer to ferns, horsetails, clubmosses and quillworts, which is unambiguous and correct, if a bit long-winded!

During the past year Graham Ackers and Jennifer Ide have been incorporating the BPS herbarium into the RHS herbarium at Wisley. Jennifer Ide has also been working on an application for a possible grant to develop the BPS archive and is making efforts to find it a permanent home. Frank McGavigan has been re-invigorating the recording of ferns through taking the initiative in Scotland. Michael Hayward has been surveying the Jones' Nature Prints with a view to their eventual publication. The committee are deliberating as to what form this publication should take and what should happen to the original prints. Michael also successfully co-ordinated our BPS stand at the Southport Flower Show, continuing our representation there that was instigated by Matt Busby.

At this point it is my sad duty to bring to your notice the passing, in the last year, of seven members of our Society. Doreen Holly of Oxford joined in 1979 and was a regular at BPS meetings for many years. She was a gardener, growing many fine ferns and a keen rambler who cared deeply about the environment. Rosemary Stevenson of Suffolk was a family member for about six years though she had been associated with the Society for longer than that by supporting her husband Barrie during his ten years as organiser of the East Anglia Group. Other members include Dr R.A. Finch of Cambridge who joined the Society in 1968, Dr Anthony Griffin of Cornwall who joined in 2004, Mr Malcolm Heywood of East Yorkshire who joined in 2002, Mr Graham Thomsit of London, a member since 1980 and Mr Bryan Williams of Northants, since 1996. The Society sends its condolences to all their families.

In this coming year some of our time will be taken with the drawing up of a new constitution to reflect the changes we have made in the running of the Society and also to bring our Society in line with new Charity Law. This new constitution will be presented at our AGM in 2008. Our registration as a charity, which involved a lot of work during the presidency of Alastair Wardlaw, has been a very positive and advantageous move for the

Society. However, we must not forget that as a charity we have obligations not just to our members but also to the general public, so we must continue to be outward looking and come up with new and interesting ways of promoting ferns to everyone.

In conclusion, we are saying goodbye (or hopefully *au revoir*) to our President, Adrian Dyer, and welcoming the new one, Robert Sykes. Adrian has worked extremely hard on our behalf over the last three years, putting in place his vision for the future of the Society. His three-pronged approach was much more wide-ranging than simply Education, Education, Education but rather, Publications, Meetings and Projects with plenty of Education thrown in for good measure. In the near future we will be holding a planning meeting to build on Adrian's legacy and set out some objectives to take the Society forward into the 21st century.

Following this report, Jennifer Ide passed on Barrie Stevenson's gratitude for his wife Rosemary's remembrance in the *Bulletin*.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Mike Porter, seconded by Grant Fortune, and approved by the meeting.

Item 4b – REPORT OF THE TREASURER (Gill Smith): The Treasurer distributed a draft set of the 2006 accounts, commenting that the layout was slightly different to the previous year, but the finances were essentially similar. Catching up with the backlog of *Fern Gazette* issues had resulted in an expenditure increase in this item. She pointed out that only the Centenary and Greenfield Funds were marked as restricted (ring fenced) at the moment but a case could be made for restricting other areas e.g. Publications. She also pointed out that the recent Chancellor's budget would mean a disappointing reduction in Inland Revenue Gift Aid income in 2008. Grant Fortune queried the increase in postage; this resulted partly from substantial increases in overseas postal charges. The Treasurer brought to the attention of all members at the AGM that there may be difficulties this year in getting the accounts audited, as Nick Hards had been seriously ill and there was no other examiner appointed. She asked for a volunteer to help out in this role as a second examiner when the elections took place later in the day. [Note that the final accounts for 2006 appear elsewhere in this *Bulletin*]. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Mike Taylor, seconded by Michael Hayward, and approved by the meeting.

Item 4c – REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (Mike Taylor): Membership numbers suffered a decline in 2006, the overall total dropping from an impressive 793 in 2005, to a disappointing 746. This decline appears to have affected us across the board with a fall of 40 Ordinary and Family members and a drop of six Subscribers (Universities and Libraries). On the face of it a drop of six Subscriber members does not sound serious but the situation is in fact worse than it appears since, at the time of writing this report, a further 12 Subscribers had not paid for 2006. It should be mentioned at this point that, as regards deadlines for payment of fees, we tend to give extra latitude to Subscribers since many are based in comparatively remote areas of the world and many are in contact with us solely through agents. Nevertheless, if after a further reminder at the start of this year, there is no response their membership will have to be cancelled. This could mean a loss of up to 18 Subscribers out of 92 in the space of one year – which is worrying.

Looking at the general situation from a slightly different angle, we see that there were 64 new members in 2006 (as opposed to 86 in 2005) and that in 2006 83 members resigned or lapsed, compared with 67 in 2005. This can be summed up as fewer new members plus a greater than normal loss of established members.

Can we pinpoint any reasons for this? Resigning members sometimes give a reason for withdrawing their support, usually along the lines of "old age and decrepitude" or "other financial commitments" but the sole critical comment made in 2006 was that the journals did not provide enough information on cultivation. None of the Subscribers who failed to pay gave any indication of why. Could it be the apparent lateness of the *Fern Gazettes*? I use the term 'apparent' because we delivered the standard number of pages for Volume 17 of this journal within the required time-span (by the end of 2006), although the delivery was somewhat erratic!

Could it be that the decline in membership, which, anecdotally, has hit most small societies over the last few years has at last started to affect us as well? Could it be that we simply don't provide what the fern-loving members of the public require? Suggestions are welcome!

A reduction in the number of members in a society inevitably leads to a drop in the amount of Gift Aid received and this indeed has occurred. However, the fall has not been as great as might be expected. In 2005, 207 members enabled us to reclaim £1,129.52 in Gift Aid, in 2006 the equivalent figures were 206 members and £1,118.88 – a very worthwhile sum. In the four years for which we have been able to claim Gift Aid we have received just short of £4,000.

Finally, I would like to thank my predecessor Mike Porter for all the help he has given me in my first three months in office.

Following the report, a discussion took place on possible reasons for the drop in membership and ways to avoid further drops. Points put forward were:

- There may be a decline in the interest of institutions
- The idea of electronic subscriptions could be explored
- On-line publication policies could be reviewed
- There may be insufficient coverage for gardeners in the *Pteridologist*; competent gardeners reluctant to put pen to paper could be interviewed as an alternative to their producing an article
- The Society should extend its presence at garden shows
- Advertisements could be placed in magazines such as *BBC Gardeners' World* or (more locally) the *Suffolk Gardener*
- The *Pteridologist* could run a series of articles on growing different types of ferns
- There could be a Q&A feature in the *Pteridologist*
- One of the aims of re-formatting the *Pteridologist* was potentially to enable sales outside the Society – could this idea be pursued?
- Change the name of the Society to the more accessible 'British Fern Society'.

[These points will be considered by the Committee.]

Item 4d – REPORT OF THE MEETINGS SECRETARY (Pat Acock): The weather was superb and I had the very good fortune to attend nearly all the meetings. Our leaders did us proud once again. Someone on the meetings' sub-committee rings a candidate from out of the blue and they just seem to make it happen. We are so very fortunate to have people not only to serve on the sub-committee but also to find people who are willing to throw themselves into the preparation with such gusto.

All the meetings were superb and I must record on your behalf our grateful thanks to all our leaders and organisers. Thanks go to Barrie Stevenson, Graham Ackers, Barry Wright, Mike Hayward, Matt Stribley and Paul Ripley and all those who helped them. I must mention especially our grateful thanks to Dr Berndt Peters who was one of those people who received an e-mail from me out of the blue and said he would lead a meeting. He produced a meeting of ten days in Germany that was as towering in its organisation as it was intricate in its attention to detail. Also our very grateful thanks must go to Edmond Grangaud who not only had to put up with Paul Ripley and me in 2006 but spent another three days with us this year as well as coming out with us every day in the field when the main group arrived in his tropical paradise. Such wonderful generous people and we should be so grateful.

Our Autumn Indoor Meeting was disappointingly attended although of the 28 attendees we did have one member who travelled from Ireland, two from Wales and three from Scotland. The speakers and organiser really did deserve better than that especially from those who live so close to the capital. I am disappointed for them but also for the people who missed such an informative event that cannot be repeated in the near future as we will want to do other things.

Following the report, Robert Sykes thanked Pat Acock for all his work, and this was endorsed by Adrian Dyer.

Item 4e – REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION OFFICERS (Fred Rumsey & Heather McHaffie): No report given.

Item 4f – REPORT OF THE FERN GAZETTE EDITOR (Mary Gibby): After apologising for the recent publication delays, Mary announced that there was now sufficient copy for the next two issues, thus further delays were unlikely this year. It was felt to be a good idea to publish review articles, and more would be sought. Andrew Leonard continued to help with the editing, and was also producing an index using Mary's mark-ups.

Martin Rickard thanked Mary and Andrew for their work.

Item 4g – REPORT OF THE BULLETIN EDITOR (Alison Paul): The 2006 *Bulletin* was distributed two weeks before the AGM. On account of the number of meetings being reported, including two large overseas ones, the issue was once again large and had necessitated a considerable amount of micro-formatting.

Graham Ackers queried whether there could be more and larger photographs, and whether they could be printed in colour. This was discussed, and the following points emerged:

- The inclusion of colour photographs might entail formatting difficulties for the editor
- Photographs in the Bulletin used to be fewer and larger
- It was important to strike the right subject balance between people and ferns
- A portfolio of colour photographs could be included on the BPS website
- A quotation for the inclusion of colour photographs should be obtained.

[These points will be discussed by the Committee.]

Item 4h – REPORT ON THE PTERIDOLOGIST (presented by Martin Rickard): Our editor James Merryweather is standing down following the next issue. Potentially this is a problem, and members were urged to contact Martin if they felt they could help with any aspect of the editing. It was noted that, for various unavoidable reasons, last year's issue was late, and should have appeared in May as had been customary.

Item 4i – REPORT OF THE WEBSITE EDITOR (Anthony Pigott, read by Graham Ackers in his absence):

- Routine updates have gone ahead in a timely manner.
- A number of significant enhancements have been made this year, e.g. Fern Crib, full up to date *Fern Gazette* contents/abstracts, fern nursery listings.
- Photographs – permission has been obtained from a number of non-BPS photographers.
- We still need more contributions, especially photographs and material from other officers/editors.
- We have had serious problems with the hosting at the NHM, only very recently resolved, resulting in a period of over two months without being able to update the website. This has caused significant delays to our plans for the first half of the year.
- New items that are in the backlog now being cleared include completely revised BPS Society pages (to be co-ordinated with the *Bulletin* editor), a 'Recording' section, 'Where to see Ferns in the Wild', an 'Editor's Blog' and special publication 'flyer'.
- We will shortly announce the date of a website 're-launch' later this year, to mark ten years of the website. By this time, all the website will follow the revised style and new structure along with a new navigation menu that will allow direct access to all pages. We will mark the re-launch with publicity both through the usual Society channels and through a range of external and sometimes novel routes on the internet. We must try to take advantage of all appropriate modern methods of digital communication. I like to think of the Society with one foot planted in the nineteenth century and the other firmly in the twenty-first!

Item 4j – REPORT ON SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS (presented by Martin Rickard): *Polystichum Cultivars* had sold around 200 copies, and the more recently published *Fern Books* around 100. Any ideas for further Special Publications should be forwarded to Martin. The series editor, Barry Thomas, was intending to stand down.

Item 5 – COMMITTEE APPOINTEES’ REPORTS

Item 5a – REPORT OF THE PROJECT OFFICER (Anthony Pigott, read by Graham Ackers in his absence): The basic principles of how the Project Officer will operate have been discussed and agreed by the committee. We hope to have regular reviews to agree the main project areas to focus on, aligning these with the current priorities of the Society.

- Funding is important to many potential projects and we will be looking at how to make best use of currently available resources and at ways to increase the amounts available.
- A New ‘Projects’ section on the website is imminent.
- ‘Quick Win’: Fern Crib to be published on website – this is now complete.
- ‘Quick Win’: ‘Affinis Watch’ re-invigorated. There’s been a lot of *affinis* related activity recently. It’s a sometimes sensitive area with strong personalities involved and often opposing views on the taxonomy (both inside and outside the pteridological community). New website material is being prepared which will serve the original objectives of providing up-to-date information and encouraging recording.
- ‘Quick Win’: BSBI data exchange. Much good work has been done independently in Scotland; I expect to be able to use this to help produce a general procedure with support to make it ‘routine’. I expect to meet with BSBI representatives shortly to confirm this.
- Electronic Publication: There are many, sometimes opposing views on what is appropriate to publish electronically. We are discussing the issues within the Publications Sub-committee with a view to establishing what we can all agree on with the intention of then starting an implementation project.
- Revitalised recording and data transfer: This follows from the data transfer and other recording initiatives already underway. I am working on a plan to co-ordinate this.
- Generally, some project areas may sometimes proceed with little direct involvement from the Project Officer. I don’t see this as a problem! The important thing is that our objectives are achieved.

Item 5b – REPORT OF THE SPORE EXCHANGE ORGANISERS (Barry & Anne Wright, read by Graham Ackers in their absence): The exchange continues to be a popular service offered to members. The new procedures for the 2006 spore exchange were implemented. The spore list was only sent out to those requesting a list and members had to apply for a list with their autumn mailing. The main benefit for us was that we were in complete control of the publication of the list and the time window for the distribution itself. Hopefully members were happy with these new procedures. There was also a major saving on paper and ink (and potentially postage) in not printing 700+ copies for everyone, compared to the eventual 132 lists which were requested. There were 76 requests for an electronic version, again reducing the paper usage. We have not had any adverse comments so far. We had a total of 132 (158 in 2005 and 133 in 2004) requests, 91 (107 in 2005 and 99 in 2004) from the UK and 41 (51 in 2005 and 34 in 2004) from overseas, so it seems that we have not made it too difficult and put anyone off applying with our new procedures.

Each year we tweak the wording of our literature to intercept some misunderstandings that seem to creep in. But also it seems that some members do not read the information carefully enough. We had people sending stamps when requesting postal spore lists. This postage is borne by the Society and is not asked for on the form. We still have trouble with some overseas members having difficulty obtaining IRCs and ensuring that they are franked by their issuing office. We may be able to accept money using ‘Paypal’ or offering to have a contribution for the spore exchange as an add-on to their subscription in future.

We do have problems when members ask for ‘your choice’ or ‘pot luck’, for their alternatives. This not only puts us under pressure to guess what sort of things they might like, but could potentially lead us to give them a taxon that another member may specifically want, but may not get, because we had given this to an earlier requester as a ‘pot luck’ species. Please don’t ask us to choose for you, or we might send you ten packets of bracken!!

Another slight problem is with some donations that have leaked out of their packets en route to us, or alternatively are so securely fastened with sticky tape that it's impossible to get at them. Occasionally virtually all the spores end up stuck to the tape, which is such a waste of the donor's efforts in collecting them for us. However, we are totally dependant on the donors for the success of the exchange, so please don't be offended if we give a little 'feedback' about your donation.

Thanks for all your support. Here's to the next one.

Following this report, Adrian Dyer made the point that the Spore Exchange organisers would probably require additional support in the future. Regarding the point about overseas postage, since this report was written, the committee have agreed that the Society will waive postage charges for overseas members as well as UK members.

Item 5c – REPORT OF THE PLANT EXCHANGE ORGANISER (Jonathan Crowe):

Donor forms were distributed with the autumn 2006 mailing. The Plant Exchange List was compiled and distributed at the end of February 2007.

Statistics for taxa offered are shown below.

Status Code	Plant Status Description	No. in 2003	No. in 2004	No. in 2005	No. in 2007
Sp0	Sporeling less than 1 year old	3	10	0	0
Sp1	Sporeling 1-2 years old	8	13	15	13
Sp2	Sporeling 2-3 years old	10	13	15	7
Esp	Established plant	3	11	39	7
Bul	Bulbil	7	0	0	1
Rhs	Rhizomes	9	11	1	1
	Plant status not stated by donor	21	0	0	0
	Totals	61	58	70	29

The statistics for participants are shown below.

Category of Participant	2003	2004	2005	2007
Donors (also receive list of course)	8	6	8	7
List requesters	10	16	19	13
Exclusively with wants	16	8	-	-
Total Number of Participants	34	30	27	20

It can be seen that participation in the scheme continues to decline. A possible reason may be that the autumn mailing is not a good time to distribute donor forms. Next year (2008) the intention is to distribute the forms with the *Bulletin* mailing. This will allow donors a better chance to assess what they have available and for the Plant Exchange List to be distributed in the early summer, giving a more favourable season for growing and distributing plants. It is also intended to reintroduce the 'Wants' side of the scheme as a means of increasing interest.

Item 5d – REPORT OF THE BOOKSALES MANAGER (Frank Katzer): The major change for BPS Booksales has been that Steve Munyard has stepped down and I have taken over from him. The handover of the books took place at the beginning of October and since then I also have picked up the book collection of the late Trevor Walker, who bequeathed his books to the Society. I am in the process of cataloguing and pricing them and a list of available books will go out with one of the next mailings to members. The acquisition of second-hand and antiquarian ferns books at reasonable prices is becoming more difficult, as pointed out by Steve in the past. As a result, BPS Booksales relies more on bequeathed and donated books to

be able to offer fern books to BPS members at reasonable prices. With the next mailing I hope to provide more information about what services BPS Booksales is going to offer.

Following this report, Adrian Dyer thanked Frank for taking over Booksales.

Item 5e – REPORT OF THE MERCHANDISE MANAGERS (Bryan & Gill Smith): 2006 was another busy year for Merchandising, particularly as Gill took on the role of BPS Treasurer and Bryan concentrated on the Merchandise. We dealt with nearly 30 orders, which came mainly from the UK, but also as far afield as the USA, Canada, Australia, France, Belgium and Eire. Overall, intake amounted to over £1,300, somewhat less than the £2,000 for 2005. Details were available in the Merchandise accounts, with a summary in the Treasurer's account distributed.

So what was different in 2006? Well, probably the main reason for fewer sales is that Pat Acock kindly took over sales of Special Publications, which had been a big seller for us in 2005.

Mail order continues to be our main outlet for sales, but we did sell items face-to-face to members by making use of the AGM in Cambridge and at national meetings in Yorkshire in July, in Cornwall in September, and at the November 'Books' indoor meeting. We also sold items at our local East Anglia regional meeting, and colleagues in the north again sold a number of items at Southport Flower Show and at their North-West AGM.

Despite plans not to introduce any new items, we did trial John Mickel's US fern calendar, but with only limited success. Again, thanks to Anne Wright, we continued to add new varieties of her lovely fern greetings cards, including more designs of Christmas cards. The merchandise list that was distributed with the autumn mailing boasts some 17 ranges and a total of nearly 40 individual products. The list continues to be available through the BPS website, and we send out copies when we fulfil orders.

This year, we hope to add photographs of items to the website. If anyone has any ideas for ferny items they'd really like to see, please do let us know.

Following the report there was a brief discussion on the sales of the calendars produced by John and Carol Mickel for 2006 and 2007. For future years, consideration would be given to producing a BPS calendar.

Item 5f – REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL INFORMATION OFFICER (Matt Busby, read by Graham Ackers in his absence): I am pleased to report that I have been able to assist with four enquiries this year. The queries ranged from the identification of various ferns from photographs, the availability of spores, particular species for research and a response to an article published by me in the 2001 *Pteridologist*.

It should be noted that answers to such queries do not depend entirely on my grey matter but that within the Society, we have a wealth of knowledge and experience for me to draw on enabling me to answer any questions.

Item 5g – REPORT OF THE ARCHIVIST (Matt Busby, read by Graham Ackers in his absence): For the first time since the inception of the Society, we can now quickly retrieve from the Society's archive any material requested. This year, we received a request from a Warwickshire branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A), for colour-slides of the life history of a fern to illustrate a lecture on this subject by a member of the U3A. I am pleased to report that we received a letter of thanks from that branch complementing us on the excellent quality of the slides that we supplied.

Work on cataloguing the Society's slide collection is on-going and should be completed by the spring of 2007.

Item 5h – REPORT OF THE FERN VARIETIES NOMENCLATURE SUB-COMMITTEE (Matt Busby, read by Graham Ackers in his absence): Once again I must report that this subcommittee has not had any business since my last report for 2005. Unless some matters that require discussion present themselves during 2007, it is unlikely

that this subcommittee will meet. At present the subcommittee consists of Dr Alan Leslie, Martin Rickard and Matt Busby (convener).

Acceptance of the above reports (items 4c to 5h) was proposed by Frank McGavigan, seconded by Jennifer Ide, and approved by the meeting. Adrian Dyer pointed out that the above reports do not include those of the Regional Organisers, but we should recognise the importance of the regional activities to the membership. The regional meetings reports are, however, included in the *Bulletin*. Adrian thanked all of the Officers, Committee Appointees, and their respective helpers for their hard work during the year.

Item 6 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEE & INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Having served his three-year term, Dr Adrian Dyer retired from the Presidency at this meeting. Mr Robert W. Sykes was proposed as the new President by Adrian Dyer and seconded by Yvonne Golding.

Both Mr Martin H. Rickard and Prof. Barry A. Thomas retired as Vice-presidents at this meeting having served their six-year terms. Mr Rob J. Cooke was proposed as a new Vice-president by Adrian Dyer, seconded by Alison Paul. Mr Mike S. Porter was proposed as a new Vice-president by Graham Ackers, seconded by Frank McGavigan.

All of the Officers will retire, but are available for re-election. They are – General Secretary Dr Yvonne C. Golding, Treasurer Mrs Gillian J. Smith, Membership Secretary Mr Mike G. Taylor, Meetings Secretary Mr Patrick J. Acock, Conservation Officers Dr Heather S. McHaffie and Dr Fred J. Rumsey, *Fern Gazette* Editor Prof. Mary Gibby, *Pteridologist* Editor Dr James W. Merryweather, *Bulletin* Editor Miss Alison M. Paul, Website Editor Mr Anthony C. Pigott.

Two of the longest serving Elected Committee Members who retired at this AGM were Mr R. Graham Ackers and Mr Bryan D. Smith, both having served since March 2004. On being elected President, Mr Robert Sykes resigned as an Elected Committee Member. The other committee members will also retire, but are available for re-election – Mr A.R. ('Matt') Busby, Dr Michael Hayward, Dr Sylvia D. Martinelli and Mr Frank McGavigan.

The following new Elected Committee Members were proposed:

Prof. John A. Edgington, proposed Yvonne Golding, seconded Martin Rickard.

Mr Roger Golding, proposed Adrian Dyer, seconded Yvonne Golding.

Mr Howard W. Matthews, proposed Pat Acock, seconded Alison Paul.

Mr Matt J. Sibley, proposed Bryan Smith, seconded Gill Smith.

All the nominees and those available for re-election as listed above were duly elected unanimously by the meeting [see the inside cover of this *Bulletin* for a full list of Officers and Committee].

Dr Nick J. Hards had agreed to be nominated by the Committee for re-election as Independent Examiner of the accounts. However, in view of Nick Hards' recent illness, Mr Alex Storie offered to act as a second Independent Examiner, and this offer was gratefully accepted by the meeting.

Adrian Dyer pointed out that it was proposed to change the status of some of the committee positions when the constitution is re-drafted. [See the report of the General Secretary in item 4a above for an account of some of these proposed changes.]

Item 7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Robert Sykes thanked Adrian Dyer for his skill, enthusiasm and hard work during his three-year Presidency. He had stimulated people already in post and persuaded some new and excellent people to come on board – a vital skill in a Society with many facets, run entirely by volunteers. He had brought some additional clarity to our publications, meetings, and projects activities, and had established the new post of Project Officer. In concluding, Robert hoped that we would continue to enjoy his skill and congenial company in other roles.

Graham Ackers
Committee Secretary

BPS ACCOUNTS FOR 2006 & 2007

	2005	2006	2007
ORDINARY ACCOUNT			
INCOME			
Subscriptions	£15,654.55	£15,210.08	£15,485.05
Interest	£866.31	£991.68	£1,415.82
Booksales	£200.00	£988.89	£3,386.44
Merchandise	£377.76	£1,516.15	£827.85
Inland Revenue Gift Aid	£1,129.52	£1,428.88	£1,131.03
Donations	£50.00	£184.50	£243.00
Exceptional Items - Balances brought into Ordinary Fund as at 1 January 2006:			
Booksales		£433.43	
Merchandise		£878.57	
Other	£0.00	£0.00	£543.00
TOTAL INCOME	£18,278.14	£21,632.18	£23,032.19
EXPENDITURE			
Pteridologist	£3,601.95	£3,968.08	£3,946.30
Fern Gazette	£3,706.52	£4,190.63	£2,905.00
Bulletin	£3,340.13	£3,125.00	£0.00
Printing & Stationery	£444.24	£329.92	£12.28
Administration & Postage	£270.05	£511.20	£533.06
Subscriptions to Societies	£114.00	£96.00	£34.00
Plant & Spore Exchanges	£118.81	£47.31	£15.00
Meetings	£517.82	£45.14	£25.00
Merchandise	£494.37	£894.15	£723.26
Trustees' Expenses	£1,072.38	£1,064.40	£933.64
Archive Storage	£439.75	£352.56	£356.13
Booksales	n/a	£812.24	£1,749.31
Special Awards	n/a	£292.91	£0.00
Autumn Mailing	£508.51	£365.00	£530.00
Credit Card Costs	n/a	£117.85	£116.81
Computer Leasing	n/a	n/a	£267.20
Other	£0.00	£0.00	£828.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£14,628.53	£16,212.39	£12,974.99
Balance (income minus expenditure)	£3,649.61	£5,419.79	£10,057.20
Brought Forward from previous year	£20,170.66	£23,820.27	£29,240.06
Total in Ordinary Account	£23,820.27	£29,240.06	£39,297.26

CENTENARY FUND (Restricted Account)

Interest	£291.17	£294.36	£342.09
Interest brought forward from previous year	£1,195.72	£1,486.89	£1,481.25
Grant	£0.00	£300.00	£0.00
Total Interest	£1,486.89	£1,481.25	£1,823.34
Capital brought forward from previous year	£5,583.73	£5,583.73	£5,583.73
Total in Centenary Fund	£7,070.62	£7,064.98	£7,407.07

GREENFIELD FUND (Restricted Account)

Interest	£98.17	£99.24	£120.23
Interest brought forward from previous year	£1,234.63	£1,332.80	£1,432.04
Grant	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Interest	£1,332.80	£1,432.04	£1,552.27
<hr/>			
Capital brought forward from previous year	£1,051.00	£1,051.00	£1,051.00
Total in Greenfield Fund	£2,383.80	£2,483.04	£2,603.27
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PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

Brought forward from previous year	£8,077.45	£6,687.89	£6,678.84
Income	£2,704.27	£2,439.72	£1,914.73
Interest	£346.92	£278.43	£323.39
Expenditure	£4,440.75	£2,727.20	£166.13
Total in Publications Account	£6,687.89	£6,678.84	£8,750.83
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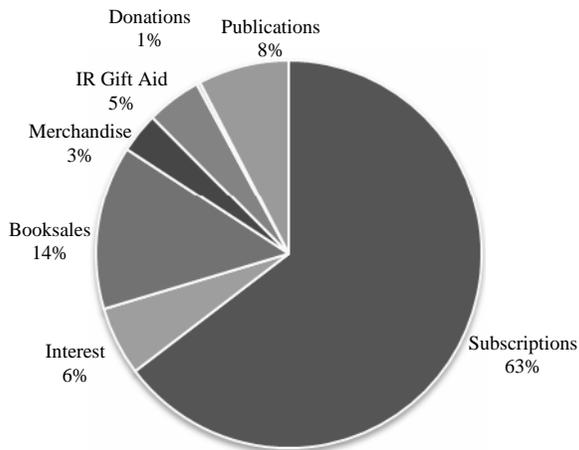
TOTAL FUNDS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2007

Ordinary Account	£39,297.26
Centenary Fund	£7,407.07
Greenfield Fund	£2,603.27
Publications Account	£8,750.83
Total Funds	£58,058.43
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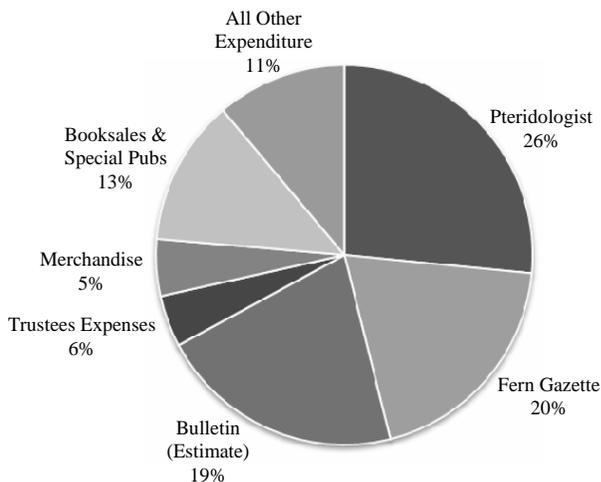
REPRESENTED BY

Charitable Organisations Investment Fund	£40,926.92
Bank of Scotland & Others	£17,131.51
Total Funds	£58,058.43
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INCOME 2007



EXPENDITURE 2007



NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

- The accounts reflect the subscriptions actually received in the year.
- National Savings and Investment terminated their Treasurer's account in August 2007. After some deliberation, BPS Committee decided to hold a large portion of their funds in the Charitable Organisations Investment Fund. Favourable reports of this fund had been received from other charities – at the present time, interest of 5.88% was being paid out.
- The Society possesses the following stock:
 - Back issues of the *Bulletin*, *Fern Gazette* and *Pteridologist* valued at approximately £1,500.
 - Merchandising valued at approximately £2,000 & capital of £1,385.75
 - Booksales – new and second-hand books valued at approximately £5,814 & capital of £2,775.88.
 - FSC Key to Common Ferns – 25 valued at £38
 - BPS Special Publications – Title (no. copies) valued at:

Fern Names and their Meanings (91) £410	CD Rom – BPS Minute Book (7) £70
Cultivation and Propagation (255) £1,275	Polystichum Cultivars (85) £1,063
History of British Pteridology (745) £1,863	New Atlas of Ferns (70) £630
BPS Abstracts & Papers (379) £947	Fern Books Before 1900 (397) £5,565
- Full details of Merchandise and Booksales Accounts can be obtained from the Managers.
- The Society decided to split the two Restricted Funds into 'Capital' and 'Interest'. The 'Interest' section of the Funds is available for payment as grants.
- A grant of £300 was made from the Centenary Fund in 2006 to Ken Trewren to investigate fern hybrids in Ireland (see 2006 *Bulletin* 6(5): 433). No grants were made in 2007.
- Computers for specific BPS officers use are being leased from Dell Computers. In 2007, the Treasurer and the *Bulletin* Editor were recipients of such machines.
- It was decided in committee during 2007 that the accounts published in the *Bulletin* were too far behind the year that they represented. Therefore accounts for 2005, '06 and '07 are presented for comparison in this one 'catch-up' issue. Also for this reason, the invoice for the printing of the 2007 *Bulletin* is NOT included in this one 2007 issue of the accounts, but it will appear in the 2008 accounts and yearly thereafter.

Gillian Smith, Treasurer

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEARS ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2006 AND 31 DECEMBER 2007

I have examined the accounting records maintained by the Treasurer of the British Pteridological Society. I can certify that the accounts presented to me are in accordance with the books and records.

Alexander Storie AIB Scot., Independent Examiner, 27 February 2008

REPORTS OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE APPOINTEES FOR 2007

In this issue of the *Bulletin*, we are doing things a little differently in that the reports for 2007 are being published now. This is mainly to give more currency to the reports, rather than having them published as part of the AGM minutes, when they are over a year out of date. We hope that this will be more helpful to the majority of members who do not attend the AGM and therefore cannot hear the reports when they are current. For those members who do attend the AGM, it allows us the possibility of shortening proceedings by restricting the reports session to one of questions and answers, although this will be up to the President at the time. A Q&A session will of course require AGM attendees to have read these reports first; please bring a copy of this *Bulletin* to the meeting. Another reason for bringing the *Bulletin* is that it also contains AGM minutes and reports from 2006, and conventionally these are 'approved' by AGM attendees. We hope that members will prefer this new reporting system; if successful, the next *Bulletin* will only have the reports for one year, not two as in this changeover edition.

Graham Ackers, Committee Secretary

GENERAL SECRETARY – Yvonne Golding

2007 has been another busy year for the BPS committee. We met in January in London at the Natural History Museum (NHM); we had our AGM in Edinburgh; the committee met again in May, this time in Manchester, and were back in London for our October meeting. We have welcomed four new members onto our committee – John Edgington, Roger Golding, Howard Matthews and Matt Stribley, together with our new President, Robert Sykes.

This year we have re-written our constitution, a task that took much longer than we originally anticipated! There were many clauses that had to be changed to reflect our current situation and to make our Society more compatible with Charity Law. Importantly, we have changed the wording of the Objects, which we now think better describe the wide-ranging activities of our Society. We have had a heated debate about whether we should change the name of our Society. For the moment we are leaving it as British Pteridological Society but we have agreement that we should use a qualifying strap line along the lines of 'the society for fern enthusiasts' wherever possible. We will finalise the constitutional changes at our committee meeting in January 2008 and ask for a vote on the new constitution at the AGM at the NHM in London on 5th April 2008.

Following the successful indoor meeting at Wisley in November, a small working group met (on the Sunday!) to discuss the future direction of the BPS and to try and come up with an achievable three-year plan. These Planning Meetings, a relatively new initiative, are held every three years during the first year of a new Presidency. Such meetings enable key members of the committee to discuss strategic issues unencumbered by routine committee business. One of the main topics identified for discussion was the desire to raise the profile of the BPS, both to attract new members and also to engage more with the general public, which is our statutory duty as a charity. We have come up with some ideas, which we are actively pursuing. Other issues discussed were education about ferns, both for our members and the public, what else we can provide for gardeners and how we can expand our regional groups to cover the whole of the UK.

One of the downsides of the year's end is marked by the retirement of some of our hard-working officers. We say goodbye to James Merryweather who has done a splendid job in editing ten issues of *Pteridologist*, the last six of which were in full, glossy colour and very professionally done. Patrick Acock retires after ten very productive years as Meetings Secretary, organising full programmes of trips (which he almost always attended) up and down the country and abroad. Barry and Anne Wright are retiring as Spore Exchange

Organisers; they too have provided this very popular service to members both in this country and abroad for ten years. We shall miss them in their roles but hope they will all remain active BPS members. Our Society is run entirely by volunteers who work on behalf of our members and I would like to thank all of them for their hard work throughout the year.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY – Mike Taylor

Last year we reported a worrying decline in membership numbers from 793 in 2005 to a disappointing 746 at the end of 2006. Unfortunately, this year the number has continued to decline, although to a lesser extent. We now have a total of 727 members, made up of 597 Ordinary, 28 Complimentary, 6 Honorary, 14 Student and 82 Subscribers; of the 'Ordinary' members, 89 choose not to take the *Fern Gazette*.

Most of the new members we have recruited this year found out about us via an internet search, and our website is absolutely vital in both recruiting and retaining our membership. A small proportion said that a friend or colleague had passed on information about the Society and I would urge all members to help to recruit new members, after all at £20 for a year's membership it is extremely good value. We have 65 members who pay via the American Fern Society; however, I have been informed by George Yatskievych that due to the weak dollar he expects that figure to drop in 2008.

The amount recovered in Gift Aid was almost the same as last year: £1,131 this year as against £1,118 in 2006. However, the changes made to income tax in the 2007 budget mean that we will receive less in future years unless more members sign the Gift Aid form. The Society has benefited by £4,960 since we first started claiming Gift Aid.

Finally, I received an e-mail from someone asking me to remind members of the importance of putting the 'e' in our eBPS e-mail addresses. He forgot and got the British Psychological Society!

MEETINGS SECRETARY – Pat Acock

Another full programme and another enjoyable year thanks to our hard-working meetings committee. Reports are in this issue of the *Bulletin*. Some complaints were voiced concerning the fact that only one meeting was organised before August. At the planning meeting we always strive for a balanced programme, but as we negotiated with leaders, changes came about either through their preferred dates, when particular ferns were at their best, or the sudden need for a leader to switch dates after the other meetings were set.

All meetings were superbly led and were most interesting for a wealth of different reasons. Attendance was especially good at Edinburgh, North Wales, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Wisley. Numbers of British participants were down in Texas at our regular joint meeting with the Hardy Fern Foundation and on our short foray to France. However, this did not detract from the enjoyment. It is by attending these meetings that we really get to know each other better and also exchange ideas and bring newer enthusiasts into the fold.

I would like to thank our regional organisers who do an excellent job fitting local meetings amongst the national ones. I would also like to remind members that they are most welcome to contact regional secretaries for a programme whether they live in the area or plan to be visiting; some programmes are available on the website.

We would like to extend our regional meetings to places devoid of them at the moment, such as Wessex, the Midlands, Wales, Ireland and Northumberland. When Paul Ripley and I were asked to become involved in the South-East meetings, we were helped by Clive Jermy for year one. We soon got the idea and have continued for the last twenty plus years. You need only offer one meeting in the first year to get a group started and help would be at hand with who to contact and how to plan a meeting. Basically it would be down to you as to what type of meeting to hold. As the group grows new ideas would come from those attending. Do feel free to contact me for help either by e-mail or regular mail.

CONSERVATION OFFICER – Fred Rumsey

Working with Heather and me and other individual members, the Society's local groups have, during the course of the year, provided valuable monitoring data for the conservation agencies on several threatened fern species. We hope to integrate such actions more fully in future meetings programmes. During the year one previously overlooked native taxon (*Lycopodium lagopus* syn. *L. clavatum* subsp. *monostachyon*) has been added to the British list through herbarium study and confirmed as still present in two sites by Society members. Even more excitingly, a novel species of *Polypodium* has been discovered on a BPS trip and will be described shortly in the *Fern Gazette*.

I continue to contribute to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan review process and am advising on the DEFRA consultation on non-native species. Invasives have a potentially profound effect on our flora and most arise as garden escapes; their study and documentation is thus of some importance. Proposed legislation may, however, make illegal the sale and distribution of what are considered potentially damaging organisms, which could impact the Society's members; a watching brief is being maintained. Advice continues to be given on conservation issues relating to pteridophytes when requested.

RECORDING OFFICER – Fred Rumsey

I am very grateful to the many members who have helped contribute records this year and it is pleasing to document the discovery of new species and hybrids to the British Flora made as a result of members' actions. I would like to thank Frank McGavigan and the others who have helped redesign and road-test new recording cards and it is hoped that versions of these can soon be made generally available on request. Anthony Pigott and I have been in contact with the Botanical Society of the British Isles with regards to how we might mutually benefit with regards to recording matters. They have a nationwide network of recorders feeding into national recording schemes that ultimately give out publicly accessible data as well as providing detailed monitoring data to the conservation agencies. We will outline in publications later this year how we as a Society can contribute to these important activities and the potential benefits to members of doing so. It is hoped that recording will become more widely embraced within the Society and better integrated into our field meetings. Your expertise and knowledge is important and should not be overlooked!

PUBLICATIONS SECRETARY – Martin Rickard

The *Fern Gazette*, edited by Mary Gibby and Andrew Leonard and the *Bulletin*, edited by Alison Paul, are both in good hands (see their individual reports for further information). Special Publications are selling well with the *Fern Atlas* (2005) and *Polystichum Cultivars* (2005) leading the way. *Fern Books*, published in 2006, sold slowly initially but advertising has helped boost sales recently. This is an incredible run of publications for our small Society.

FERN GAZETTE EDITOR – Mary Gibby

Volume 18 Part 2 is practically complete and just awaiting feedback on proofs. There is plenty of copy for Part 3.

BULLETIN EDITOR – Alison Paul

The 2007 *Bulletin* is another bumper issue of 84 pages and also includes a revised membership address list. Having a BPS laptop has helped considerably, although getting to grips with newer versions of Microsoft Word has been a steep learning curve!

The committee discussed the subject of including some colour photographs, an issue that was raised at the AGM in Edinburgh, and a quotation for colour printing was obtained. It was agreed that colour could be used at the Editor's discretion. I have not taken advantage of this for the current issue, primarily for logistical reasons.

PTERIDOLOGIST EDITOR – Martin Rickard

After two spells as Editor, James Merryweather has finally retired. He has brought the publication a long way with the introduction of colour, the large paper format and slick editing techniques. We thank him for all his hard work. His is going to be a tough act to follow. Fern knowledge and editing skills are an unlikely combination. Fortunately Alec Greening has these skills and has agreed to handle that side of things, so he and I will work together for the next two issues. After that we will review the situation.

It is hoped to bring publication forward to May or June each year hence the deadline for copy in future will be January 31st. Copy received after this date might be squeezed in but it is more likely to be held over.

WEBSITE EDITOR – Anthony Pigott

The website continues to develop, both with the usual updates of BPS information, such as meetings programmes, spore lists and publications and new features such as news of changes in conservation priority of fern species and on-line publication of the AGM minutes. The home page has continued to evolve, especially to enable visitors to quickly access new information.

The website has now completed its transformation to the new more contemporary style with the last of the 1997 vintage layouts disappearing. There has been a complete revision of the pages that describe the organisation, services and activities of the BPS. The old navigation structure has been replaced with a new one that is hopefully easier to use and will enable natural expansion of website content for some time to come.

Technical problems, out of our control, at the beginning of the year have had lasting knock-on effects delaying progress. The website editor has more recently lost significant amounts of time due to family illness, which has further held up development.

For over ten years, the editor has run the website almost single-handedly and additionally prepared most of the content. We are now actively looking at how more people can be involved in the development and running of the website and at how the website itself can be best structured to facilitate that. The website will be increasingly important to the BPS and it is now time to start to move to a situation where the editor spends rather less time and others spend much more.

The outlook for the coming year includes the prospect of much more information on recording and distribution, a start to putting the journal back numbers on-line and a guide to where to see ferns in the wild. As always, offers of contributions and other help are extremely welcome.

PROJECT OFFICER – Anthony Pigott

A project is an activity with a defined objective, timescale and participants. It is a one-off activity to achieve a specific goal rather than one of the more usual regular activities of the Society. We now have three 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.

On-Line Journals. The BPS has decided to make back numbers of its journals available on-line. There is a tremendous wealth of pteridophyte knowledge in those pages which is currently difficult to access and search. This project will look at the technical and administrative issues involved, leading to effective implementation.

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 will identify and implement ways to get more people involved and to make the website easier to expand and develop.

SPORE EXCHANGE ORGANISER – Anne Wright

The Spore Exchange is a popular part of the Society's activities. In 2007, 113 requests were received and processed. Of these, 81 were from UK members and 32 from overseas, reaffirming the international nature of our exchange. The overseas requests were from Australia 2, Austria 2, Belgium 3, Canada 1, Denmark 2, Estonia 1, Finland 1, France 1, Germany 5, Hungary 1, Latvia 1, Luxembourg 1, Mauritius 1, Netherlands 2, Spain 1, Sweden 1, USA 3, Thailand 1 and Kenya 1.

I am always extremely grateful for donations, but I still receive a small number of donations that prove to contain either no spores at all or so few spores that I cannot list that taxon. This is made worse by the knowledge that the donor would have spent a considerable time collecting what they believed to be an adequate donation of spores. I hope that donors will not be offended if I let them know of any problems with their donations. If there are any queries about donating spores, please feel free to e-mail me at spores@eBPS.org.uk and I will do my best to help. May I also make a heartfelt plea that species names etc. are written very clearly in capital letters – it can take a considerable amount of time to look up all the possible permutations on the internet!

It remains only to say thank you to the loyal band of donors, without whom we would not have this valuable service.

PLANT EXCHANGE ORGANISER – Jonathan Crowe

Participation in the scheme has been declining. A possible reason may be that the Autumn Mailing 2006 was not a good time to distribute donor forms. For 2008 the intention is to distribute donor forms with the Bulletin mailing. This will allow donors a better chance to assess what they have available and for the Plant Exchange List to be distributed in the early summer, giving a more favourable season for growing and distributing plants.

The 'Wants' side of the scheme will be reintroduced as a means of increasing interest. It will be possible to indicate wants on the donor form for inclusion in the Plant Exchange List distributed to participating members.

BOOKSALES ORGANISER – Frank Katzer

This has been a very busy year for BPS Booksales, with sales of over £3,000. This is partially due to the bequest of the fern book library from the late Trevor Walker at the end of 2006. This led to a very busy Booksales stand at the AGM in Edinburgh. I am very grateful to Yvonne Golding who has taken books for me to other BPS meetings that I could not attend and this has led to many more sales. New books have also become a very important contribution to BPS Booksales as it becomes ever more difficult to obtain fair-priced second-hand fern books. The increased cost of postage has also become almost prohibitive, making meeting sales ever more important. The task of Booksales has proved to be far more demanding this year than I initially thought and my responses have not always been as fast as I would have liked them to be. This is mostly due to my move to a new research institute in June and even more recent changes in my new job, which has made it very difficult for me to find time to devote to BPS Booksales. Hopefully this has not resulted in too long delays in response to requests. I hope that I will be able to spend more time on BPS Booksales in the coming year.

MERCHANDISE ORGANISERS – Bryan & Gill Smith

Unusually, 2007 was not as successful as previous years for Merchandising, though we can glean no particular reasons for this. We had only three mail orders (which came from the UK and Italy), compared with nearly 30 in 2006 (which came from the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, France, Belgium and Eire). So, face-to-face selling became our mainstay this year. We sold merchandise at the AGM in Edinburgh, at national meetings in Wales (August), the Peaks (September), Lincoln (September) and at the Wisley fern cultivars

meeting (November). For the national meetings, we gave attendees the option to pre-order items. Colleagues in the north, as before, sold merchandise at the Southport show (August), and at the AGMs of the Yorkshire Regional Group and the North-West Regional Group. Overall, sales amounted to just over £600, about half of the £1,300 for 2006. Further details can be found in the Merchandise section of the Treasurer's accounts.

The current merchandise list (September 2007), which was distributed with the autumn mailing, boasts some 17 ranges and a total of nearly 40 individual products. The list continues to be available through the BPS website, and we send out copies when we fulfil orders. This year we hope to add photographs of items to the website. If anyone has any ideas for ferny items they would really like to see and that they think other members would also like to buy, please do let us know.

HORTICULTURAL INFORMATION ADVISER – Matt Busby

I have nothing to report this year. My file of cases has remained empty throughout 2007. The only queries that I have received is for speakers to give talks to societies on ferns and fern growing. This is largely due to my name remaining on speaker registers in spite of having retired from giving talks two years ago. The Committee is considering compiling a register of members who are able and prepared to give talks to gardening societies.

ARCHIVIST – Matt Busby

During 2007, items from the Archive have been supplied to the journal *British Wildlife* and to various members of the Society. Work on cataloguing the Society's slide collection has been completed. It numbers some 1,400 slides. Consideration is being given to digitising some of the most valued slides.

FERN VARIETIES NOMENCLATURE SUBCOMMITTEE – Matt Busby

As in previous years, this subcommittee has remained inactive due to lack of business. The subcommittee consists of Dr Alan Leslie, Martin Rickard, and me as convener.



photo: Y.C. Golding

**Chris Page (left) being presented with Honorary Membership certificate
by President Adrian Dyer at RBGE**

AWARDS

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP – CHRISTOPHER N. PAGE

*During 2007 Honorary Membership was conferred on Chris Page
for his services to pteridology.*

Christopher Nigel Page (born 1942) has had a lifelong interest in ferns and horsetails, which began by collecting fossils of them in the Forest of Dean. He went to Durham University to study geology but once there met Dr Trevor Walker and subsequently transferred to Botany, graduating with First Class Honours in 1964. He went on to investigate evolution in *Equisetum* for his PhD under the supervision of Trevor Walker.

Almost immediately, Chris took up a post-doctoral Fellowship at the University of Queensland in Australia during which time he travelled widely, carrying out fieldwork in Africa and Australasia. Following a brief interval as a Demonstrator at Oxford, he was appointed in 1971 to the staff at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE). He initiated a programme of research, working on pteridophytes and gymnosperms for the next 25 years and travelling extensively through Asia and the Pacific.

Chris joined the BPS in 1965, having already published a paper in *The Fern Gazette* in 1963. He was on the Committee from 1970-1985 and a Vice-President from 1985-1990. He edited *The Fern Gazette* for ten years from 1974. During the 1970s and 1980s, he was very active on BPS field meetings and also recruited a lot of new members through his Field Studies Council courses at Slapton (Devon) and Kindrogan (Perthshire). He has published many articles in the *Pteridologist*, particularly on fern photography. He was co-organiser of the highly successful international fern conference *The Biology of Pteridophytes* held in 1983 at RBGE, initiated by Adrian Dyer and sponsored by the BPS, the Linnean Society and the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Chris was co-editor of the subsequently published Proceedings (*Biology of Pteridophytes*. Eds A.F. Dyer & C.N. Page. Proc. Roy. Soc. Edin., Series B, Vol. 86.)

He is likely to be best known to BPS members as the author of two influential books: *The Ferns of Britain and Ireland* (CUP, 1982; 2nd Edition 1997) and *A Natural History of British Ferns* (Collins New Naturalist, 1988). The first of these has been in continuous sales for 25 years and CUP are planning a celebration for Chris. In these books he has made available some of his encyclopaedic knowledge of British species and their hybrids, their morphological variation, their distributions and natural and man-made habitat preferences and their associated species. His wide interests and experience enable him to place the British flora in the context of its evolutionary history and geology. In addition to more than 100 papers, other pteridological publications include contributions to several Floras, including *The European Garden Flora* (CUP, 1986) and compendia such as *The Changing Wildlife of Britain and Ireland* (Systematics Association, 2001), *The Evolution of Plant Physiology* (Linnean Society, 2004), and *Botanical Links in the Atlantic Arc* (BSBI, 2006). In 2002, he published in *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology* a sequel to an influential earlier paper: "The diversity of ferns: an ecological perspective" (in *The Experimental Biology of Ferns*, Academic Press, 1979).

In retirement Chris continues to advise and write about ferns and has established a new fern garden in Cornwall. His main pteridological objective remains the promotion of the scientific study of fern ecology. He sees fern taxonomy as the necessary means to that end.

A.F. Dyer & H.S. McHaffie

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP – JOHN T. MICKEL

During 2007 Honorary Membership was conferred on John Mickel for his services to pteridology.

In the world of ferns, few, if any, have contributed so much to scientific pteridology AND fern horticulture. John has been a member of the British Pteridological Society for over 30 years, and despite residing in New York State, regularly supports symposia on ferns organised here in Britain.

John has studied ferns at the New York Botanical Garden herbarium since 1969 and continues in retirement to work on the large and complex genera *Elaphoglossum* and *Anemia*.

I suspect he will be best known to BPS members for his frequent contributions to journals worldwide and of course his books. He has contributed greatly to our knowledge of the ferns of North and Central America. With the late Joe Beitel he wrote the *Pteridophyte flora of Oaxaca*, and more recently, still in Mexico, he and Alan Smith produced the hugely impressive *Pteridophytes of Mexico*. John organised several pteridological tours of Mexico, one was famously written up by Oliver Sachs as the very entertaining *Oaxaca journal*. He organised two fern workshops in Trinidad and put together a very useful guide to the ferns of that island. Years later this book served as an indispensable identification guide for the BPS excursion in 2004. For my part I always use his *How to know the ferns and fern allies* when trying to identify a North American fern. His books are easy to use and, more important, trustworthy.

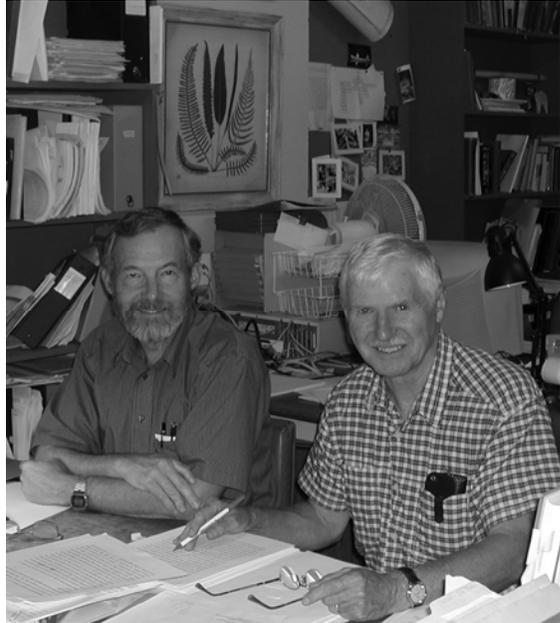


photo: Carol Mickel

Alan Smith and John Mickel

There is really no excuse for any one interested in ferns not knowing the name of Mickel. He has done much for fern gardeners too. His *The home gardener's book of ferns* and more recently *Ferns for American gardens* have opened new horizons for fern growers both in the USA and in Europe. In addition, from 1973 until 1995 he edited the American Fern Society's *Fiddlehead Forum*, frequently with the help of his wife Carol.

I once asked him how many books had he written He guessed "about 20", so you can see, I have only scratched the surface here.

John and Carol's garden in New York State is a delight. It is immaculate and full of a very large collection of often very unusual ferns, all beautifully grown. Moving into his house you will not escape the fern influence. If you have a chance to look around when not being treated to the famous Mickel hospitality, you will see fern memorabilia everywhere. Virtually everything is adorned by a fern motif! Towels, carpets, serviettes, crockery, glass, seats, pictures, etc. Last but not least, John's car number plate probably sums him up: 'FERNMAN'!

Martin Rickard

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP – ALAN R. SMITH

*During 2007 Honorary Membership was conferred on Alan Smith
for his services to pteridology.*

Dr Alan R. Smith has long been considered one of the most competent and experienced pteridologists working with the Neotropical fern flora. Since 1969 he has been Curator and Research Botanist at the Herbarium of the University of California, in Berkeley, USA. He was born in Sacramento (CA) in 1943, obtained his BS Degree in Botany in 1965 from the Kansas State University, and earned his PhD in 1969 at the Iowa State University, as a student of Dr John T. Mickel (currently retired from NYBG). After falling in love with ferns in Costa Rica while participating in a course in tropical pteridology, Alan worked on the pteridophytes of many Neotropical countries, collaborating in floristic research on the ferns of Mexico, Central America, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and the Guianas, or providing generic treatments in several important families (such as Thelypteridaceae, Grammitidaceae and Polypodiaceae). In 1993, he was co-editor and advisor for the volume on pteridophytes for the *Flora of North America North of Mexico*. He was co-author with John Mickel of the 'ferntastic' work *Pteridophytes of Mexico* (2004), more than 1,000 pages taking into account recent results on the systematics and phylogeny of ferns.

Recently, he has been involved in phylogenetic research on relationships of the basal ferns and on the aforementioned families, in collaboration with many other pteridologists (Robbin Moran, Kathleen Pryer, Paul Wolf, Tom Ranker, Chris Haufler, Harald Schneider, Jean-Yves Dubuisson, Ray Cranfill, Dave Des Marais, Eric Schuettpelz, Andy Murdock, and others). This work led to the recent (2006) publication of an important paper in *Taxon*, on 'A classification for extant ferns', and more recently (*Taxon*, 2006) on a revision of a group of Neotropical *Polypodium* relatives.

He has described and participated in the description of six new fern genera, and has authored or co-authored about 560 combinations involving new species, subspecies, varieties and hybrids. Seven taxa have been dedicated to him and bear his name.

In addition, Alan Smith has been President of the American Fern Society and Editor of the *American Fern Journal*.

With his broad knowledge, not only of American and Neotropical ferns but also of ferns from other parts of the world, Alan has always been ready to help pteridologists with questions and discussions of taxonomic issues. Members of the BPS who have been in touch with him can bear witness to this. His kindness, his breadth of knowledge, and his rapid response to e-mails with clear and precise answers are much appreciated in furthering progress on fern systematics.

Michel Boudrie

IN MEMORIAM

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

Dr Donald Carmichael of Devon (1997)

Dr Robert Finch of Cambridge (1968)

Mr Alf Hoare of Hertfordshire (1969). An obituary will be published in the 2008 *Bulletin*.

Mr Wallace Fyfe of Isle of Bute (1998). An obituary will be published in the 2008 *Bulletin*.

MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2008

Meetings Secretary: P.J. Acock
Meetings Subcommittee: M.H. Rickard, N.J. Hards, J.M. Ide, R.J. Cooke, P.H. Ripley

- Thurs. 14 - Thurs. 28 Feb. **Overseas Field Meeting – Costa Rica**
Leader: Klaus Mehltreter
- Sat. 5 April **AGM & Spring Indoor Meeting – Presentations on fern distribution and ecology of La Réunion, Texas & Costa Rica – Natural History Museum, London**
Leader: Pat Acock
- Fri. 18 - Fri. 25 April **Overseas Field Meeting – Madeira**
Leader: Pat & Grace Acock
- Sat. 14 - Sun. 15 June **Weekend Field Meeting – South Wales**
Leader: Pat Acock
- Sat. 26 - Sun. 27 July **Weekend Field Meeting – SW of Dumfries, Scotland**
Leader: Frank McGavigan
- Thurs. 21 - Sun. 24 Aug. ***Southport Flower Show: BPS Stand**
Further Info.: Michael Hayward
- Sat. 20 - Sun. 21 Sept. **Weekend Field Meeting – Swanage, Dorset**
Leaders: Ted Pratt
- Sat. 1 Nov. **NOTE**
CHANGE OF DATE **Autumn Indoor Meeting – Focus On Spleenworts – Natural History Museum, London**
Leader: Pat Acock

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

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

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Please note: Regional group meetings are open to all members, so if you are travelling through or holidaying in 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.

- Yorkshire** Bruce Brown, 4 Bank Parade, Otley, West Yorks. LS21 3DY
e-mail: Yorkshire@eBPS.org.uk
- South-East England** Paul Ripley, 2 Station Villas, Station Road, Appledore, Ashford, Kent TN26 2DF; e-mail: SouthEast@eBPS.org.uk
- East Anglia** Tim Pyner, 182 Southchurch Boulevard, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 4UX; e-mail: EastAnglia@eBPS.org.uk
- North-West England** Peter Campion, Lake View, Castle Hill, Bassenthwaite, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4RG; e-mail: NorthWest@eBPS.org.uk
- Cornwall** Matt Stribley, 8 St George's Road, Truro, Cornwall TR1 3JE
e-mail: Cornwall@eBPS.org.uk
- Scotland** Frank McGavigan, 12 Glenbank Avenue, Lenzie, Glasgow G66 5AA
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