

Scurvygrass). Despite the early spring, flowering species were not abundant and identification was mainly of leaves and last year's seed-heads. Swards of *Primula vulgaris* (Primrose) covered the steep grassy sections and we even found a few *P. verna* (Cowslip), probably sown, at the far end of the walk.

After lunch, and a few early departures, we descended the newly installed steps down to Carlingheugh Bay to discover sheets of *Honckenya peploides* (Sea Sandwort) in flower edging the beach. The red sandstone cliffs there were dotted with the slightly obscure *Parietaria judaica* (Pellitory-of-the-wall), and in a shallow cave we confirmed that a small colony of *Asplenium marinum* (Sea Spleenwort) still survives.

By way of adventure, Colin led us through a long cave using a mobile phone for light, to bring us out into the next bay. After a quick scan for new flowers, we plunged back into a different cave to return, urged on by Colin telling us that the rising tide would soon cut off that route.

The party had dwindled to four by the time we made a brief excursion into Seaton Den, recording various trees and passing above the *Pinguicula vulgaris* (Common Butterwort) recorded earlier in the day.

Our foraging returned over 70 plant species, five different bumblebees and about 20 species of bird, a reasonably good total for an early excursion.

Mark Tulley

3. Dunsinane Hill

Wednesday, 14th May

Riskily-advertised attractions were species of *Salix*, *Saxifraga*, and *Taraxacum*; nevertheless, half-a-dozen of us met on a fine evening at the roadside by Collace Quarry and had some enjoyable physical and mental exercise traversing this ancient site.

The wooded margins of the ever-expanding quarry on the west side afforded opportunities for us to practise our skill in identifying some of the common species of willows; using only the bare evidence of their leafless winter forms, studying particularly last season's shoots and buds. The current BSBI referee for *Salix*, Irina Belyaeva Chamberlain, is a proponent of such diagnostic criteria, following her mentor, the Russian salicologist, Alexei Skvortsov. His great work is *The willows of Russia and adjacent countries. Taxonomical and geographical revision*, translated by Irina N. Kadis in 1999. Irina Belyaeva has also published other articles by and on Skvortsov in her appropriately-named open-access online journal *Skvortsovia* (<http://skvortsovia.uran.ru>). Accordingly, we were able to distinguish *SS aurita*, *caprea*, and *atrocinerea* (*cinerea oleifolia*) (Eared, Goat, and Rusty Willows, respectively).

Ascending the grassy slopes of Dunsinane, via occasional basaltic outcrops and damp springs, a few plants had found sufficient protection to make some early headway. The first little flowers which attracted the group's attention were identified by Martin Robinson as *Myosotis arvensis* (Field Forget-me-not), pointing out their distinctive hooked calyx-hairs. Odd patches of *Calluna vulgaris* (Common Heath, Ling) also showed a few more flowers, but other species were mostly not open up there yet.

The next target was a small patch of *Saxifraga granulata* (Meadow Saxifrage), its white flowers making a brave show in a little damp depression on the exposed north-west shoulder of Dunsinane.

Although this area has been the venue for repeated attempts by adventurous PSNS members to record its *Taraxacum* (Dandelion) flora, including a 2013 BSBI study group led by Prof. John Richards, it has to be admitted that their complete taxonomy is still elusive. Nevertheless, they are hardy perennials; so, with accumulating familiarity, a few of us were able to point out some in their typical habitats here: *TT faeroense*, *lacistophyllum*, *nordstedtii*, *oxoniense*, *pseudohamatum*, *scoticum*, etc., now appearing sufficiently distinctive in leaf form

to be recognisable even without the flowers and clocks required for authoritative confirmation. Although it is normal in these reports to accompany Latin binomials with demotic names in brackets, our expert referee scorns attempts by lesser authorities to invent appropriate English names for the Dandelion microspecies; so, as he will not, I dare not.

Les Tucker

4. Sauchie Tower

Wednesday, 28th May

Five of us met on a drizzly evening at the new SSPCA car park near Sauchie Tower. From there we walked down a steep track, slippery in the wet, through deciduous woodland of sycamore, ash, alder, young oak, willow and hawthorn towards the River Devon. *Dryopteris filix-mas* agg. (Common Male Fern) was common in the wood and there were badger sett diggings beside the path. We climbed a gate at the bottom into a rough grassy field with large stands of rushes near the river. The field was ungrazed at the time of our visit but has been grazed by horses in the past. We followed the river bank east then cut up again across the field into the wood and back to the car park. Beside a pond in the woodland we found a patch of the beautiful white flowers of *Galium odoratum* (Woodruff). *Fragaria vesca* (Wild Strawberry) is frequent in the woodland, a good indicator that the whole area on the south side of the river here is reclaimed land after mining activities in the 19th Century.

Beside the path we identified *Circaea lutetiana* (Enchanter's-nightshade), distinguished from *Circaea x intermedia* (*C. alpina x lutetiana*) by the hairiness of the leaf stalks (petioles) – *C. lutetiana* being hairy all round the stem. It was very good to have Pam Murdoch, vice-county recorder for VC99 Dunbartonshire with us, and Eric Pryde who is a student on Brenda Harold's online 'Identiplant' course <http://identiplant.co.uk> (Liz is his online tutor). We had a lot of fun trying to explain how and why we all identify species. By using Faith Anstey's 'Guide to common plant families' booklet to track down the likely family, it was comparatively easy to move on to using a key to identify the species. We demonstrated this for a few species despite the miserably wet weather.

Many tussocky clumps of the sedge *Carex spicata* (Spiked Sedge), very rare in Clackmannanshire, were found in the field near the river. We surmised it was brought in when the area was landscaped. The field was a spectacular sight with many hundreds of *Dactylorhiza purpurella* (Northern Marsh-orchid) just coming into full flower. *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Common Spotted-orchid) were also present though not yet in flower. We also spotted several hybrids by their giant size, *Dactylorhiza x venusta* (*D. fuchsii x purpurella*). There was no sign of *Platanthera chlorantha* (Greater Butterfly-orchid), nor was it found by Liz on a later visit in 2014; 1 plant had been found in July 2008.

On the river bank was a lovely display of the very pretty naturalised introduction, *Hesperis matronalis* (Dame's-violet), a very common plant along the Devon; also here was the not-so-common tall flowering fronds of *Scirpus sylvaticus* (Wood Club-rush). Yellow and blue of *Cruciata laevipes* (Crosswort) and *Myosotis secunda* (Creeping Forget-me-not) brightened the river bank, and *Rhinanthus minor* (Yellow-rattle) was abundant in places in the field. We returned wet but happy, having recorded a total of 109 species during our wanderings.

Liz Lavery

5. Glen Falloch area

Saturday, 12th July

The purpose of this meet was to record in two tetrads with no or very few records at the western end of VC87 West Perth. The cloud was low, masking the hills, when four of us, led by Jane Jones, met in a large lay-by on the A82 road just south of Crianlarich. We crossed a

boggy field and followed a track under the railway and along the south side of the River Falloch up into the hills towards Stob Glas. To the south through the mist we could just make out the stately old Caledonian pines on Dun Falloch in Glen Falloch Pinewood SSSI. This area has been deer-fenced, and young trees are appearing.

We trudged up the track exploring moorland bog and mountain stream on either side. In an area of bog above the track Jane Jones spotted the lovely nodding spikes of *Carex magellanica* (Tall Bog-sedge) at NN 370 235; 10 flowering spikes were noted in 1 m². Nearby in a wet runnel Jane also found *Carex pauciflora* (Few-flowered Sedge) at NN 376 236; white flowers of *Rhynchospora alba* (White Beak-sedge) were frequent in this area of mire. All three species are locally scarce in the vice-county. After a couple of hours we were failing to find new species and retraced our steps to the main road, Alison and Joanna finding a few flowers of *Parnassia palustris* (Grass-of-Parnassus) beside the Falloch on our way back. We cautiously walked along the busy main road then crossed to a gate and path that led us up a slope to join the West Highland Way. Once there we stopped for lunch.

The highlight of our day was not far from our lunch spot beside a little, rocky burn above the main path. Sarah Longrigg took us to a site for the tiniest of our native orchids, *Hammarbya paludosa* (Bog Orchid). She had discovered this site in 2013 while walking with her husband Fred. Sarah is expert at finding these very inconspicuous little green orchids and has found several other new sites in VCs 87, 88, on Raasay and various west coast islands. The five tiny flowers were amazingly difficult to see growing in a small flush with *Carex pulicaris* (Flea Sedge), *Triglochin palustris* (Marsh Arrowgrass), *Narthecium ossifragum* (Bog Asphodel) *Carex hostiana* (Tawny Sedge) and *Myrica gale* (Bog-myrtle).

We carried on into the next tetrad as the weather turned to a damp drizzle, and explored a series of streams crossing the hillside. The open hillside was dominated by swathes of *Juncus acutiflorus* (Sharp-flowered Rush). In one of these rocky streams, above Keilator Farm, Jane found an unusual-looking *Phleum* which she is sending to the BSBI *Poaceae* Referee for identification. Nearby there were over 10, red-pink spikes of sweet-smelling *Gymnadenia borealis* (Heath Fragrant-orchid) on a grassy bank above the stream. A spreading patch of *Glyceria declinata* (Small Sweet-grass) was growing in mud beside the main path. We recorded 161 species in tetrad NN32R and 123 species in tetrad NN32S, a total of 284 records in two previously unrecorded squares.

Liz Lavery

6. Maddy Moss, Ochil Hills

Wednesday, 30th July

This meeting was cancelled as we were working in Moray that week. On a September afternoon we walked to Scad Hill via Glensherup Reservoir and Mailer's Knowe, and got to within 1 kilometre of Maddy Moss. It was a long walk in, but easy walking along a track for most of the way. Perhaps we will get there next year.

Liz Lavery

7. Abernethy roses

Saturday, 9th August

I was pleased to see ten other members geared up to learn more about roses, and was also pleased by the distance some had travelled to reach Abernethy. I am grateful to Martin Robinson for capturing the moment of the day on camera.

Roses can be difficult, because most rose bushes in the wild are hybrids. Hybrids are the rule rather than the exception. Gaining knowledge of what the species are like is the starting-point, and from there you can start to tease out the hybrid characters involved in a cross. The

BSBI handbook on roses (Graham & Primavesi 1993) is a good starting-point, but gaining experience in the field and having someone check your specimens is essential.

A few days after the excursion I visited all of the hybrid roses again – I had GPS references for them – and I photographed them and took specimens, and sent specimens to Roger Maskew for his determination. I have copy specimen material of everything I sent.

To try to describe how we identified roses is difficult to sum up in this article, but if anyone would like copies of what I circulated before the excursion and a list of what we found with GPS references, I will be pleased to provide them. Instead of what you might expect next, I am going to tell you a story and if you are trying to identify roses and find them confusing, just remember this story.

I refer to William Barclay later in this Bulletin. He was a former President of the PSNS, and provided a number of papers on the genus *Rosa*; his papers were published in the *Proceedings* of the Society and other journals. Barclay collected hybrid rose material from Auchterarder Station, first in 1892, and some of this ended up in the possession of French botanist Georges Rouy, who gave this collection the name *Rosa x perthensis*.

Decades of speculation followed about which species were involved in this hybrid, which was not settled finally until 2004 when Roger Maskew and Tony Primavesi pointed out that the hybrid is *R. mollis* x *R. sherardii*. This cross had been known by another binomial name, *R. x shoobredii*, which was published after *R. x perthensis*, and that name being the earlier is the preferred name following the rules of taxonomy; hence, the Land of the Fair is on the tongue of every botanist using the combination of these two species, which are known as Soft Downy-rose and Sherard's Downy-rose by their English names.

Following in Barclay's footsteps was James Robert Matthews, a native of Dunning, educated at Perth Academy, and who was for a time a pupil teacher at the Western District School where Barclay was headmaster. While still an undergraduate, Matthews published a paper in 1910 called *Some British hybrid roses*; he was then only 21. Lecturing posts followed before his appointment as Professor of Botany at Aberdeen University. He had a glittering career and had the respect of many, holding several other posts such as Chair of the Scottish Committee of the Nature Conservancy Council and Chair of the Macaulay Institute.

Alistair Godfrey

8. Glen Tilt

Saturday, 16th August

Alistair Godfrey, Bert Barnett and I met up at the Old Bridge of Tilt car-park and were joined by Polly Freeman, the Atholl Estates ranger, who spent the morning with us before leaving us to our own devices. We then drove up the Glen Tilt road to Gilbert's Bridge, with Bert preferring to cycle. The objective of the day was to do a good chunk of tetrad NN87V, on the eastern side of the river, and the 193 taxa we recorded is testament to a very good day.

From Gilbert's Bridge we walked up the grassy slope to the east, finding a few plants of *Alchemilla wichurae* (Rock Lady's-mantle) in flushed calcareous grassland, which seems to be the more usual habitat for it than the 'rock' of its Stace English name. In damper flushes the hybrid *Carex x fulva* (*C. hostiana* x *flava* agg.) could easily be recognized by the very pale straw colour of its empty utricles. Vegetative plants of *Trollius europaea* (Globeflower) were plentiful, whilst *Pimpinella saxifraga* (Burnet-saxifrage) and *Helianthemum nummularium* (Common Rock-rose) demonstrated a slight calcareous influence. Cresting the escarpment, via a coniferous plantation, we found ourselves on an extensive raised plain, forming a plateau between Glen Tilt and Glen Fender. It was mostly damp, with grass and sedge mires cut through by rushy runnels. One of these had some *Juncus alpinoarticulatus* (Alpine Rush) among the *J. articulatus* (Jointed Rush), and there were occasional plants of *Dactylorhiza*

incarnata (Early Marsh-orchid), well over by now. This whole area would have taken some time to cover thoroughly – a project for the future but not today.

We returned to the escarpment, which was marked by a line of crags forming its lip. It was extremely windy with gusting showers and at one point a spectacular rainbow shallowly spanned the glen. The crags were dry and not terribly exciting, though Alistair identified a bush of the hybrid *Rosa caesia* agg. x *sherardii*, and *Helictotrichon pratense* (Hairy Oat-grass) and *Galium boreale* (Northern Bedstraw) in the grass at the base of them did offer some promise. There was a band of scree below the crags, punctuated with dark clumps of ferns. We considered whether these were *Athyrium distentifolium* (Alpine Lady-fern), but further examination at home suggested they were the more usual *A. filix-femina* (Lady-fern). There was some *Antennaria dioica* (Mountain Everlasting) in places, but on the whole the grassland down below seemed to hold more promise and so we made the steep descent towards Marble Lodge.

Alongside the riverside path here were some flushes and mires calcareous enough to have *Eriophorum latifolium* (Broad-leaved Cotton-grass) and *Parnassia palustris* (Grass-of-Parnassus), but we did not reach the best areas around Marble Lodge itself. We returned along the path and after Auchgobhal there was a shrubby bank, where we plunged into the world of hybrid roses, identifying *R. caesia* subsp. *caesia* x *canina* and *R. mollis* x *caesia* subsp. *caesia*, and there was one that seemed to be pure *R. caesia* subsp. *glauca*.

Martin Robinson

9. Urban plants, Perth

Wednesday, 20th August

Perth must be one of the few places to honour a retail park with the name of a Christian martyr, but seven of us gathered in an untended shrub border at St Catherine's next to several closed units where I had lured the members to one of Perth's 'shadier haunts', and from there we explored Whitefriars. By the end of the evening I was surprised and pleased to gather 94 records of a mix of native and introduced species. The breakdown was; alien (1), archaeophyte (5), native (76) and neophyte (12).

The term 'alien' is used for an introduced species, and I use this specifically for plants not native to Scotland, but which are native elsewhere in Britain. *Meconopsis cambrica* (Welsh Poppy) is widespread in Perthshire, but our plants are not from Wales; research has shown they are derived from populations in the Pyrenees. The *Flora of Perthshire* (1898) gives Dollar Glen as the only known site, where it was an introduction. Not only widespread in Perthshire, the species is now far commoner as an alien outside its native range in Britain.

An archaeophyte is a plant introduced to Britain before 1500, which include weeds as seed contaminants brought in by our farming ancestors, food plants brought by the Romans and medicinal herbs introduced by early medieval apothecaries. Our plants included *Anchusa arvensis* (Bugloss), *Artemisia vulgaris* (Mugwort), *Myosotis arvensis* (Field Forget-me-not), *Sisymbrium officinale* (Hedge Mustard) and *Malva sylvestris* (Common Mallow). The latter is the most interesting record; common throughout all but upland England, Common Mallow is largely coastal in its distribution in Scotland, and commoner in the east. The *Flora* describes the species as widespread in lowland Perthshire at least, but now it is not a common plant in Perthshire.

Archaeophytes found today in Perth may be derived from older origins or may be recent introductions. There are several accounts of archaeophytes from excavations of medieval sites in Perth. Whether populations of some of these plants might have persisted since their original introduction is an interesting speculation.

'Native' is used to describe a species within its natural range which arrived unassisted by human means between the end of the last Ice Age and before 1500. Our collection included

natives which might be regarded as weed species of disturbed soils, including *Cerastium glomeratum* (Sticky Mouse-ear), thistles (*Cirsium* spp.), *Gnaphalium uliginosum* (Marsh Cudweed), *Persicaria maculosa* (Redshank) and *Poa annua* (Annual Meadow-grass). Apart from ‘weeds’, more interesting natives were found, including; *Trifolium campestre* (Hop Trefoil) *Epilobium hirsutum* (Great Willowherb), *Hypericum hirsutum* (Hairy St John’s-wort), the colourful *Linaria vulgaris* (Common Toadflax), the striking *Verbascum thapsus* (Great Mullein) and the small and very fine *Sagina apetala* subsp. *apetala* (Annual Pearlwort).

Erodium cicutarium (Common Stork’s-bill) occurs annually at this locality, *Juncus effusus* (Soft-rush) has the makings of a more established plant community, *Solanum dulcamara* (Bittersweet) occurs naturally in wet margins, but it is common in disturbed ground in the centre of Perth and is often white-flowered. *Senecio sylvaticus* (Heath Groundsel) was present, and *S. jacobaea* (Common Ragwort). The first can be overlooked, but in comparison to its commoner relative, it is taller, erect, glandular with a distinctive smell and has many small flowers in terminal corymbs.

Both *Betula pendula* (Silver Birch) and *B. pubescens* (Downy Birch) were present and were separated and identified using a technique called the Atkinson discriminant function. This works on leaf characters and can be made 95.7% reliable (Wang, N. *et al.* 2014. Is the Atkinson discriminant function a reliable method for distinguishing between *Betula pendula* and *B. pubescens* (Betulaceae)? *New Journal of Botany*, 4: 90-94). There are many intermediate forms between the two species, which are not necessarily hybrids, and I recommend this technique over the use of keys or physical appearance.

Lactuca virosa (Great Lettuce) has been present on Kinnoull Hill for over 100 years, and this species has spread to motorway cuttings and now the centre of Perth. Reaching over 2 metres when flowering, this plant has a stout, spiny stem, bluish-green leaves which are strongly toothed – the sap contains a sticky, white latex – and many composite-type flowers are produced, which have yellow ligules. I find our plants are biennials.

To complete our list I will finish on neophytes: introductions from 1500 onwards. Our list included: *Matricaria discoidea* (Pineappleweed), first recorded in Britain in 1871 and now very widespread; *Senecio viscosus* (Sticky Groundsel), recorded in the *Flora of Perthshire* as “a more or less recent introduction”; *Solidago canadensis* (Canadian Goldenrod), one of Perth’s most familiar neophytes, but recorded only “near Dupplin” in the *Flora*; *Conyza canadensis* (Canadian Fleabane), recorded in the *Flora* as “a rare casual at Perth Harbour”, but it has spread recently in the centre of Perth; and *Geranium pyrenaicum* (Hedgerow Crane’s-bill), described in the *Flora* as on “roadsides about Perth and elsewhere, not common”.

Alistair Godfrey

10. Loch Shandra, Glen Isla

Wednesday, 27th August

Over the years the hill lochs above Glen Isla have been found to support healthy populations of aquatic plants. Equipped with a selection of grapnels, including some ingenious devices using kitchen utensils, and copies of *British Water Plants* by Haslam, Sinker & Wolseley, the small group of five set off along the forest track from West Freuchie to Loch Shandra. The weather was unseasonably cool and a chill breeze was blowing across the loch.

Much of the material fished out of the loch was past its best and good specimens were few. Those plants that could be identified included *Potamogeton gramineus* (Various-leaved Pondweed), *P. alpinus* (Red Pondweed), *P. praelongus* (Long-stalked Pondweed), *P. obtusifolius* (Blunt-leaved Pondweed), *P. berchtoldii* (Small Pondweed), *P. natans* (Broad-

leaved Pondweed) and *P. polygonifolius* (Bog Pondweed). Rather more awkward to determine conclusively were some hybrids – the most likely being *Potamogeton x griffithii* (*P. alpinus* x *P. praelongus*). Also present was *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* (Alternate Water-milfoil).

On reflection this was probably a good selection as an introduction to pondweeds.

Barbara Hogarth

11. Loch Leven

Wednesday, 3rd September

The evening saw half-a-dozen of us gather at Findatie beside Loch Leven. We were mainly looking for *Ranunculus x levenensis* (Loch Leven Spearwort) and *Baldellia ranunculoides* (Lesser Water-plantain). We found both at the Loch's edge, very small plants and easily missed.

R. x levenensis is a hybrid, *R. flammula* x *R. reptans* exhibiting smaller flowers and rooting at most nodes, ridged achenes and leaves larger than *reptans* (now considered extinct except for a few non-persistent reintroductions by geese (Stace 2010)).

Baldellia is extinct in Fife, and this is the only site in VC85, which is in Kinross. Again, a very small plant. Nearby these plants were a few good clumps of *Eleocharis acicularis* (Needle Spike-rush), locally common in a few sites in VC85.

In the marsh above the shore was a good display of *Sagina nodosa* (Knotted Pearlwort) along with some *Dactylorhiza maculata* (Heath Spotted-orchid), *Succisa pratensis* (Devil's-bit Scabious), *Parnassia palustris* (Grass-of-Parnassus), *Pinguicula vulgaris* (Butterwort) and *Menyanthes trifoliata* (Bogbean).

Sandy Edwards

12. Pitmedden Forest fungal foray

Saturday, 20th September

Six of us gathered at the bottom of the forest in Sawmill Wood and we took a circular tour from there to explore different habitats. We were extremely lucky to have the assistance of Tony Wilson to identify what we found. A list of the fungi we found follows, with the habitats within which they were growing.

Scientific name	Common name	Habitat
<i>Aleuria aurantia</i>	Orange Peel Fungus	Opening in plantation of <i>Picea sitchensis</i> (Sitka Spruce).
<i>Armillaria mellea</i>	Honey Fungus	Edge of track near entrance off public road.
<i>Bisporella citrina</i>	Lemon Disco	Dead bole in plantation of <i>Picea sitchensis</i> (Sitka Spruce).
<i>Bjerkandera fumosa</i>	Big Smoky Bracket	Under <i>Picea abies</i> (Norway Spruce).
<i>Bolbitius vitellinus</i>	Yellow Fieldcap	On verge beside forest track in grass.
<i>Calocera viscosa</i>	Yellow Stagshorn	On verge beside forest track.
<i>Clavulinopsis fusiformis</i>	Golden Spindles	Deadwood in plantation of <i>Picea sitchensis</i> (Sitka Spruce).
<i>Collybia butyracea</i>	Butter Cap	Under <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (Beech).
<i>Coprinus micaceus</i>	Glistening Inkcap	Grassland.
<i>Cystoderma amianthinum</i>	Earthy Powdercap	Grassland under Larch (probably <i>Larix x marschlinsii</i> .)
<i>Dacrymyces stillatus</i>	Common Jellyspot	On deadwood of <i>Picea sitchensis</i> (Sitka Spruce).
<i>Fomes fomentarius</i>	Hoof Fungus / Tinder Bracket	Dead bole of <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (Beech).
<i>Gymnopilus penetrans</i>	Common Rustgill	In plantation of <i>Picea sitchensis</i> (Sitka Spruce).
<i>Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca</i>	False Chanterelle	Under <i>Larix</i> sp. (Larch) at edge of plantation.
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tuft	Under <i>Picea abies</i> (Norway Spruce).
<i>Hypholoma marginatum</i>	Snakeskin Brownie	Under tree canopies.
<i>Inocybe geophylla</i>	White Fibrecap	Under <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (Beech).

Scientific name	Common name	Habitat
<i>Laccaria amethystina</i>	Amethyst Deceiver	Under <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (Beech).
<i>Laccaria laccata</i>	Deceiver	Edge of field.
<i>Lactarius vietus</i>	Grey Milkcap	Grass verge of forest track.
<i>Lactarius blennius</i>	Beech Milkcap	Under <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (Beech).
<i>Leotia lubrica</i>	Jellybaby	Under <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (Beech).
<i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i>	Common Puffball	Under <i>Picea abies</i> (Norway Spruce).
<i>Marasmius androsaceus</i>	Horsehair Parachute	Grass bank beside forest track.
<i>Mycena epipterygia</i>	Yellowleg Bonnet	Grassland under Larch (probably <i>Larix x marschlinii</i> .)
<i>Mycena pura</i>	Lilac Bonnet	Under <i>Picea abies</i> (Norway Spruce).
<i>Mycena stipitata</i>	Stump Fairy Helmet	On dead bole of <i>Picea sitchensis</i> (Sitka Spruce).
<i>Otidea onotica</i>	Hare's Ear	Under <i>Picea abies</i> (Norway Spruce).
<i>Paxillus atrotomentosus</i> (syn. <i>Tapinella atrotomentosa</i>)	Velvet Rollrim	In plantation of <i>Picea sitchensis</i> (Sitka Spruce).
<i>Piptoporus betulinus</i>	Birch Polypore / Razorstrop	Dead <i>Betula</i> sp. (Birch)
<i>Postia caesia</i>	Conifer Blueing Bracket	On deadwood of <i>Picea sitchensis</i> (Sitka Spruce).
<i>Rhytisma acerinum</i>	Sycamore Tarspot	On <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> (Sycamore).
<i>Russula cyanoxantha</i>	Charcoal Burner	Under <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (Beech).
<i>Russula mairei</i> (syn. <i>nobilis</i>)	Beechwood Sickener	Under <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (Beech).
<i>Russula ochroleuca</i>	Ochre Brittlegill	In plantation of <i>Picea sitchensis</i> (Sitka Spruce).
<i>Suillus grevillei</i> var. <i>badius</i>	Larch Bolete	Grassland under Larch (probably <i>Larix x marschlinii</i> .)
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkeytail	Deadwood in plantation of <i>Picea sitchensis</i> (Sitka Spruce).
<i>Tricholomopsis rutilans</i>	Plums and Custard	In plantation of <i>Picea sitchensis</i> (Sitka Spruce).
<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>	Candlesnuff Fungus	Dead log of <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Ash).

Alistair Godfrey

BSBI Annual Summer Meeting 2014

The BSBI Annual Summer Meeting came to Scotland for the first time in 2014. This was a three-day meeting: a conference day at the Birnam Arts Centre on 5 June, followed by two days of field excursions to the surrounding area. It was hosted by members of the BSBI Scottish Committee, local vice-county recorders and the PSNS Botanical Section.

Proceedings began on the evening of 4 June, after dinner in the beautiful Grand Hall at the Birnam Hotel, with a wonderful introduction to the *Flora, Fauna and Landscape of Perthshire* by the renowned photographer Lorne Gill. The next day of talks and socialising was in the Arts Centre. Robin Payne, chair of the Scottish Committee, welcomed around 80 of us, there followed a talk from BSBI President, Ian Denholm on the newly-formed Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, and the last-ever AGM of the Botanical Society of the British Isles. Jim McIntosh, BSBI Scottish Officer, then told us about plans for the new Atlas 2020. After morning coffee we had two fascinating talks, *Analysing upland vegetation change using botanical plot records from the 1950s* by Dr Louise Ross of James Hutton Institute & Ilex Ecological Services, and *30 Years of monitoring rare plants on Ben Lawers* by Dan Watson, NTS Ecologist. After lunch, vice-county recorders, Alistair Godfrey (VC88 Mid Perth) talked about *The history of recording in Perthshire*, followed by Martin Robinson (VC89 East Perth) and Jim McIntosh about *The rare plants of Perthshire*. The final talks of the day were about trees; Tom Christian from RBGE told us about *iCONic – The International Conifer Conservation Project*, and Syd House from the Forestry Commission gave an excellent illustrated talk on *Perthshire – Big Tree Country*. The day ended with a Question and Answer session.

There followed two days of excursions in glorious June sunshine for most of the time. These were led by local botanists and vice-county recorders. On Friday 6 June members were taken to Ballinluig shingle islands, Ben Vrackie, iCONic tour of Perthshire Big Tree Country around Dunkeld, the Birks of Aberfeldy, Killiecrankie, Lady Mary's Walk in Crieff, Blairgowrie Lochs, and to see lowland willows. On 7 June members visited Ballinluig Island, Ben Vrackie, Stormont Loch, the Birks of Aberfeldy, Keltneyburn and Schiehallion Limestone, Straloch Moraines and Loch Moraig, Loch Leven, and looked at montane willows. Excursion leaders were Martin Robinson, Theo Loizou, Robin Payne, Les Tucker, Alistair Godfrey, Nick Stewart, Tom Christian, Jim McIntosh, Sandy Edwards, Jane Jones and Liz Lavery. Reports by members who took part in some of these excursions are given below.

BSBI Annual Summer Meeting: Lady Mary's Walk, Crieff Friday, 6th June

Liz Lavery and Jane Jones led a small group to Lady Mary's Walk, Crieff, on a lovely sunny day. The weather held good and there were many interesting plants to be seen on an easy stroll. This pleasant, well maintained woodland path along the rivers Turret and Earn is lined with a variety of deciduous trees such as *Fagus sylvatica* (Beech), *Quercus robur* (Oak), *Ulmus glabra* (Wych Elm), *Alnus glutinosa* (Alder), *Fraxinus excelsior* (Ash), *Sorbus aucuparia* (Rowan) and unusually a few magnificent *Castanea sativa* (Sweet Chestnut).

It provides a rich and varied ground flora, mostly native but with some rarities and garden escapes. *Asperula taurina* (Pink Woodruff) is known from the district but was new to all of us present; finding *Tellima grandiflora* (Fringecups) and *Tolmiea menziesii* (Pick-a-back Plant) surprised us all; *Euphorbia dulcis* (Sweet Spurge) was a special find, noted thanks to sharp eyes. Grasses were abundant, notably *Deschampsia cespitosa* (Tufted Hair-grass) and *D. flexuosa* (Wavy Hair-grass). Gardeners amongst us groaned at the sight of *Fallopia japonica* (Japanese knotweed) and *Aegopodium podagraria* (Ground-elder), thankfully in very small quantity.

Stellaria nemorum (Wood Stitchwort), *Stellaria media* (Common Chickweed), *Stellaria graminea* (Lesser Stitchwort) and *Stellaria holostea* (Greater Stitchwort) exercised our knowledge of crucial differences between the Stitchworts, although as a group we lacked the special expertise needed to name the Hieracia species abundant at one point. *Neottia nidus-avis* (Bird's-nest orchid) by the side of the path was an unexpected and welcome delight, just before we made our way back.

Anne Pankhurst

BSBI Annual Summer Meeting: Killiecrankie Friday, 6th June

Martin Robinson led a group starting from the National Trust for Scotland Visitor Centre into the Pass of Killiecrankie. Initial progress was slow owing to the rich variety of plants encountered, including *Pyrola minor* (Lesser Wintergreen). We were shown a single plant of *Phyteuma spicatum* (Spiked Rampion) by the NTS ranger at the Soldier's Leap viewpoint. This is so peculiar a find that there was a good deal of speculation about its origin.

Lower down just above the river there was more Wintergreen together with the naturalised *Valeriana pyrenaica* (Pyrenean Valerian) and a very nice population of *Neottia nidus-avis* (Bird's-nest Orchid). This was in full flower with about 9 spikes and 4 old seed heads from last year.

After lunch we followed the road up through woodland to Tenandry church. Here we re-entered the woodland and immediately came across *Equisetum pratense* (Shade Horsetail). As we climbed slowly up we came across a small population of *Pyrola media* (Intermediate Wintergreen) although again the flowers were not quite open. Farther along a population of

the elegant *Melica nutans* (Mountain Melick) could be compared to the Wood Melick (*M. uniflora*) seen in the morning.

The walk emerged into pasture where *Persicaria vivipara* (Alpine Bistort), though common in the area, was in full flower and worth photographing, which delayed some in the party. During the day, well over 150 species were recorded

Chris Miles

BSBI Annual Summer Meeting: Ben Vrackie

Saturday, 7th June

After stopping briefly to look at the well-established *Ribes alpinum* (Alpine Currant) just above the car-park the threat of rain influenced us into taking the straight route to the well-known area of the crags, pausing en route mainly to admire *Schoenus ferrugineus* (Brown Bog-rush) and *Tofieldia pusilla* (Scottish Asphodel) in flushes beside the path. Once we reached the main crags we could see that we had caught the *Oxytropis halleri* (Purple Oxytropis) just right, as its floral show was magnificent. The *Astragalus alpinus* (Alpine Milk-vetch) flowers a little bit later, but there was at least one plant fully in flower for everyone to see. *Cerastium alpinum* (Alpine Mouse-ear) and *Botrychium lunaria* (Moonwort) were enjoyed in the same area before we headed back down.

On the way back down we explored the mire below the dam, where the more acidic conditions were better suited to bog plants. A large colony of *Dactylorhiza maculata* ssp. *ericetorum* (Heath Spotted-orchid) was in flower there. To the south of the dam the path crosses a hill where there were fine specimens of *Arabis hirsuta* (Hairy Rock-cress) in a gully, and large colonies of *Lycopodium annotinum* (Interrupted Club-moss) and *Neottia cordata* (Lesser Twayblade) in the heather below. Only one flowering-spike of the latter was found however. The final port of call was to see *Equisetum pratense* (Shade Horsetail) extending up the sides of a small burn above the path, and then we got back to the cars just as the promised rain was starting to arrive.

Martin Robinson

BSBI Annual Summer Meeting: Loch Leven

Saturday, 7th June

On Saturday at Loch Leven we were very pleased to have the expert help of Steve Longster from Scottish Natural Heritage. The party met in sunshine at Findatie car park – but with the threat of ‘rain later’. Soon however we were heading for the loch side and an interesting marsh and bog, picking up a few sedges and other water-loving plants en route.

The marsh itself was lovely with *Dactylorhiza incarnata* (Early Marsh-orchid), *Parnassia palustris* (Grass-of-Parnassus), *Pinguicula vulgaris* (Common Butterwort), *Drosera rotundifolia* (Round-leaved Sundew) and *Carex dioica* (Dioecious Sedge). There was a good amount of *Menyanthes trifoliata* (Bogbean) among the vegetation: like the Primrose it is heterostylous and we were able to see both types of flower.

We had lunch in the last of the sunshine and then moved on to another marsh at the east end of the loch, Leven Mouth Pools. Here was *Hierochloa odorata* (Holy-grass) and a rather attenuated rush, *Juncus filiformis* (Thread Rush), new to me. Also *Apium inundatum* (Lesser Marshwort), *Lythrum portula* (Water Purslane) and both Bottle and Bladder Sedge, *Carex rostrata* (Bottle Sedge) and *C. vesicaria* (Bladder Sedge). The latter was in deeper water amidst *Typha latifolia* (Bulrush), and Luke Gaskell somehow managed to reach it without getting water in his wellies.

Soon we were all getting wet however as the promised rain arrived. We were able to dry out a bit over a cup of tea at Findatie before heading for home after a very good day to end the meeting, thanks to Liz Lavery.

Jackie Muscott

BSBI Annual Summer Meeting: Riparian willows

Friday, 6th June

Before going out into the wild, our leader Les Tucker tutored us in Willow ‘jizz’ recognition, using a selection of potted species brought from his collection, and referring to A4 summary notes. Among the more memorable tips were: noting the spherical glands at the leaf-base of sub-genus *Salix*, *Ss. euxina*, *alba*, *pentandra* (Crack, White and Bay Willows), etc., which distinguish them from the similarly long-leaved riparian *Caprisalix*, *Ss. purpurea* and *viminalis* (Purple Willow & Osier); considering the damage-blackening characteristic of *Ss. alba*, *purpurea*, *myrsinifolia*, *repens* (White, Purple, Dark-leaved & Creeping Willows), etc., which usually develops slowly in pressed leaves, but can be accelerated impressively by freezing (requiring refrigerator or verruca treatment field kit). Habitat, angle of branching, under-bark striation, colour, pubescence, taste, and herbivore preferences (from beetles to beavers) were also considered.

We then drove off to apply our expertise to a mixed riparian colony of wild, self-propagated, lowland Willows on shingle banks of the Tay at Bloody Inches. Here we also debated opportunities for sub-specific recording; considering more-or-less distinct examples of *S. cinerea* ssp. *cinerea* and *oleifolia* (Grey and Rusty Sallows). With blue skies and sunshine all day, conditions were ideal for studying details of leaf indumentum, wood striation, etc.

For a drier habitat, we next moved to Blairgowrie. At the site of a demolished stone and lime-mortar mill, *S. caprea* (Goat Willow) seedling variation was debated: subsp. *sphacelata* designation seemed appropriate.

Emboldened by our familiarity with species, we were now tempted to analyse hybrid candidates. First we considered *S. ×reichardtii*, including ‘ergastofigophytes’: pendulous character introduced to the wild population by bee-borne pollen from nearby garden cultivars of ‘Kilmarnock’ Willow; then moved to a nearby floodbank of the Ericht with many more *Ss. purpurea* and *viminalis*, to find their hybrid *S. ×rubra*.

Linda Robinson & Leslie Tucker

BSBI Annual Summer Meeting: Montane willows

Saturday, 7th June

With storm clouds approaching from the west, our party all piled into the car of Alistair Godfrey (VC88 Recorder) and hastened to Ben Lawers. Some distinctive features of montane Willow species had been shown us the day before on Les’s pot plants. We were particularly directed to note the leaf-upperside stomata of *Ss. arbuscula* and *myrsinites* (Little Tree, or Mountain, and Whortle-leaved Willows), which are absent in other commoner taxa which can appear confusingly similar when growing at higher altitude in stunted states.

We made a couple of brief stops on the road up, on the west side of the mountain, to note vigorous tree scrub developing inside fences erected under NTS management to exclude the hefted sheep which graziers’ rights maintain elsewhere: notably *S. aurita* var. *minor* (Eared Willow, small variety) over 2 m, compared with a few barely one-tenth of that size outside.

S. caprea subsp. *sphacelata* (Goat Willow, Highland form) seedlings are now also flourishing within the exclosures and should eventually reach tree size, but we encountered none on our transect across the adjacent permanent pastures.

From the top end of Lochan na Lairige we traversed the east side slopes, along a line of rich flushes with lots of flowering *S. arbuscula*, male and female. David Mardon, having observed Scandinavian populations of the type, considers that this has evolved here as a prostrate genotype (subspecies *prostrata*?); evident in the garden propagate displayed.

When we reached the crags above we got our first sightings of *Ss. reticulata*, *herbacea* and *laponum* (Net-leaved, Dwarf and Downy Willows); also flowering, but not in such quantity as the first two species. Whilst Alistair and Linda trawled along the base, Les and Ian scrambled to the top, where Les collected a sample, for further propagation and study, of a small willow which looked intermediate between *Ss. arbuscula* and *reticulata*. This hybrid (*S. ×ganderi*) has been found once before, according to Stace, in Mid Perth in 1938. We retreated from this high point mid-afternoon, reaching the car just as forecast rain began.

Linda Robinson & Leslie Tucker

Writing a new *Flora of Perthshire*

The *Flora of Perthshire* was published in 1898, the summation of three decades of collecting, identifying and studying the Perthshire flora by Francis Buchanan White and others. White qualified in medicine, but never practiced, preferring instead to pursue his interests and talents in studying entomology and botany. Based in Perth, he was assisted in the collecting of records by other botanists from Perthshire, including Maurice Drummond-Hay of Seggieden, Charles McIntosh of Inver, and William Barclay, a teacher in Perth.

Before the advent of suitable photography for photographing plants, specimens were taken and pressed for preservation by the collectors or for exchange with other botanists. Perthshire was no exception, and collecting by a number of botanists contributed to a herbarium, which is now kept and maintained by Perth Museum and is recognised to be of national and international importance.

Buchanan White had a keen interest in willows, as other Perthshire botanists had, and there are many herbarium sheets of willows in Perth Museum. Buchanan White remains the author of several willow hybrids; his name is the authority in the format used by international taxonomy and appears where the species is given in full; e.g. *Salix aurita* × *herbacea* = *S. ×margarita* F.B. White. This is a cross between Eared Willow and Dwarf Willow, which is found on Perthshire's mountains. Margaret was Buchanan White's wife.

Buchanan White also received records of plants from other Scottish and visiting English botanists such as Edward Shearburn Marshall and Edward Francis Linton, whom Buchanan White sometimes accompanied on field trips. Buchanan White also maintained correspondence with botanists who were specialists in their field to assist in identifying specimens or providing records of critical groups, such as Hawkweeds (*Hieracia* agg.). These authorities included Charles Cardale Babington and Frederick Janson Hanbury, co-author of the *Flora of Kent* with E.S. Marshall and also a Director and Chairman of the firm of Allen and Hanbury, famous for its glycerine and blackcurrant pastilles. The *Flora of Kent* was published one year after the *Flora of Perthshire*.

Buchanan White also provided records from botanical literature, including those by the authors of the first two Scottish Floras, John Lightfoot and William Jackson Hooker.



Francis Buchanan White

Unfortunately, Buchanan White did not live to see the publication of the *Flora of Perthshire*, which was completed by James W.H. Trail, Professor of Botany at Aberdeen University, but the *Flora* was published in Buchanan White's name.

There have been many changes affecting the Perthshire flora since 1898 and there is also a better understanding of the taxonomy and distribution of species. There has been an aspiration to write a new Flora for Perthshire since the publication by PSNS of the *Checklist of the plants of Perthshire* in 1992. Another milestone in the recording of plants in Perthshire was the contribution PSNS members made to the *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora*, published by the Botanical Society of the British Isles in 2002. This Atlas includes all records held in the BSBI's database up to 1999. The BSBI is currently working on an updated Atlas to add all of the records from 2000 to 2020. Work for the new Atlas can be combined with the writing of the new Flora, which provides a greater benefit for the coverage required.

The PSNS Botanical Section excursions allow those attending to contribute records to the new Atlas and the new Flora. During excursions, the vice-county recorder makes a record of the species seen and submits them to the BSBI, which are added to its database and mapping. The excursion programme for 2015 includes a new offering for members, which is a series aimed to improve identification of plants through training so that members can be confident in identifying what they see, and be able to contribute more records to the new Atlas and the new Flora. These identification sessions will be monthly from April to September and will cover woodland plants, calcareous grassland and heath, mires and sedges, montane plants and ferns. These sessions are aimed very much at new members who are interested in becoming more familiar with our flora.

Alistair Godfrey

What do fungi mean to you?

There is currently no group covering an interest in fungi in Perthshire, or the wider Tayside area. The Botanical Section has run an annual fungal foray, and we have been lucky most of the time to have someone who can identify them. However, this comes down to one person, and developing an interest among members within the Section would provide an opportunity for more fungal forays and the ability to learn more about fungi.

Historically, PSNS members had a great deal of interest in fungi. Francis Buchanan White, one of the founding members of our Society, was also one of the founder members of the Cryptogamic Society of Scotland and acted as its Secretary. Cryptogams are a group which do not produce seeds, and include fungi, lichens, mosses and algae. As the members of this group became better understood, fungi were discovered not to be plants at all, and more closely related to animals, but fungi have remained within the botanist's area of interest.

Charles McIntosh from Inver was an extremely capable mycologist. He was also a member of the Cryptogamic Society of Scotland and exhibited his specimens at Perth in 1875 and Dunkeld in 1877. He discovered 13 species new to Britain and four new to science. Many of his specimens now lie in Perth Museum, and he also donated the watercolours of fungi a young Beatrix Potter had given him. They studied fungi together during Beatrix's holidays in Perthshire.

At a recent meeting of the Tayside Recorders, Roy Watling encouraged members of the audience to form a Tayside fungi group. Jim Cook is keen to set up a group with others from Dundee and there is likely to be a meeting to set up a group. If anyone is keen to come to this meeting would they please let me know.

One of our nearest fungi groups is the Grampian Fungus Group: <https://sites.google.com/site/scottishfungi/local-groups/grampian-fungus-group>. The group is led by Liz Holden, who gave us a talk on fungi in January 2013. The group publishes a

newsletter once a year runs a variety of workshops and forays, mostly in the late summer and autumn, and some of these are held in Perthshire. Subscription to the group is only £5 a year and I have joined! Why not think about joining too?

Alistair Godfrey

Some interesting things in VC89

One of the reasons I so much enjoy recording around my home area is that, in seemingly ordinary places that you thought you knew, you come across unusual plants, strange aliens and odd juxtapositions that give you surprises. Here are some of those surprises from VC89 (East Perthshire) – or perhaps just an excuse to show some nice pictures!

At Tulliemet, I found myself in a rather rough-looking field that was apparently being grazed by cattle, but at some point must have been graced with a ‘wildflower mix’. Among the expected natives of such a field was the otherwise unlikely *Chrysanthemum segetum* (Corn Marigold), for example. And there was also a very striking plant that I had never seen before, even in a wildflower mix: *Trifolium incarnatum* (Crimson Clover) – see pic 1.

Not surprising in itself, but rather surprising in its abundance, up on the Whins of Fordie at Stenton, on fairly open ground, *Trientalis europaea* (Chickweed Wintergreen) was thick underfoot for a spread of about half an acre – see pic 2.

Near Spittalfield I investigated the grounds of Delvine House, where many relics of long-gone gardens could be seen half-choked by stronger natives, including a magnificent *Hemerocallis* (Day Lily) species – see pic 3.

The tetrad NO12G containing Kinnoull Hill, banks of the Tay, and plenty of the streets of Perth was, of course, wonderfully rich. By the railway there was a plant I couldn’t identify that might have been a *Linaria* (Toadflax) – but might not... And an odd-looking *Vicia* (Vetch) which may, after all, just have been a colour variation. Precise identification of these will have to wait for next year when I can show them to someone more expert. However, a track leading up off the old A90 road near the Friarton interchange had several nice species which were happily within my competence to identify: the sides of the track were liberally lined with various species favouring gravelly ground, including several *Veronicas* (Speedwells), plus the delightful *Anagallis arvensis* (Scarlet Pimpernel) and *Sherardia arvensis* (Field Madder) – see pic 4 .

Faith Anstey

Local Nature Conservation Sites Review

A review of Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) is taking place in the Inner Forth. LNCS were first identified by SWT (Scottish Wildlife Trust) in a Scotland-wide survey between 1995 and 2001/02. Many of these sites were proposed and adopted but no further action has been taken. In 2014 Stirling Council received funding from IFLI (Inner Forth Landscape Initiative) www.innerforthlandscape.co.uk and the Forth Coastal Project for a one-year post to review LNCS. The LNCS officer is Laura Kubasiewicz kubasiewicz@stirling.gov.uk. Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils have agreed to take LNCS into account in their planning decisions. A review of LNCS sites is one of Clackmannanshire’s actions in their LBAP (Local Biodiversity Action Plan).

The data collected for Clackmannanshire and Stirlingshire sites are now available electronically after scanning the stored paper files. There is a wealth of information in these files and many useful species records, most of which have never been sent to BSBI vice-county recorders or the NBN Gateway. SWT has boxes of paper files for many other LNCS in Scotland, including vice-counties VC88 Mid Perth, VC89 East Perth and VC85 Fife.

Laura is reassessing the sites in Clackmannanshire and Stirlingshire within the IFLI area to see if they still qualify as LNCS. In consultation with TWIC (The Wildlife Information Centre for the Lothians and Borders) she is developing a rapid-assessment method which can be applied to all sites; scoring is based on the flora and habitats present.

Liz Lavery

More publications appear online

The Botanics, the newsletter of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, has announced recent developments in the Botanic Garden's library and archives, with an important aim of increasing the amount of content that can be accessed via the internet. The library has purchased two scanners for digitising parts of the collection, and amongst the first books to be scanned are Francis Buchanan White's *Flora of Perthshire* (1898), William Gardiner's *Flora of Angus* (1848) and several other Scottish floras, all now available as fully searchable scans on the Internet Archive <https://archive.org/details/royalbotanicgardenedinburgh>, with links from RBGE's online library catalogue www.rbge.org.uk/databases/library-catalogue.

Wildflower Workshops: Identifying Wildflower Families

Several members of the Botanical Section committee are involved in running these one-day workshops, now into their third year under the auspices of the BSBI and Plantlife. The workshops are suitable for anyone interested in wild flowers, from beginners onwards, and they give a thorough grounding in identifying plants via the families they belong to.

In the classroom, we cover what plant features to look at and explain some technical terms. We then study the characteristics of different common families and also learn how to use keys – starting with very easy examples! In the afternoon we go out into the field to put these skills to practical use in identification, all with the help of a group tutor.

There are two workshops in 2015, on Saturday 2 May in Inverness, and on Sunday 10 May at St Andrews Botanic Garden. Each workshop will offer a half-day field meeting on the following day, specially for course members, and there may also be further field meetings later in the season. All this is included in the cost of £20, or £15 for full-time students.

Members of the PSNS are especially welcome, and further details can be had from Faith Anstey: faithanstey@gmail.com.

Section Bulletin

Contributions of a botanical nature (even short snippets) are welcome for the Bulletin – preferably by email, but any format accepted. They can be submitted at any time during the year, but material that arrives too shortly before the Section AGM when the Bulletin is issued may be held over to the next year's issue – so the earlier, the better!

Bulletin Editor: Colin R. McLeod
Colin.McLeod@SNH.gov.uk

Photos

Arum italicum (Italian Arum),
Wemyss Castle, 12 April 2014
© Sandy Edwards.



Hammarbya paludosa (Bog Orchid),
West Highland Way, Glen
Falloch, 12 July 2014
© Sarah Longrigg.



Hammarbya paludosa (Bog Orchid) site, West Highland Way, Glen Falloch, 12 July 2014
© Sarah Longrigg.



Examining roses at Abernethy, 9 August 2014
© Martin Robinson.



Lactuca virosa (Great Lettuce), Whitefriars, Perth, 20 August 2014
© Alistair Godfrey.



Geranium pyrenaicum (Hedgerow Crane's-bill), Inveralmond, Perth, 9 June 2014
© Alistair Godfrey.



Examining water plants at Loch Shandra, Glen Isla, 27 August 2014
© Sandy Edwards.



Ranunculus x levenensis (Loch Leven Spearwort), Findatie, Loch Leven, 3 September 2014
© Sandy Edwards.



Baldellia ranunculoides (Lesser Water-plantain), Findatie, Loch Leven, 3 September 2014
© Sandy Edwards.



Postia caesia (Conifer Blueing Bracket), Pitmedden Forest,
20 September 2014
© David Merrie.



Calocera viscosa (Yellow Stagshorn),
Pitmedden Forest, 20 September 2014
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BSBI Annual Summer Meeting: Lady Mary's Walk,
Crieff, 6 June 2014
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BSBI Annual Summer Meeting: Ros, Gordon and Joanna,
Lady Mary's Walk, Crieff, 6 June 2014
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BSBI Annual Summer Meeting: *Neottia nidus-avis* (Bird's-nest Orchid), Lady Mary's Walk, Crieff, 6 June 2014
© Liz Lavery.



BSBI Annual Summer Meeting: *Euphorbia dulcis* (Sweet Spurge), Lady Mary's Walk, Crieff, 6 June 2014
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BSBI Annual Summer Meeting: Findatie, Loch Leven, 7 June 2014
© Liz Lavery.



BSBI Annual Summer Meeting: Tripping over Early Marsh-orchids (*Dactylorhiza incarnata*), Findatie, Loch Leven, 7 June 2014
© Liz Lavery.



BSBI Annual Summer Meeting: Examining riparian willows, 6 June 2014
© Les Tucker.



BSBI Annual Summer Meeting: Examining montane willows, Ben Lawers, 7 June 2014
© Les Tucker.



1) *Trifolium incarnatum* (Crimson Clover),
Tulliemet
© Faith Anstey.



2) *Trientalis europaea* (Chickweed Wintergreen),
Whins of Fordie, Stenton
© Faith Anstey.



3) *Hemerocallis* sp. (Day Lily),
Delvine, Spittalfield
© Faith Anstey.



4) *Anagallis arvensis* (Scarlet Pimpernel),
near West Kinfauns, Perth
© Faith Anstey.



Leccinum versipelle (Orange Birch Bolete), Cairnie Wood, Dupplin, 22 October 2006
© Alistair Godfrey.



BSBI/Plantlife Wildflower Workshop, Holyrood Park, Edinburgh, 18 May 2014
© Jim McIntosh.



Rainbow, Glen Tilt, 16 August 2014
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