

BRITISH BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 228851

Details

Other names B B S

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1966-04-12

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 19 Abbots Grove
Peterborough
PE4 5BP

Phone 01733284376

Email secretary@britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk

Website <http://www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk>

Activities

Objects: (A) TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE ALL BRANCHES OF BRYOLOGY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND ESPECIALLY IN RELATION TO BRYOPHYTES OF THE BRITISH ISLES;(B)TO FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AMONG BRYOLOGISTS BY ORGANISING FIELD MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, LECTURES AND EXHIBITIONS, PUBLISHING THE RESULTS OF BRYOLOGICAL STUDY AND RESEARCH, MAINTAINING A LIBRARY, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE MEANS;(C) TO PROMOTE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE THE CONSERVATION OF BRYOPHYTES.

Activities: The Society supports and promotes the study of bryology by organising field meetings and training workshops, by publishing a journal, bulletin, and occasional publications - including a Field Guide and a Bryophyte Atlas for Britain and Ireland, highly regarded by amateurs and professionals alike. Other facilities include an informative web site to assist both experienced and new bryologists.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NATIONAL.
- Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£79,092	£81,891	-	-
2023-12-31	£72,030	£56,883	-	-
2022-12-31	£78,287	£50,199	-	-
2021-12-31	£70,193	£70,581	-	-
2020-12-31	£54,477	£42,929	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Branson	Chair	2022-01-01
Claire Halpin		2020-01-01
DR K J ADAMS		
David Jeffrey Scott		2019-01-01
David William Adamson		2024-01-01
Dr CHRISTOPHER David PRESTON		2019-01-01
Dr Joanne Denyer		2025-01-01
Dr Neil Elliot Bell		2024-01-01
Dr O L Pescott		2014-01-05
Dr Rory Iwan Llewelyn Hodd		2023-01-01
Dr Sarah Elizabeth Grinsted		2025-01-01
MR N G HODGETTS		
MR P G MARTIN		
Mary Clare Shaw		2024-01-01
Mrs M CRITTENDEN		2018-01-01
Philippa Jane Thompson		2020-09-12
Sharon Lesley Pilkington		2020-01-01
Wendy Tyler-Batt		2025-01-01

Accounts

British Bryological Society

A Charity Registered in England and Wales – No. 228851



Annual Report of the Trustees 2024

Annual General Meeting 2025

Annual General Meeting 2025

The next AGM will be held at 4.30 pm on Saturday 4th October 2025 at Lindholme Hall, Doncaster

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM, held at Exeter University on Saturday 7th September 2024
3. Matters arising
4. Annual Report of the Trustees for 2024
5. Accounts and Treasurer's report for 2024
6. Report from Council
7. Election of Officers
 - a. Vice-President
 - b. General Secretary
 - c. Treasurer
 - d. Librarian
 - e. Recorder for Liverworts
 - f. Recorder for Mosses
 - g. Membership Secretary
 - h. Recording Secretary
 - i. Journal Managing Editor
 - j. Elected member
 - k. Elected member
8. Proposed change of charitable status of the BBS to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).
9. Proposed changes to the Rules of the Society in order to align these with the Society's new status.
10. Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts.
11. Place and date of the next Annual General Meeting
12. Other future meetings
13. Any other business

BRITISH BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, EXETER UNIVERSITY 2024
Minutes of the Annual General meeting held at 16.30 on Saturday 7th September 2024 at Exeter University

Present: P.G. Martin (President, in the chair) and 27 others

1. Apologies for absence were received from Dr K.J. Adams, D. Adamson, J.W. Bates, Dr N. Bell, Dr R.H. Carter, G. Greiff, Dr. O.L. Pescott, Dr S. Pressel, K. Rogers.

2. Minutes of the last AGM, held at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, on 10th September 2023.

Following a proposal by **P. Thompson**, seconded by **Dr R. Hodd**, the minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting and were signed by the President.

3. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

4. Annual Report of the Trustees for 2023

There were no questions on the Annual report of the Trustees; it was received by the meeting.

5. Accounts and Treasurer's Report for 2023

There were no questions on the Accounts and Treasurer's Report; they had been approved by Council and the Independent Examiner and were accepted by the meeting.

6. Report from Council

The President's Report from Council, which was given at the meeting, will be published as Council Newsletter 41 in the May 2025 issue of *Field Bryology* (No. 133).

7. Election of Officers

No nominations had been received from members as a result of the notice in *Field Bryology* for these or any other posts.

Council made the following nominations for officers who were willing to be re-elected:

Bulletin Editor (Joint) – Dr C.D. Preston

Bulletin Editor (Joint) – A. Branson

Meetings Secretary – P. Thompson

Website Editor – C. Halpin

Education officer – M. Crittenden

The meeting agreed to elect these *en bloc*. Following a proposal from **S. L. Pilkington** seconded by **Dr A. Burton**, these officers were duly elected by a majority vote (to serve for a 2-year period commencing 1st January 2025).

Conservation Officer – Council nominated **Dr Joanne (Jo) Denyer** to take over this vacant post. Following a proposal by **P. Thompson** seconded by **M. Crittenden**, **Dr J. Denyer** was elected with one abstention.

Elected members – Council nominated **Sarah Grinsted** and **Wendy Tyler-Batt** for election to replace **Marion Rayner** and **Karen Rogers**. Proposed by **Dr R. Hodd**, seconded by **C. Shaw** and elected unanimously. To serve for a 3-year period commencing 1st January 2025.

8. Proposed change of name

The President briefly set out the reasons for changing the name of the Society from '**British Bryological Society**' to '**British and Irish Bryological Society**', as agreed at the Autumn 2023 Council meeting. The recording activities of the Society have always encompassed not only Britain but also Ireland. Also, it was felt that the isolated term 'British' could have negative connotations for existing or prospective members in Ireland. Due notice of this proposal to change the name (and consequently the 'Rules') of the Society was published in the May 2024 edition of the BBS Bulletin (*Field Bryology*) No. 131.

The motion was proposed by **Dr C. D. Preston** seconded by **Dr J. Denyer** and agreed unanimously.

The General Secretary advised the meeting that the change of name may not be immediately apparent, as Council are also considering changing the status of the charity to a 'Charitable Incorporated Organisation' (CIO). The procedures involved in both the change of name and change of status, with respect to banking

arrangements and the Charity Commission, are similar. Therefore, Council is planning to manage both as joint exercises to avoid duplication of work.

9. Changes to the Rules

The introduction of a new automated membership system has required some administrative changes to the Rules. Notice of these proposed changes was duly published in the BBS Bulletin (*Field Bryology*) No. 131, May 2024 to be put to the vote at this, the next, AGM. Therefore, it was proposed that item 4 (b)

Subscriptions of the Rules:

“(b) The annual subscription is due in advance on 1 January in each year. Members who have not paid their subscription by 31 March shall not be entitled to receive the Society's publications until the subscription is paid.”

be changed to: *“(b) The annual subscription is due on the date of joining and is renewable thereafter on the same date. New members will be eligible to receive all new publications sent out after they join.”*

Additionally, the option for Family membership is to be discontinued. Therefore, it is proposed that reference to ‘Family Members’ be deleted from paragraph 3 of the Rules - ‘**Membership**’.

This was proposed by **C. Shaw** seconded by **R. Jeffery** and agreed unanimously.

10. Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts

M. Murtagh had agreed to continue as independent examiner of the BBS accounts. Proposed by **Dr E.M. Kungu** seconded by **P. Thompson** and **M. Murtagh** was unanimously elected.

11. Place and date of the next Annual General Meeting

This was yet to be confirmed but the Meetings Secretary, **P. Thompson**, was hopeful that it would be based at Lindholme Old Moor, just outside Doncaster, in the first week of October 2025.

11. Other future meetings

There will be a spring meeting in Freiburg, Germany in April 2025 hosted by **Michael Lüth**, as well as a UK spring meeting to be held in Wharfedale in the 3rd week of March 2025, organised by local secretary, **Gordon Haycock**. In summer 2025, **Rory Hodd** and **Jo Denyer** will be hosting a meeting in Co. Clare, followed by a meeting in Orkney organised by **John Crossley**.

In 2026, a meeting is planned in Slovenia, sometime in May, with summer meetings planned in Co. Waterford and Cumbria.

It is hoped to hold the 2026 AGM meeting at the Natural History Museum with a field base in SE England.

12. Any other business

a) **Professor Jeff Duckett** brought the attention of the meeting to the recent death of **Professor David Cove**, Emeritus Professor of Genetics at Leeds University and a former BBS Council member. He suggested that an obituary should be written for the BBS.

b) **Dr P. Stanley** said that he was looking for some assistance in proofreading his latest material prepared for the Cumulative Index. He estimated about one million words. **Clare Shaw** showed interest in this and offered to discuss the details after the meeting to see how she might be able to help.

There being no further business, the meeting ended when the President's gavel came down at 17.45.

D. J. Scott, General Secretary
September 2024

British Bryological Society

A Charity Registered in England and Wales –
No. 228851

Annual Report of the Trustees for the year 2024

Address of Principal Office: 19 Abbots Grove, Peterborough, PE4 5BP

Trustees at the date this report was approved:

Dr. K.J. Adams (Librarian)
Mr. D. Adamson (Treasurer)
Mr. A. Branson (Vice-President, Bulletin Editor, Joint)
Dr. J. Denyer (Conservation Officer)
Ms. M. Crittenden (Education and Training Officer)
Dr. E.S. Grahame (Elected Member)
Mr. G.R.L. Greiff (Elected Member)
Dr. S. Grinstead (Elected Member) *
Ms. C. Halpin (Website Editor, Membership Secretary)
Dr. R.I.L. Hodd (Elected Member)
Mr. N.G. Hodgetts (Recorder for Liverworts)
Dr. E.M. Kungu (Past-President)
Mr. P.G. Martin (President)
Dr. O.L. Pescott (Recording Secretary)
Ms. S.L. Pilkington (Recorder for Mosses)
Dr. C.D. Preston (Bulletin Editor, Joint)
Ms. P. Thompson (Meetings Secretary)
Mr. D.J. Scott (General Secretary)
Ms. C. Shaw (Elected Member)
Ms. W. Tyler-Batt (Elected Member) *

* Trustees in 2025, but not during 2024

In addition, the following served as Trustees during 2024

Ms. K Rogers, Ms. M. Rayner.

The Constitution of the British Bryological Society

The governing document of the British Bryological Society is The BBS Rules, adopted April 1963, amended 12 April 2003, 6 September 2003, 9 September 2006, 9 September 2023 and 7th September 2024.

Organisation

The British Bryological Society is managed by a Council which meets twice a year; Council members are the Trustees of the Society. The Council comprises the Officers of the Society, the immediate Past President, and six elected members.

Appointment of Trustees

Officers of the Society are elected at an Annual General Meeting for a term of two years. The six Elected Members each serve for three years, two being elected at each Annual General Meeting. Prospective trustees are asked to read the Charity Commission's publication *The Essential Trustee* as a check of their eligibility, and newly appointed trustees are asked to sign the Charity Commission *Trustee Eligibility Declaration*.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees have complied with the Charity Commission requirement for the BBS to provide identifiable public benefits, and have had due regard to the Charity Commission public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant. Of the descriptions of charitable purposes set out by the Charities Act, the work of the BBS is covered by the following:

b) the advancement of education; f) the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science; and i) the advancement of environmental protection or improvement. Details of the ways in which public benefit has been delivered during 2024 are given in the account of BBS achievements below.

Objectives of the BBS

- (a) To promote and advance all branches of bryology throughout the world and especially in relation to bryophytes of the British and Ireland;
- (b) To facilitate the exchange of information among bryologists by organising field meetings, conferences, lectures and exhibitions, publishing the results of bryological study and research, maintaining a library, and other appropriate means;
- (c) To promote in every way possible the conservation of bryophytes.

Activities of the BBS

- (a) Publication of journals and books relating to bryology
- (b) Maintaining a website
- (c) Maintaining a library of bryological literature
- (d) Organisation of meetings and workshops
- (e) Promoting awareness of bryophytes, and providing advice and education
- (f) Gathering information about bryophytes and their natural habitats
- (g) Conservation of bryophytes
- (h) Sponsoring or supporting bryological research

The BBS is registered for Gift Aid.

The BBS neither owns nor leases any land or buildings.

Achievements during 2024

1. Membership and Volunteers

The Society membership has again grown over the last year up to a total of 829 from 785. It has been a busy year for the membership secretary with the difficult task of implementing the new membership management system. The patience and perseverance of the membership secretary in introducing the new system is exemplary and, in the future, will hopefully make for a smoother running system.

The normal rotation of Council members continues, and we are grateful to those who have finished their term as we are to the new Council members.

2. Journal of Bryology

The Society's journal is published in four parts during the year. Volume 46 (2024) had a total of 19 papers on a wide range of topics and included five newly recorded species (Europe, China and Chile). All papers are peer reviewed, and the impact factor is 1.3. Two notable papers of interest in 2024 demonstrate the diverse range of topics covered: 'Bryophyte colonisation on recently deglaciated lands in the European Alps' by Barbara Valle *et al.* and 'Population status and ecology of the globally threatened liverwort *Marsupella profunda* Lindb. in Britain' by Des Callaghan.

3. Field Bryology

Field Bryology is published twice a year and is very well received, and an excellent showcase for the Society.

4. BBS Website

The website continues to provide a valuable resource to the society. It provides the contact point for members giving information on upcoming meetings. Furthermore, it is an invaluable resource on bryophyte species, along with historical information of bryological excursions and bryologists.

5. Other Publications

It is hoped that the 2nd edition of the Field Guide will be published in 2025/6 and is eagerly awaited. Nick Hodgetts has also produced a set of keys which are proving very useful.

6. Library and Sales

The library continues to be housed at Treborth Botanic Gardens, and we are grateful for the use of the facilities provided there. There are continued sales of a number of small items of bryological equipment.

7. Meetings

There were four national meetings this year. Starting with Spring in Lincolnshire which was attended by 30 members who added many records for this area including 17 VCRs. Another meeting in Spring was to Hungary, which gave members who travelled the opportunity of seeing species not known in the UK, and, importantly, a chance to interact informally with European bryologists. Six species new to Hungary were found on the meeting. In the summer, 19 members attended the meeting on the Isle of Islay and 11 VCRs were added. The AGM took place in Exeter with extra days being added giving more opportunities for field excursions. The local groups continue to thrive and in particular they encourage beginners.

8. Education and Training

Education and training is a cornerstone of the society's aims and this has been particularly evident in our centenary year. A whole range of workshops at both the national and local level have taken place. Many members have given their time freely for these to take place. In Scotland, a bryophyte ID course took place with the Water of Leith Conservation Trust in Edinburgh. In Ireland, oceanic bryophytes were studied for a group of ecologists. In England, *Sphagnum* ID and ecology courses took place in Hampshire and Devon, and in Wales a guided Moss Walk and microscope training took place in Treborth. Nationally, a pleurocarp workshop took place in Preston Montford. Added to all this are the many local groups that continue to teach beginners both in the field and with day-sessions using microscopes.

9. Recording Mosses and Liverworts

In 2024, there were 202 vice-county records for mosses and 58 for liverworts. Amongst these records were many notable finds. *Didymodon tophaceus* subsp. *erosus* was new to Britain and *Cephaloziella integerrima* was new to Wales. The very rare species *Philonotis cernua* was found in Scotland.

Financial Review 2024

Accounts and Treasurer's Report

Amounts in this report are rounded to the nearest pound

Receipts and payments accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024

		General fund	Bequest fund	2024 Total		2023 Total
Receipts				£		£
AGM & Meetings income		1,134		1,134		0
Atlas sales				0		0
Bequest Fund grant repaid				0		750
Calendar sales		458		458		450
Census catalogue sales		20		20		15
Donations Bequest				0		0
Donations General		1,000		1,000		230
European Bryaceae royalties		723		723		562
Field Bryology				0		0
Field Guide sales		13,825		13,825		17,151
Gift Aid recovered		2,601		2,601		0
Interest & dividends Bequest			2,206	2,206		2,528
Interest & dividends General		10,719		10,719		8,017
Journal expenses from T&F		9,076		9,076		9,076
Journal royalties from T&F		14,545		14,545		13,319
Lenses & Forceps sales		827		827		437
Liverwort Supplement sales				0		60
Membership subscriptions		16,188		16,188		19,435
Other publications				0		0
Workshops		5,770		5,770		0
		76,887	2,206	79,092		72,030
Payments						
AGM & Meetings		-1,941		-1,941		-3,064
Annual report		-486		-486		-483
Bryophyte Key		-2,000		-2,000		0
Calendar costs				0		-610
Courses & Workshops		-6,963		-6,963		0
Equipment purchases		-4,134		-4,134		0
Field Bryology printing		-10,108		-10,108		-9,369
Field Guide New		-1,405		-1,405		0
Field Guide Old		-15,080		-15,080		-5,552
Grants Bequest			-1,755	-1,755		-2,142
Insurance		-969		-969		-914
iRecord expenses		-1,344		-1,344		0
Journal costs		-18,244		-18,244		-16,578
Journal editorial expenses		-9,076		-9,076		-9,076
Lenses & forceps				0		-2,018
Liverwort Supplement sales paid				0		-187

Membership management system		-3,780		-3,780		0
PayPal charges		-430		-430		-608
Posts & sundries		-657		-657		-528
Stripe charges		-42		-42		0
Trustees' expenses		-292		-292		0
Website		-3,185		-3,185		-5,754
		-80,136	-1,755	-81,891		-56,883
Net (decrease)/ increase in bank & cash		-3,249	451	-2,799		15,147
Investment gains		3,301	2,341	5,642		16,797
Increase in funds		52	2,792	2,843		31,944
Funds to begin		314,714	98,164	412,878		380,933
Transfers between funds		-2,406	2,406	0		0
Funds to end		312,359	103,362	415,721		412,877

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting policies

The accounts are prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis under section 133 of the Charities Act and in accordance with Charity Commission guidance. All funds are unrestricted.

2. Bequest fund grants

Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
Attendance at courses	Individual	2	500
Bryological research	Individual	3	1,255
Total			1,755

3. Trustee payments & remuneration

Professional fees £3,550
Number of trustees £

4. Trustee expenses

Reimbursement of outlays on behalf of Society for 7 trustee £1,596

5 Designated fund

Within unrestricted funds is the Bequest Fund, administered by the Bequest Committee with the objects of helping beginners to attend courses, promoting bryological research, and assisting the results of bryological studies to be published. Awards may only be made to members of the Society. Awards are normally limited to the amount of interest received from Bequest Funds investments. Income not expended may be used to pay future awards.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the British Bryological Society

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the British Bryological Society for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Respective Responsibilities of the trustees and the examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act') and that an independent examination is needed.

My responsibilities:

- to examine the accounts in accordance with section 145 of the Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



MT Murtagh FCCA
49 Farleigh Fields
Orton Wistow
Peterborough PE2 6YB
30th April 2025

Officers' Reports for 2024

General Secretary

At the AGM in 2024, it was agreed that the Society should change its name to '*British Bryological Society*' to '*British and Irish Bryological Society*'. This was both to reflect our recording and mapping activities and also to be inclusive of all Irish bryologists who may have been put off from participating in what might have appeared to be an exclusively 'British' Society.

At around the same time, a working group was set up to look into changing the Society's status from a 'standard' unincorporated charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This is a trend followed recently by charities similar to the BBS and its chief advantage is to limit the liability of the trustees and members of the organisation. This work is ongoing to prepare recommendations to Council and to the members.

As mentioned briefly at the last AGM, it makes sense to combine the administrative effort required to achieve both these goals. This is why the agreed name change has not been obvious in the latter part of 2024. I am confident, though, that both changes will be implemented before the end of 2025.

Jeff Scott, March 2025

Field Bryology Editors

Two issues were published in 2024. As usual the May issue (104 pages) was longer than the November issue (72 pages), and each was eight pages longer than the corresponding issue in 2023. Reports of taxa new to Britain and Ireland are now a regular feature of *Field Bryology* and this year they covered *Didymodon tophaceus* subsp. *erosus* and three segregates resulting from the revision of *Trichostomum brachydontium* sens. lat. Ecological studies of rare species also featured prominently amongst the articles in 2024. We thank all contributors for their hard work in preparing articles, and our loyal proof-readers Agneta Burton, Sue Grahame and Mark Lawley.

Andrew Branson & Chris Preston, January 2025

Website Editor

During 2024 the website took rather a back seat as much of my time was taken up by the new Membership Management system. Routine content maintenance, of course, continued, but there were no significant additions to the site. Unfortunately, we have not (so far) been able to find anyone to help with content editing on a regular basis.

Sharon Pilkington and Jonathan Sleath continued to work on the Species Finder pages, and when time permitted, I continued taking and uploading images. We receive regular compliments on the Species Finder from people all over the world, and requests to use our images for training purposes and in publications, which is gratifying.

Thank you to those members who contribute images or text to the website, and/or feedback on errors and broken links. Please keep them coming! Thanks also to Castlegate IT, who keep our website up and running; they are always very responsive on the rare occasions we have a problem

Claire Halpin, January 2024

Librarian

Sales:

Census Catalogue (update) 2008	—
Census Catalogue (update) 2021	1
BBS <i>Bulletins</i>	-
<i>Field Bryology</i>	-
English Names of Bryophytes	— (on line)
<i>Practical Bryophyte Chromosomes</i> (Newton)	1
<i>Collecting Bryos. in the Tropics</i> (O'Shea)	1
Chinese x20 lenses	6
Chinese x30 lenses	3
Idealtek Stainless steel forceps	36
Mini-blade packs of 10	11
Micrometer Eyepiece Scales	2

Loans:

Micrometer calibration slide	—
Chinese Microscope	1

Free pdfs:

Microscope techniques 1 & 2	6
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There were 19 standard sales orders in 2024. Only one additional copy was purchased of the updated 2021 *Census Catalogue of British & Irish Bryophytes* since the its publication on line. 110 miniblades have been extracted from twin-bladed safety razors and supplied for cutting leaf sections. In addition to sales items, six beginners have again taken advantage of the free pdfs of Microscope Techniques for Beginners and Bryophyte Microscopy tips during the year. We are continuing to exchange *Field Bryology* for the Belgian *Muscillanea* and Swiss *Meylania*, and *J. Bryol.* for various Polish publications.

Ken Adams, February 2025

Membership Secretary

Membership status

Membership continued to grow during 2024, although the rate of growth has perhaps slowed slightly compared to last year. At the end of the year, our membership stood at 829 individual members, up from 785 last year, broken down as follows (2023 figures in brackets):

Honorary: 11 (11)

Ordinary: 716 (686)

Junior: 6 (8)

Loyalty: 21 (17)

Student: 75 (63)

Institutional members remain unchanged at 8 subscriptions.

During 2024, changes to the membership can be summarised as follows:

158 members joined

21 members either resigned or we were notified of their decease*

93 members allowed their membership to lapse with no contact

* To clarify, this is the number of members who did not renew for 2024, but who may have notified us of their intention during 2023 or early 2024. It excludes members who paid for 2024, but resigned or told us they would not be renewing again at some point during 2024.

As usual, there is a high turnover of members who join for a year but then allow their membership to lapse. This year saw more members allow their membership to lapse, perhaps because of the rising

cost of living. Overall though, the membership is still growing, with a net gain of 44 members by the end of 2024.

116 members have now registered for Gift Aid since re-starting the register in 2022. This is in part due to the implementation of a new Google form this year, which makes it easier to register (and opt out) online.

Membership system update

During 2024, a considerable amount of effort was put into configuring and testing the new membership management system. Our requirements are quite complex, but with some thought it was possible to configure the system to cater for all our needs. At one point, the project was almost abandoned because it was felt that the risk of existing members not fully transitioning to the new system was too high. An estimated 300 members were paying by standing order – which still requires manual processing in the new system – so much depended on persuading members to cancel standing orders and register using the new payment methods. However, it was decided that by dint of frequent reminders to cancel standing orders, and reducing the readily available payment options, the majority might be persuaded to switch.

The new system went live in early November; existing members were automatically transferred over to the new system with temporary subscriptions that expired on 31st January 2025. This was designed to give members a month to renew their membership.

Between November and the New Year, 28 new members joined the BBS using the new system and there were no complaints! Significantly too, the process was completely automatic, requiring no time or effort on our part.

Communication was key to ensuring the success of the system, and I thank all members for bearing with my frequent nagging emails throughout the year. I hope that the process of renewal was relatively painless, and anticipate that it will make things easier for both members and membership secretary in the future.

Claire Halpin, February 2025

Education and Training Officer

Many workshops and training days have occurred this year across the length and breadth of Britain and Ireland, from western Ireland to eastern England from northern Scotland to Devon. They have covered specific groups, such as Sphagna and pleurocarps, as well as instruction on using microscopes in general to studying the microscopic reproductive structures of bryophytes. Target audiences were beginners to intermediates, amateurs to consultants and university students to junior school pupils. More than 20 members of the Society are involved in delivering this training, with many more giving help to individuals and groups. Many of these workshops are delivered free of charge. There is no doubt that the Society is delivering one of the main planks of its responsibility as a charity, education, through the generosity of its members both financially and in giving their time. More workshops are being offered through the BBS website, as well as the Field Studies Council. However, the value of local group participation in training at the grass roots level should not be underestimated. Examples of workshops that the BBS has supported financially include a five day Liverwort workshop at Beinn Eighe NNR, based near Kinlochewe on Loch Maree, in October 2024. Thirteen participants spent five days studying the liverworts of the northern hepatic mats (a threatened and unique bryophyte community), as well as the bryophyte flora of bogs and oceanic woodland. The diversity of bryophytes was astonishing and thrilled the participants. A huge thank you to Nick Hodgetts, National Recorder for Liverworts, for the effort put into this workshop. This was followed shortly by a Pleurocarps Workshop based at Preston Montford Field Study Centre in November 2024. Workshop

leader was Philippa Thompson, with lots of help from Martin Godfrey and Peter Martin. This was very successful. Of note was the efficacy of using a WhatsApp group to coordinate group activities. Using this particular medium leads to greater group cohesion and a better follow up. The latter was ably demonstrated in the Reproductive Structures workshop led by Jeff Duckett in February 2025, where images of gametangia are still being swapped between members of the group three weeks later. The Committee would like to thank all those involved in formal training, as well as anyone willing to share their expertise.

Two further workshops are planned, namely another Reproductive Structures workshop, as the first was oversubscribed, and the return of the Acrocarps Workshop in January 2026 run by Sharon Pilkington. No doubt this will also be oversubscribed. All these workshops were aimed at intermediate bryologists, that is those who have had some experience of using keys and microscopes in the context of bryophytes. It has proven difficult to ensure that applicants understand the level of expertise needed. There is a pressing need to train the bryologists of the future given the lack of formal bryological education at Secondary and Tertiary levels.

The Committee has also agreed that the time and financial commitment of trainers needs to be acknowledged. The Society will now be able to offer trainers a standard daily training rate, as well as expenses. Trainers and helpers must be encouraged to at least submit expenses to the Treasurer and the Education and Training Officer supported by the usual receipts. Participants in BBS supported workshops should expect to contribute to their running. Participants will be encouraged to take out travel insurance in the event they are unable to attend, as the Society will not refund fees.

There are plans to organise a Recorders Conference in early 2026, before the Spring Meeting. The venue and speakers/contributors are being sort. This conference is not just for Vice County Recorders but for anyone with an interest in recording bryophytes. However, BBS supported workshops, as well as the Conference, will only be available to members of the Society.

The presentations which have been uploaded to the Society's Google Drive, which are available to members, is growing in usage. As many presentations to groups inevitably end up on-line, it is important that we ensure the correct licensing and acknowledgement of images and diagrams. These will be checked to ensure compliance by the Education and Training Officer.

Nick Hodgetts has now finished compiling and checking his Walson-type keys. These have already been successfully used by large numbers of enthusiasts. They are now ready for publication. The second edition of the Field Guide will link in to these keys where appropriate. Thank you to Nick for all his hard work.

The Society has now acquired a range of equipment to support training and education. We have five stereo microscopes, as well as five high power microscopes which are available for groups to use. In addition, we have just acquired an iScope compound microscope with HDMI camera which can be used in training involving microscope work. We also have a digital projector and self adhesive white board for those creative types. We will be working on how best to ensure these are available to as many groups as possible.

Margaret Crittenden, March 2024

Meetings Secretary

There were five National Meetings organised for 2024.

There was a UK Spring Meeting in Lincolnshire in March organised jointly by Mags Crittenden and Steven Heathcote. There were seven days of field excursions and a dedicated microscope space for

the week. It was attended by 30 members and 23 sites were visited; 2037 records were made of 236 taxa, with 17 New Vice County Records and 5 Debrackets

There was a seven-day meeting in Hungary in April organised by Peter Erzberger, with field support from Beata Papp and administrative support from Pocs Bence. Twenty-one people attended, eight of whom came from European countries outside the UK and Ireland, including the organisers Peter and Beata from Hungary. There were 640 records of 274 taxa from 13 different localities and six species were recorded new to Hungary: *Tortella humilis*, *Pterygoneuron kozlovii*, *Microbryum davallianum* var. *mucticum*, and three confirmed: *Microbryum davallianum* var. *conicum*, *Didymodon desertorum* and *Ceratodon conicum*.

There was a seven-day field meeting on Islay in June organised by Sharon Yardy, with field support from Gordon Rothero. This was attended by 19 people, two of whom came from outside the UK and Ireland. 334 taxa were recorded with a total of over 2700 records from 32 different monads

The 2025 AGM was held at Exeter University in September and was organised jointly by Andrew Branson and Philippa Thompson. There were three days of field excursions and a full programme of paper readings on the day of the AGM. The meeting was attended by 36 people. Seven sites were visited during the meeting.

Regional groups were active during the year. There were meetings in Ireland, London, Gloucestershire, Wessex, Cambridge, Hampshire, Welsh borders, North Wales, Cumbria, Lothians, Galloway, Worcestershire, Hertfordshire, North East Scotland, Warwickshire, and occasional meetings elsewhere around the country. The BBS microscopes were used to facilitate informal microscope days in North Wales and in Gloucestershire, as well as their use for more formal education workshops. The two-day meeting, in September, organised jointly with the Wild Flower Society, in Shropshire attracted no members of the BBS.

The Society is grateful to all those involved in the hard work of organising these meetings, as well as to the attendees, who have contributed their time and effort to make them a success.

Philippa Thompson, February 2024

Recorder for Liverworts

A total of 58 liverwort specimens have been processed this year. Compared with last year, in terms of numbers I has been a good year for England and Wales, while Scotland and Ireland are slightly down. Once again there has been nothing from the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands. Overall there have been more submissions than in 2023, but from fewer recorders. Matt Sutton has been particularly busy in Wales (and on holiday in the Outer Hebrides), coming up with 8 new county records; Nick Hodgetts, Lionel Pike and Sharon Pilkington contributed 6 vouchers apiece, David Long 5, and Andrew Branson, Ciarán Flynn, Liz Kungu, Gordon Rothero and Jonathan Sleath 3. Everyone else mentioned contributed one or two each. As usual, a number of vouchers were joint contributions.

A striking feature of this year's records has been a continuation of the apparent range expansion of small Lejeuneaceae in the south-west. *Cololejeunea microscopica* has turned up new to south-west England, at no fewer than three sites in Devon and Cornwall, as well as one in mid-Wales. Lionel Pike found *Harpalejeunea mollerii* at a site on Dartmoor, and Andrew Branson had *Lejeunea patens* in Somerset. It may be significant that recent data from the Met Office show an increase in rainfall in southern England over the last decade. In a similar vein, *Leptoscyphus cuneifolius* has been recorded for the first time in mid-Wales, and *Solenostoma paroicum* in Devon.

The BBS Spring Meeting in Lincoln did not produce much in the way of new vice-county records, unsurprisingly in this liverwort-poor part of the country, but Sharon Pilkington did find *Frullania*

tamarisci on a willow, a welcome debracketing for a species not seen in Nottinghamshire since one H. Fisher recorded it somewhere near Mansfield sometime before 1930. The Islay meeting was more productive, resulting in several interesting new records. David Long found *Moerckia flotoviana* in a dune system, then later was delighted to find *Aneura mirabilis* under *Sphagnum* in a boggy woodland next to the Ardnahoe distillery. Other new records or debracketings were *Marchantia polymorpha* subsp. *polymorpha*, *Cephaloziella rubella* and *Diplophyllum obtusifolium*. Elsewhere in Scotland, the Edinburgh/Borders group found *Eremonotus myriocarpus* and *Scapania calcicola* on rich calcareous ground in Dumfriesshire, both new to southern Scotland, and David Long found *Phaeoceros laevis*, a rare plant in this part of the world, in a garden near Peebles. Nick Hodgetts also found *S. calcicola* in a little-explored part of a very well-known coastal site in West Ross. Gordon Rothero discovered *Barbilophozia kunzeana* on a mountain crag in Argyll.

Des Callaghan's record of *Cephaloziella integerrima* new to Wales represents a significant range expansion for this species. Matt Sutton's discovery of *Sphaerocarpos michelii* in a Pembrokeshire car park is almost certainly an unintentional introduction, but nonetheless an interesting new plant for the Welsh list. Matt also had *Lophozia longidens* in Powys, and *Scapania gymnostomophila* on Cader Idris, both plants very rarely recorded in Wales. Jonathan Shanklin found *Ricciocarpos natans* in artificial ponds in North Wales, another possible introduction of a liverwort recorded previously only a few times in Wales. Late in the year, Sam Bosanquet found a new site in South Wales for the rare *Biantheridion undulifolium*.

Back in Devon, Lionel Pike made a further interesting discovery by finding *Marsupella sphacelata* on Dartmoor, while Andrew Branson had *Odontoschisma francisci* on a streamside bank. Elsewhere in England, the most significant records have probably been Sharon Pilkington's *Sphenobolus minutus* in North Hampshire and Dave Shaw's *Scapania cuspiduligera* in the Lake District. It is pleasing that Jonathan Hughes found *Mesoptychia badensis* and *Cephalozia curvifolia* in the middle of Lincolnshire, previously a conspicuous lacuna in the distribution of both species. The submission of three new county records of *Fossombronina incurva* indicate that we may be getting better at spotting this elusive – but not uncommon – little plant.

In a rather quiet year for Ireland, most of the vouchers have represented debracketings. Although *Lejeunea mandonii* was refound in 2021 (at the site near Killarney where Jean Paton first found it in 1966), it was overlooked as a debracketing until now. *Reboulia hemisphaerica* was rediscovered by Rory Hodd at a site in Co. Londonderry where it was last seen in 1836 by David Moore. Shane Farrell found *Lepidozia cupressina* in Howth near Dublin, where it had somehow escaped detection since McArdle found it there in 1895. Co. Armagh is very under-recorded, so the debracketings of *Gymnocolea inflata* and *Marsupella emarginata* by Ciarán Flynn are welcome. A small population of *Scapania cuspiduligera* was found new to Northern Ireland in a dune system in Co. Londonderry.

Nick Hodgetts, February 2025

Recorder for Mosses

In 2024 I received 202 new vice-county moss records and amendments to the census catalogue, which represents a relatively quiet recording year. The records were submitted by 58 individuals (as first-named recorders) from 82 British and Irish vice-counties. Around 25% of these were of taxa added to the British and Irish lists following recent taxonomic revisions e.g. *Dicranella varia* s.str., *Leucobryum*, and *Racomitrium heterostichum/obtusum*. Four new moss taxa added to the national checklists in 2024 included 3 new species segregated from *Trichostomum brachydontium* and *Didymodon tophaceus* subsp. *erosus*, found new to Britain by Seán O'Leary.

The spring field meeting, based near Lincoln in March, was responsible for around 10% of the new vice-county records and amendments. This impressive number demonstrates that even an area considered by some to lack diversity can in fact turn out to be surprisingly interesting when a large

group of competent bryologists is let loose there.

Ireland rarely disappoints in the records stakes and 2024 was no exception. Although hard to single out particular records, highlights included Rory Hodd's finds of the very rare *Plagiothecium platyphyllum* in Co. Kerry, a new population of the rare oceanic moss *Sematophyllum demissum* in Co. Clare and only the second verified find of *Campylophyllopsis calcarea* in any Irish vice-county from Co. Fermanagh. Also in Fermanagh, Nick Hodgetts collected seven new/recent moss records in the course of surveys at the Cliffs of Magho, and notable others, such as *Kandaea elodes* and *Bryum intermedium* in Co. Londonderry.

In Scotland, the range of the newly discovered *Bryoerythrophyllum campylocarpum* has been extended in the south-west by Liz Kungu and Bob Merritt; this unremarkable-looking little acrocarp is now known from 13 vice-counties across Britain and Ireland. I also received a remarkable record of *Philonotis cernua*, found (with its tell-tale capsules) in West Sutherland in 2017 by Dave Shaw. This very rare species has not been seen in Britain for a very long time, so Dave's find is very welcome indeed.

Highlights from Wales included Matt Sutton's *Tortella densa* in Cardiganshire, only the second Welsh population and a respectable distance from the first, on the Great Orme. Nearby, on Ynys Môn (Anglesey), Steven Heathcote spotted the inconspicuous and scarce *Hygroamblystegium humile*, whilst in south Wales Charles Hipkin found a new population of the rare *Hedwigia ciliata* var. *ciliata*.

In England, Phil Cutt and Frances Watkins came across only the fifth vice-county record of the very rare (and photogenic) *Grimmia crinita* on a wall near Oxford. Meanwhile, surveys of oceanic woodland in Devon and Cornwall yielded a suite of notable mosses (and liverworts) including Lionel Pike's *Daltonia splachnoides* from Dartmoor and, in Cornwall, *Sematophyllum demissum*, new to England.

Sharon Pilkington, February 2025

Recording Secretary's Report

In 2024, the main achievement was the release of the new field and Excel-based recording cards, updated to reflect the latest accepted names and taxonomy. These can now be found on the BBS website Recording pages at: <https://www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk/recording/recording-cards/>. Thank you to Sam Amy for heading this project, to Sam Bosanquet, Rory Hodd, Sharon Pilkington and Gordon Rothero for reviewing regional changes to the cards prompted by Sam's review of record frequencies, and to Claire Halpin and Chris Preston for technical feedback on the Excel cards. Note that we do occasionally release new versions of these cards between the large taxonomic updates (the field and Excel card filenames reflect this versioning), so please check occasionally that you are using the latest versions. The other main task in 2024 has been the work for transitioning the BBS Oracle database (an off-line repository hosted at UKCEH) to the online iRecord platform. This is not the place to recount all the work associated with this move, but I can report that the BBS Council Working Group on this topic continue to test and improve the platform, and to develop guidance. Thank you to the current Working Group (Claire Halpin, Sharon Pilkington, George Greiff and Jonathan Sleath) for continued support, and to other recorders who have been engaging with iRecord more at my request (or indeed from their own initiatives). More information on this topic will be forthcoming as 2025 progresses.

Twenty-six datasets were directly received in 2024, although currently only six of these have been processed for database loading. This is partly due to a focus on other work relating to the iRecord transition, and partly due to the fact that BRC's botanical data assistant, Sam Amy, left for pastures new in September 2024. No doubt BBS recorders will join me in wishing her all the best in her new role, and in thanking her for her hard work over the past three years. UKCEH have recruited a replacement, and we look forward to welcoming them to the organisation in the spring

of 2025.

As usual we have assisted with numerous other data enquiries this past year, including over 35 direct requests for the Society's raw data or summaries. As usual, the number of direct requests to the Recording Secretary does not capture the numerous downloads of BBS data from the NBN or GBIF: according to publicly available NBN data for example, around 17 million copies of BBS records were downloaded in 2024 (this number excludes those downloaded with justification "Testing").

Changes to our Regional Recorders in 2024 were as follows: Sarah Grinsted replaced Andrew Branson in v.c. 8 (South Wiltshire); Jeff Scott replaced Mick Burton in v.c. 31 (Huntingdonshire); Wendy Tyler-Batt took on v.c. 36 (Herefordshire), which had been vacant since Ian Draycott stepped down in 2023; Ruby Bye was added as a co-recorder to v.c. 46 (Cardiganshire), joining Matt Sutton; Hamlyn "Lyn" Jones adopted v.c. 113 (Channel Islands), an area that had lacked a Recorder for over ten years; and Shane Farrell replaced Melinda Lyons in v.c. H21 (County Dublin), who herself has switched to v.c. H31 (County Louth). On behalf of the BBS, I thank all retiring Recorders for their efforts during their tenures. Regional Recorder details for each vice-county can be viewed under the relevant vice-county page on the BBS website (see <https://www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk/recording/vice-county-maps>). Note that I keep a spreadsheet-based record of all appointments as well.

As already noted above, in 2024 I was indebted to Sam Amy for her support. Thank you to other BRC staff as well, including Robin Hutchinson and Martin Harvey for support with iRecord-related issues, and to Claire Halpin on the BBS side for website updates.

Dr Oliver Pescott, Biological Records Centre (UKCEH Wallingford), 3rd February 2025



Accounts

British Bryological Society

A Charity Registered in England and Wales – No. 228851



Annual Report of the Trustees 2023

Annual General Meeting 2024

Annual General Meeting 2024

The next AGM will be held at 4.30 on Saturday 7th September 2024 at Reed Hall, University of Exeter

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM, held at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh on Saturday 9th September 2023
3. Matters arising
4. Annual Report of the Trustees for 2023
5. Accounts and Treasurer's report for 2023
6. Report from Council
7. Election of Officers
 - a. Bulletin Editor (Joint)
 - b. Bulletin Editor (Joint)
 - c. Meetings Secretary
 - d. Website Editor
 - e. Education Officer
 - f. Conservation Officer
 - g. Elected member
 - h. Elected member
8. Proposed change of name from 'British Bryological Society' to 'British and Irish Bryological Society'.
9. Changes to the Rules – Membership to commence on the date the subscription is paid and not be limited to 1st January. Family membership to be discontinued.
10. Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts.
11. Place and date of the next Annual General Meeting
12. Other future meetings
13. Any other business

**BRITISH BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, RBG EDINBURGH 2023**

**Minutes of the Annual General meeting held at 4.30 p.m. on Saturday 9th September 2023 at Royal
Botanic Garden Edinburgh**

Present: Dr E.M. Kungu (President, in the chair) and 36 others

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from K.J. Adams, J.W. Bates, G. Greiff, O.L. Pescott, G. Quartly-Bishop, M. Rayner, D. Ryecroft, M. Watling, R. Whytock.

2. **Minutes of the last AGM, held at Teesside University, on 10th September 2022.**

Following a proposal by **P. Thompson**, seconded by **A. Baker**, the minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting and were signed by the President.

3. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.

4. **Annual Report of the Trustees for 2022**

There were no questions on the Annual report of the Trustees; it was received by the meeting.

5. **Accounts and Treasurer's Report for 2022**

There were no questions on the Accounts and Treasurer's Report; they had been approved by Council and the Independent Examiner and were accepted by the meeting.

6. **Report from Council**

The President's Report from Council, which was given at the meeting, will be published as Council Newsletter 40 in the May 2024 issue of *Field Bryology* (No. 131).

7. **Election of Officers**

No nominations had been received from members as a result of the notice in *Field Bryology* for these or any other posts.

Council made the following nominations for officers who were willing to be re-elected:

Vice-president - Council had nominated **A. Branson** as the next Vice-President of the BBS (to take office from 1st January 2024). There were no other nominations. After a proposal by **Dr E. Kungu** seconded by **P. Martin**, **A. Branson** was elected with one abstention.

Council nominated the following officers for re-election:

General Secretary – **D. J. Scott**

Librarian – **Dr K. J. Adams**

Membership Secretary – **C. Halpin**

Recorder for Liverworts – **N. Hodgetts**

Recorder for Mosses – **S. L. Pilkington**

The meeting agreed to elect these *en bloc*. Following a proposal from **Dr D. Long** seconded by **G. Rothero**, these officers were duly elected by a majority vote (to serve for a 2-year period commencing 1st January 2024).

Treasurer - Gail Quartly-Bishop will be resigning as Treasurer at the end of 2023. Council nominated **David Adamson** to be the new Treasurer and take over from 1st January 2024. Following a proposal by **Dr E.M. Kungu** seconded by **Dr A. Burton**, **D. Adamson** was elected.

Recording Secretary - **Dr O.L. Pescott** will have served his full term of 10 years at the end of 2023. However, he has agreed to continue for a further two years only. The Rules provide for this if proposed from the Chair and seconded by the Vice-President or a past President. Following a proposal from **Dr. E.M. Kungu** seconded by **G. Rothero**, **Dr Pescott** was elected for a further term of 2 years.

Elected member – Council nominated **C. Shaw** for election to replace **R. Whytock**. Proposed by **N. Hodgetts**, seconded by **C. Halpin** and elected unanimously.

8. **Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts**

M. Murtagh had agreed to continue as independent examiner of the BBS accounts. **Dr E.M. Kungu** seconded

J.H. Bingley's proposal and **M. Murtagh** was unanimously elected.

9. Changes to the Rules

Council had agreed at the autumn meeting held on 9th September 2022 that two changes to the Rules should be made. Notice of the proposed changes was duly published in the BBS Bulletin (Field Bryology) N0. 129, May 2023 to be put to the vote at this, the next, AGM.

The Managing Editor of the Journal of Bryology had formerly been employed by the BBS and was paid out of BBS funds*. That is no longer the case. Although the Managing Editor could attend Council meetings, he or she was specifically debarred from being a full voting member.

Therefore, to remedy this anomaly, it was proposed that Section 5 Management of the Society (a) be amended as follows:

“The Officers of the Society shall be President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Editor or Editors (including the Managing Editor of the Journal of Bryology but excluding the Scientific Editors), Librarian and such others as the Society may appoint. The President and the Vice-President shall not be debarred from simultaneously holding one of the other offices of the Society apart from those of General Secretary or Treasurer.”

Proposed by **EMK**, seconded by **PT**, unanimously approved.

***Clarification: Following the meeting it has been pointed out that this statement is incorrect. The Managing Editor was reimbursed editorial expenses from funds provided by the publishers, Taylor & Francis, and remitted through the BBS. The Managing Editor has never been an employee of the BBS.**

ii.) The Society's Rules state that there should be a quorum of 10 eligible members at Special General meetings or of Council meetings, but there is no mention of a quorum for AGMs. The Charity Commission's guidance strongly recommends that a charity's governing document should specify a quorum for both a trustees' meeting and an AGM. Therefore, it was recommended that the BBS Rules should be amended to include a quorum of 15 eligible members for an AGM.

Proposed by **EMK**, seconded by **PT**, unanimously approved.

10. Place and date of the next Annual General Meeting

This was yet to be confirmed but the Meetings Secretary, Philippa Thompson, was hopeful that it would be based at Exeter University in September 2024.

11. Other future meetings

There will be a spring meeting in Hungary in April 2024 as well as a UK spring meeting to be held in Lincolnshire / Nottinghamshire with the exact dates to be confirmed. In summer 2024, Sharon Yardy has undertaken to organise a meeting on Islay, also with the exact dates to be confirmed. Other possible meetings may be organised in 2025 in Germany and Ireland. A meeting in Slovenia is a possibility in 2026.

12. Any other business

a) D. Chamberlain has been in discussions regarding critical bryophyte species found on the SSSI Balerno Common which is owned by an angling club. He asked whether he was permitted to speak on behalf of the BBS in these discussions. After some discussion it was agreed that any initiatives should come from NatureScot and not the BBS.

b) D. Chamberlain asked whether the Society would like to have his full set of *Transactions of the British Bryological Society* and the *Journal* before he disposed of them. P. Stanley noted that the printer Taylor and Francis does not include the preliminary pages (lists of Editorial Board and of Council members) in their digitised version. So, they might be needed if there was not already a complete set held in the library.

Dr S. Grahame undertook to check what was there when she returned to the BBS library in Treborth.

c) Philippa Thompson announced the winners of the BBS photographic competition categories. They were: Under-18s: Rafik Harrington '*Racomitrium lanuginosum* on the Caherconree Promontory Fort'.

Bryophytes in the Landscape: Scott Davidson 'Moss-covered boulders on Black-a-Tor Copse.

Bryologists in action: Michael Lüth 'Famous Scandinavian experts creeping over sand dunes'.

Bryophytes under the microscope: Claire Halpin '*Cephalozia curvifolia*'.

Close-ups of bryophytes: Claire Halpin *Bryum dichotomum*'.

There being no further business, the meeting ended when the President's gavel came down at 17.55.

D. J. Scott, General Secretary, September 2023

British Bryological Society

A Charity Registered in England and Wales – No.
228851

Annual Report of the Trustees for the year 2023

Address of Principal Office: 19 Abbots Grove, Peterborough, PE4 5BP

Trustees at the date this report was approved:

Dr. K.J. Adams (Librarian)
Mr. D. Adamson (Treasurer) *
Mr. A. Branson (Vice-President, Bulletin Editor, Joint)
Ms. M. Crittenden (Education and Training Officer)
Dr. E.S. Grahame (Elected Member)
Mr. G.R.L. Greiff (Elected Member)
Ms. C. Halpin (Website Editor, Membership Secretary)
Dr. R.I.L. Hodd (Elected Member)
Mr. N.G. Hodgetts (Recorder for Liverworts)
Dr. E.M. Kungu (Past-President)
Mr. P.G. Martin (President)
Dr. O.L. Pescott (Recording Secretary)
Ms. S.L. Pilkington (Recorder for Mosses)
Dr. C.D. Preston (Bulletin Editor, Joint)
Ms. M. Rayner (Elected Member)
Ms. K. Rogers (Elected Member)
Ms. P. Thompson (Meetings Secretary)
Mr. D.J. Scott (General Secretary)
Ms. C. Shaw (Elected Member) *

*Trustees in 2024, but not during 2023

In addition, the following served as Trustees during 2023

Dr A. Baker, Dr M.A.S. Burton, Dr E.M. Kungu, G. Quartly-Bishop, Mr. G. Rothero, Mr. R. Whytock

The Constitution of the British Bryological Society

The governing document of the British Bryological Society is The BBS Rules, adopted April 1963, amended 12 April 2003, 6 September 2003, 9 September 2006 and 9 September 2023.

Organisation

The British Bryological Society is managed by a Council which meets twice a year; Council members are the Trustees of the Society. The Council comprises the Officers of the Society, the immediate Past President, and six elected members.

Appointment of Trustees

Officers of the Society are elected at an Annual General Meeting for a term of two years. The six Elected Members each serve for three years, two being elected at each Annual General Meeting. Prospective trustees are asked to read the Charity Commission's publication *The Essential Trustee* as a check of their eligibility, and newly appointed trustees are asked to sign the Charity Commission *Trustee Eligibility Declaration*.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees have complied with the Charity Commission requirement for the BBS to provide identifiable public benefits, and have had due regard to the Charity Commission public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant. Of the descriptions of charitable purposes set out by the Charities Act, the work of the BBS is covered by the following:

b) the advancement of education; f) the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science; and i) the advancement of environmental protection or improvement. Details of the ways in which public benefit has been delivered during 2023 are given in the account of BBS achievements below.

Objectives of the BBS

- (a) To promote and advance all branches of bryology throughout the world and especially in relation to bryophytes of the British and Ireland;
- (b) To facilitate the exchange of information among bryologists by organising field meetings, conferences, lectures and exhibitions, publishing the results of bryological study and research, maintaining a library, and other appropriate means;
- (c) To promote in every way possible the conservation of bryophytes.

Activities of the BBS

- (a) Publication of journals and books relating to bryology
- (b) Maintaining a website
- (c) Maintaining a library of bryological literature
- (d) Organisation of meetings and workshops
- (e) Promoting awareness of bryophytes, and providing advice and education
- (f) Gathering information about bryophytes and their natural habitats
- (g) Conservation of bryophytes
- (h) Sponsoring or supporting bryological research

The BBS is registered for Gift Aid.

The BBS neither owns nor leases any land or buildings.

Achievements during 2023

1. Membership and Volunteers

The Society membership continues to grow, with 785 individual members, up from 691 in 2022. To prepare for the future the Society has accepted a quote for the implementation of membership management software to automate the previous largely manual process. This should be more accurate and will free up valuable volunteer time for other tasks. As always with a voluntary run society we are extremely grateful to all those members who devote so much time to the successful running of the Society, and we need to use that time as efficiently as possible in the future.

We have some changes in personnel, our treasurer resigned and we were fortunate to have a professionally qualified accountant to take on this role from January 2024.

2. Journal of Bryology

The Society's publications continue to be very successful. The Journal is published regularly and the impact factor has been rising steadily over recent years, currently being 1.9. The Journal continues to publish a wide range of international peer reviewed papers, 24 research papers in volume 45 (2023). Notable articles in 2023 included the comprehensive molecular and morphological study of *Leucobryum* in Britain and Europe by Ottley *et al.*, a major paper on the frequency and distribution of Hungarian bryophytes by Erzberger *et al.* and an extensive study of *Schistostega pennata* on the Iberian Peninsula by Robla *et al.* The spread of article types remains diverse, with taxonomic and quantitative ecological and distribution papers being the most numerous. Seven new species were published, three from India, two from the USA mainland, and one each from Argentina and Hawai'i.

3. Field Bryology

Field Bryology is published twice a year and is very well received, and an excellent showcase for the Society.

4. BBS Website

The website is a very important resource for the Society and continues to be expanded with additional information, especially the small team that contributes to the species finder pages with new photographs, microphotographs and identification tips. In January 2023 it was 100 years since the British Bryological Society was founded by the merging of the two branches of the Moss Exchange Club. Much effort during the year was devoted towards celebrating this centenary, both in the continuing work of the Society and in focusing on public outreach to a wider audience to enthuse people both with the aesthetics of bryophytes and their vital roles in different ecosystems. Public outreach was focused around the inauguration of National Moss Day (NMD), and during the weekend of the 21 October there were over 30 NMD events held at a wide range of locations including Botanic Gardens, Nature Reserves, Community Woodlands and Museums and many in conjunction with partner organisations including Wildlife Trusts, local conservation bodies, and community groups. These NMD events were well attended and enabled the BBS to spread knowledge about and enthusiasm for bryophytes to a much wider audience. In addition, the Society organised a photographic competition to encourage further public involvement, with a range of categories including one for under 18s. There were a number of bryophyte art exhibitions with displays at botanic gardens in association with NMD and there is now a section on the website to celebrate Bryophytes in Art with 11 artists featured in News posts describing and illustrating their work.

5. Other Publications

The Field Guide still sells well, and the Society has just ordered another reprint to ensure continuous availability until the second edition is ready. The second edition will incorporate all the recent taxonomic changes in the new British and Irish checklist, as well as some additional species, many more drawings and a number of new photographs.

6. Library and Sales

The library continues to be housed at Treborth Botanic Gardens, and we are grateful for the use of the facilities provided there. There are continued sales of a number of small items of bryological equipment.

7. Meetings

As well as the NMD events held in October, there were four very successful national meetings, plus an additional informal meeting. The spring meeting in Cumbria was attended by 58 people,

and even though this is a relatively well-known area we recorded an additional 20 vice county records (VCR = species either new to the area or not seen there for over 50 years). The summer meeting was much smaller, and based around Galloway, an area of SW Scotland that is still relatively little known bryologically and during the meeting an additional 26 VCRs were found. The Centenary AGM was held in Edinburgh in collaboration with the Bryological Research Team at the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh, with a full day of presentation of scientific papers, followed by a one-day field meeting at a local site. The final national meeting followed immediately after the AGM and was held at Ben Lawes, a very rich bryological area, with the twin aims of recording some of the lesser-known sites in the area and enabling some newer members to learn to identify the important montane and calcicole flora found there.

As well as the national meetings, the BBS local groups continue to thrive. There are now 29 local affiliated groups, and most of them hold regular meetings, which enable members and potential members to meet and learn field identification skills whilst recording the sites of bryological significance in their local areas.

8. Education and Training

As well as the educational opportunities during all of these field meetings there was a beginners' workshop, and an advanced workshop on the identification of *Bryum* species, both in early 2023. Further training events are planned for 2024 and the intention is to advertise these through as many different channels as possible to ensure the widest participation. Nick Hodgetts has now completed a microscope-based keys to both mosses and liverworts. These are now available on the BBS website as PDFs and feedback is encouraged.

9. Recording Mosses and Liverworts

Two articles in Field Bryology by Sam Amy and Oli Pescott looked at the bryophyte data in iRecord, and the future of data handling by the BBS. To continue this discussion the Society has formed a working group to examine data handling in the future. During the field meetings at both national and local level, as well as members' individual recording efforts, the BBS generates a vast amount of scientific data, and we need to ensure that this data is handled as efficiently and accurately as possible. The four national meetings plus one additional meeting generated over 9,000 records in addition to those made by the local recording groups and individual members.

In total during 2023 there were 278 VCRs for mosses, and 49 for liverworts. Some highlights included *Seligeria calycina* new to Scotland found during the Galloway meeting. The second British population of *Didymodon tophaceus* subsp. *sicculus* was found in unprepossessing track habitat on Skye, 700km north of the first, on Lundy Island and *Microbryum starckeanum*, which was re-found in Ireland after more than 50 years. For the liverworts a meeting in the Corrour Estate in the central Highlands produced *Barbilophozia quadriloba*, **TEXT MISSING??**

Financial Review 2023

Accounts and Treasurer's Report

Amounts in this report are rounded to the nearest pound

Receipts and payments accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023

	General fund	Bequest fund	2023 Total	2022 Total
Receipts			£	£
AGM & Meetings income	0		0	5,433
Atlas sales	0		0	416
Bequest Fund grant repaid		750	750	0
Calendar sales	450		450	0
Census catalogue sales	15		15	183
Donations Bequest	0		0	500
Donations General	230		230	0
European Bryaceae royalties	562		562	6,427
Field Bryology	0		0	97
Field Guide sales	17,151		17,151	17,706
Interest & dividends Bequest		2,528	2,528	2,045
Interest & dividends General	8,017		8,017	4,936
Journal expenses from T&F	9,076		9,076	9,076
Journal royalties from T&F	13,319		13,319	11,719
Lenses & Forceps sales	437		437	456
Liverwort Supplement sales	60		60	1,524
Other publications	0		0	161
Subscriptions income	19,435		19,435	17,608
	68,752	3,278	72,030	78,287
Payments				
AGM & Meetings	-3,064		-3,064	-5,982
Annual report	-483		-483	-393
Calendar costs	-610		-610	0
Census catalogue	0		0	-391
Field Bryology printing	-9,369		-9,369	-6,640
Field Guide postage	-5,552		-5,552	-5,940
Grants Bequest		-2,142	-2,142	-1,500
Insurance	-914		-914	-85
Journal costs	-16,578		-16,578	-14,799
Journal editorial expenses	-9,076		-9,076	-9,076
Lenses & forceps	-2,018		-2,018	-250
Library purchases	0		0	-408
Liverwort Supplement grant	0		0	-1,250
Liverwort Supplement sales paid	-187		-187	-1,338
PayPal charges	-608		-608	0
Posts & sundries	-528		-528	-599
Website	-5,754		-5,754	-1,548
	-54,741	-2,142	-56,883	-50,199
Net increase in bank & cash	14,011	1,136	15,147	28,088

Statement of Balances as at 31 December 2023

	General fund	Bequest fund	2023 Total	2022 Total
Investments			£	£
CDIF Accumulation Bequest		17,298	17,298	15,393
CDIF Accumulation units	3,579		3,579	3,184
CDIF Fixed interest Bequest		21,594	21,594	20,512
CDIF Income Bequest		33,950	33,950	31,093
CDIF Income units	136,584		136,584	125,090
CDIF Property Bequest		7,019	7,019	7,487
CDIF Property Fund Income units	7,019		7,019	7,487
	147,182	79,861	227,043	210,246
Bank accounts				
CCLA deposit bequest fund		18,303	18,303	15,776
CCLA Deposit general fund	95,057		95,057	87,040
Natwest	57,543		57,543	56,267
PayPal account	14,931		14,931	11,604
	167,531	18,303	185,834	170,687
Net assets	314,713	98,164	412,877	380,933
Non-financial assets				
Field Guide	783		783	4,817
Census Catalogue	226		226	240
	1,009		1,009	5,057

Notes to the accounts for the Financial Year 1 January to 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies	The accounts are prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis under section 133 of the Charities Act and in accordance with Charity			
	Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants	£
2 Bequest fund grants	Attendance at courses	Individual	1	250
	Bryological research		3	1,891
	Research publication			
			Total	2,141
				£
3 Trustee payments & remuneration	Research grant to trustee (note 2)			750
	Other trustee remuneration			0
				750
			Number of trustees	£
4 Trustee expenses	Reimbursement of outlays on behalf of Society		2	753
5 Designated fund	Within unrestricted funds is the Bequest Fund, administered by the Bequest Committee with the objects of helping beginners to attend courses, promoting bryological research, and assisting the results of bryological studies to be published. Awards may only be made to members of the Society. Awards are normally limited to the amount of interest received			

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the British Bryological Society

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the British Bryological Society for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Respective Responsibilities of the trustees and the examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act') and that an independent examination is needed.

My responsibilities:

- to examine the accounts in accordance with section 145 of the Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



MT Murtagh FCCA
49 Farleigh Fields
Orton Wistow
Peterborough PE2 6YB
5th April 2024

Officers' Reports for 2023

General Secretary

The Society's 'Rules' were changed this year for the first time since 2006 – quorum for AGMs and making the holder of the post of Managing Editor of the Journal of Bryology a full voting member of Council – 'administrative' changes in the eyes of the Charity Commission. Even so, the wheels grind slowly to implement these changes owing to both our own rules for changing the Rules and the Charity Commission's procedures for approving these changes. This is how it should be, of course, and ensures that changes are not made lightly.

As Gail Quartly-Bishop stepped down as Treasurer at the end of 2023, we were fortunate that member David Adamson, a qualified accountant, was available and willing to take on the post from January 2024.

Jeff Scott, March 2024

Field Bryology Editors

Two issues were published in 2023, with the normal disparity in size. The May issue was the same length as that in May 2022 (96 pages). At one stage it looked as if we might struggle to find enough material for the November issue, but in the end it was 64 pages long, eight more than last year. We were pleased to receive an enlightening article on *Leptodontium gemmascens* in Belgium; otherwise the articles covered a range of topics from Britain and Ireland and the usual set of field meeting reports (now fully restored after COVID), new records and society business. We thank all contributors for their unfailing helpfulness when dealing with editorial queries, and our diligent proof-readers Agneta Burton, Sue Grahame and Mark Lawley.

Andrew Branson & Chris Preston, February 2024

Website Editor

Work on the website during 2023 was dominated by the BBS Centenary and National Moss Day:

- Over 30 meetings or exhibitions were advertised on the website to celebrate one or both of these events, and these were in addition to the regular local and national meetings.
- The BBS Centenary Photography Competition was advertised on the website, then all entries were uploaded so that members could view them and vote for their favourites.
- A new section was created to celebrate Bryophytes in Art and a number of artists were featured in News posts describing and illustrating their work.

Routine content maintenance continued in the background of course, and Sharon Pilkington, Sean O'Leary and Jonathan Sleath have continued to work on the Species Finder pages (photos and ID notes), whilst my focus was to process the hundreds of images in my library that are awaiting upload. Some of our local groups are now providing meeting reports and photos as well as advertising meeting dates, which will be a fascinating resource in years to come. Thank you to everyone who has contributed meeting details, images, news items and other information throughout the year.

Thanks also to Castlegate IT, who keep our website up and running. We have had a couple of minor problems again this year, but no major outages. Ambroise Baker resigned as Joint Website Editor at the end of the year, leaving the position open to anyone else who might be interested in getting involved. A couple of people have expressed an interest and will probably be helping out on an informal basis initially. There are no plans at present for any major enhancements to the website.

Claire Halpin, January 2024

Librarian

Sales:

Census Catalogue (update) 2008	-
Census Catalogue (update) 2021	1
BBS <i>Bulletins</i>	-
<i>Field Bryology</i>	3
English Names of Bryophytes	1 (on line)
<i>Practical Bryophyte Chromosomes</i> (Newton)	-
<i>Collecting Bryos. in the Tropics</i> (O'Shea)	-
Chinese x20 lenses	16
Chinese x30 lenses	-
Idealtek Stainless steel forceps	27
Mini-blade packs of 10	10
Micrometer Eyepiece Scales	5

Loans:

Micrometer calibration slide	1
Chinese Microscope	1

Free pdfs : Microscope techniques 1 & 2 6

There were just 16 standard sales orders in 2023. Only one additional copy was purchased of the updated 2021 Census Catalogue of British & Irish Bryophytes since its publication on line. A record number of 100 miniblades have been extracted from twin-bladed safety razors and supplied for cutting leaf sections. In addition to sales items, 6 beginners have taken advantage of the free pdfs of Microscope Techniques for Beginners and Bryophyte Microscopy tips during the year. We are continuing to exchange *Field Bryology* for the Belgian *Muscillanea* and Swiss *Meylania* and *J. Bryol.* for various Polish publications.

Ken Adams, February 2024

Membership Secretary

Membership continued to grow during 2023. At the end of the year, our membership stood at 785 individual members, up from 691 last year, broken down as follows (2022 figures in brackets):

Honorary: 11 (10)
Ordinary: 686 (610)
Junior: 8 (3)
Loyalty: 17 (17)
Student: 63 (43)

Institutional members remain unchanged at 8 subscriptions.

During 2023, changes to the membership can be summarised as follows*:

195 members joined
27 members either resigned or we were notified of their decease
77 members allowed their membership to lapse with no contact

* The sharp-eyed will spot that there is a slight discrepancy here; I suspect that last year's figure may have been inaccurate

As usual, there is a high turnover of members who join for a year but then allow their membership to lapse. Overall though, the membership is still growing, with a net gain of 94 members by the end of 2023.

76 members have now registered for Gift Aid since re-starting the register in 2022.

Looking to the future

Membership management has traditionally been a manual process. Although we do use spreadsheets

nowadays for our member database and to log payments, these have to be updated manually which is a time-consuming process (and potentially error prone). With numbers of members increasing therefore, it was agreed at the Autumn Council meeting that we should investigate membership management software. This was done, and 2 quotes obtained, one of which was from our current website providers, Castlegate IT. It was subsequently agreed by Council via email, that we should proceed with the Castlegate IT solution, which is to implement the MemberPress add-on to our WordPress website. Work started on this in December 2023.

Claire Halpin, January 2024

Education and Training Officer

This has been a busy year for bryologists in terms of public engagement which was geared very much towards a celebration of the Centenary of the BBS and National Moss Day on the 21st October 2023. The types of public engagement ranged from constructing bryophyte trails, relating the diversity of bryophytes in particular habitats to art, craft and sensory immersive projects. They took place in a variety of venues including Botanic Gardens, Museums and Nature Reserves with a range of partner organisations including Friends of groups, the RSPB, Wildlife Trusts, Botanic Gardens and Universities. The hundreds of people who came to these offerings as well as the bryologists who led them show how much interest there is in this group of organisms. This demonstrates the work of the BBS in education and training for beginners through intermediates to advanced workshops such as that delivered by David Holyoak on the Bryaceae. Many of these events have led to further opportunities for public engagement. The purchase of hand lenses to use in these circumstances was very much appreciated.

In 2024 workshops are being held on the Pleurocarps as well as an intermediate workshop on Liverworts. It is our intention to organise beginner and intermediate workshops on *Sphagnum* in the near future, as there is a demand for this group. In addition, microscopy skills has been identified as an important area for training. Both the high-power microscopes and the newly purchased dissecting microscopes will give some flexibility to the choice of venue that the BBS can use. Wider publicity through Facebook, Twitter and possibly Instagram will be used to ensure equal access to information about workshops. These are well publicised on the website, but members sometimes do not think to access these pages. Additionally, the highly successful Members Newsletter produced by Claire Halpin will be used to inform members of up-and-coming workshops. The Species Identification pages on the BBS website continue to be an important educational resource not only for the excellent images but also for the in depth tips to identification that accompanies many of them. The Google Drive associated with education@ is slowly building the resource base that educators and trainers can use. Thank you to all contributors.

The BBS Book Box is now housed at Treborth Botanic Gardens under the guardianship of Sue Grahame. It has been somewhat slimmed down to allow it to be used in workshops. As Philippa Thompson attends most meetings and workshops, she has taken on the role of bringing microscopes and book box to those meetings. However, we must ensure that this is possible in future if Philippa were unable to store the microscopes and transport them. This will be a matter for ongoing discussion.

Nick Hodgetts has now completed his 'Watson-type' microscope-based keys to both mosses and liverworts. These are now available on the BBS website as PDF's. Feedback will be sort through as many channels as possible. When ready for publication, this will be sent to all members who purchase the 2nd Edition of the Field Guide when this is available. Mags Crittenden was involved in a discussion with other representatives from various Societies about the new GCSE in Natural History which is still in the very early days of preparation. Although it will not form part of the EBacc it will contribute to Progress 8. Both are used as measures of school attainment. It will be interesting to see what role bryophytes will play in this curriculum as well as what the uptake of a fairly specialised GCSE will be in future. The BBS will contribute where it can.

Margaret Crittenden, March 2024

Meetings Secretary

In 2023 the Society organized five national field meetings and one indoor meeting with an attached field day.

A seven-day Spring Meeting was held in the Lake district in March. It was attended by 58 people. There were 4480 records collected from 42 monads in two VCs, many of them new sites. There were 9 new VC records and 11 debrackets.

There was a three-day meeting held in Worcestershire in April attended by 24 people, designed to provide a training opportunity for novices. Just under 400 records were made of 128 species with 3 VC records.

There was a seven-day summer meeting held in Galloway in June attended by 12 people. New sites were visited and there was also a visit to Silver Flow providing an opportunity to update records for this NNR. 1536 records were collected in 27 monads with 22 new VC Records and debrackets.

The BBS were invited to record on the Corroir Estate in September. Numbers were strictly limited. Ten people gathered records from 20 monads from fifteen different sites. The estate is being actively managed to try and reconcile sporting interests with conservation interests. Over 1700 records were collected over five days contributing to the sum of knowledge that will help to inform the future management of this estate.

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) hosted the Centenary AGM and ran a joint indoor paper meeting with the BBS attended by 55 delegates. The next day 36 people congregated in Alva Glen. 195 records were made in two monads, a total of 170 species with three VC records and one debracketing.

The final meeting of the year was a four-day meeting in the Ben Lawers area following on from the AGM weekend. This was attended by 23 people. Nine sites were visited, three of those sites with no or few records and the others, high quality sites that provided a valuable training opportunity. Just under 1500 records were made in 15 monads with one VC record.

More than 14 regional groups held meetings during the year and four new regional groups were started over the winter. There were around thirty public engagement events throughout Britain and Ireland associated with National Moss Day.

Philippa Thompson, February 2024

Recorder for Liverworts

A total of 49 liverwort specimens have been processed this year. Only England has shown an increase on last year, with Scotland, Wales and Ireland all down. There has been nothing from the Isle of Man this year, and once again there are no new vouchers from the Channel Islands. The increase in England is substantially on account of the very well-attended spring field meeting in the Lake District, which yielded six vouchers. One species from England (*Calypogeia neesiana* in South Hampshire) has been placed in brackets. In addition, the record of *Pellia neesiana* from the Isle of Wight has been added; it was for some reason omitted from the 2019 account. Honours are fairly broadly distributed this year, with only Tom Blockeel on 5, Rory Hodd and David Long on 4 each, and Claire Halpin and Sharon Pilkington on 3 each. Several of these were collected jointly with others. Everyone else mentioned contributed one or two vouchers apiece.

There were a number of new records and debracketings resulting from the Lake District spring meeting. *Gymnomitrium alpinum* from Goldscope lead mines was a particularly pleasing find for Claire Halpin and Andrew Branson, and Sharon Pilkington had *Cephaloziella stellulifera* from the same site. Sharon also had *Anastrophylllum hellerianum* from a tree stump at Rydal Hall, with Tom

Blockeel finding *Harpalejeunea molleri* nearby. Otherwise, Nick Hodgetts and Tom squirreled out *Aneura mirabilis* from under *Sphagnum* in Nether Wasdale, and Chris Preston found *Cephalozia pleniceps* in a flush in Matterdale. Unrelated to the BBS meeting, Gary Lawrence found *Cephalozia loitlesbergeri* and more *C. pleniceps* in two separate bogs in Cumbria.

In Yorkshire, Tom Blockeel's record of *Calypogeia sphagnicola* from Thorne Moors is a considerable distance from any other recent records of this species. Further south still, John Norton found *Riccia crystallina* in an Isle of Wight campsite; is the spread of this rare species continuing as the southern English climate becomes increasingly Mediterranean? *Tritomaria quinquedentata* turned up on a wall-top in Devon, found by Lionel Pike. This is a rare plant in the south-west, and Lionel's record is apparently the first time it has been seen in South Devon since L.J. Cocks saw it on Dartmoor nearly 120 years ago. Robert Sharp found *Lophocolea fragrans* on a fallen tree straddling a stream in the Bournemouth-Poole conurbation, the first time this plant has turned up on the east side of the Dorset-Hampshire border. Des Callaghan had *Conocephalum conicum* on a brick wall in a suburban London park.

Two of the small Lejeuneaceae seem to have done well in 2023. The spread of *Myriocoleopsis minutissima* is well documented, and it has now turned up in Staffordshire, two southern Scottish vice-counties and the Irish Midlands. There are three new vice-counties for *Drepanolejeunea hamatifolia*, two from Mid Wales and one from the Irish Midlands. Is it too early to speculate that these plants are spreading as the climate changes? The only other Welsh voucher this year was Mark Lawley's *Plagiochila britannica* from Mid Wales.

In Scotland, the summer meeting in Galloway was productive, with a number of new records for VC73: *Kurzia pauciflora* (Claire Halpin and Rory Whytock), *Orthocaulis atlanticus* (Sean O'Leary) and, *Plagiochila bifaria* (Sharon Pilkington). A particularly outstanding find was Rory's *Sphenolobopsis pearsonii*, the first record of this species in south-western Scotland since the early 1960s. The Edinburgh/Borders team continue to turn up new things too, with *Diplophyllum obtusifolium* and *Kurzia trichoclados*, as well as *Myriocoleopsis*, near Moffat. A meeting in the Corrour Estate in the central Highlands produced only one new liverwort vice-county record, but a very good one: *Barbilophozia quadriloba*, found in flushed turf by David Long and Claire Halpin. Following last year's northerly record of the introduced *Lophocolea bispinosa* in Moray, Mark Lawley has now extended its range even further with a record from Sutherland.

Ric Else came up with a third Irish vice-county for the introduced (and still spreading) *Lophocolea semiteres*, in Co. Antrim, and Rory Hodd had *Tritomaria exsecta*, a fairly rare plant in Ireland, from Co. Donegal. But Rory's most outstanding find in Ireland was *Mesoptychia heterocolpos* on the Lough Navar limestone in Co. Antrim. This is only the second site for this species in Ireland; both sites are in the North.

Nick Hodgetts, February 2024

Recorder for Mosses

In 2023 there were 278 new vice-county moss records and amendments to the census catalogue. The well-attended spring and summer meetings in Cumbria and Galloway generated large numbers of new and updated vice-county records and a substantial number also came from the one-day excursion to Alva Glen after the AGM in Edinburgh. Around a third of all submissions were debracketings. An interim census catalogue published on the website in June 2023 incorporated all changes to the census catalogue up to the end of 2022 and introduced, for the first time, the distributions of 8 new or revised bryophyte taxa. Taxonomically, 2023 was a quiet year, without any major species revisions being published.

The year's highlights included 22 new/debracketed mosses from the summer meeting in Galloway in June, an impressive number under any circumstances and especially so given that temperatures in SW Scotland that week reached at least 28°C without rainfall. Significant finds included *Seligeria calycina* new to Scotland, *Schistidium agassizii* and *Hedwigia striata*.

Other highlights from Scotland included *Grimmia anomala*, discovered in three montane lochans in two vice-counties, and two rarities from Banffshire, *Cynodontium strumiferum* and *Lescurea patens*. On Skye, the second British population of *Didymodon tophaceus* subsp. *sicculus* was found in unprepossessing track habitat, 700km north of the first, on Lundy Island.

Healthy numbers of new records came from Ireland, with the large majority representing finds of relatively common and widespread mosses in under-recorded vice-counties, as usual. Other highlights included *Microbryum starckeanum*, not seen in Ireland for more than 50 years.

In Wales, there was also a significant increase in record submissions. Remarkably, the rare *Sphagnum skyense* was found in not one but two new vice-counties. *Daltonia splachnoides* and *Sphagnum warnstorffii* were also very welcome finds of rarities.

English highlights included various rarities, including *Acaulon mediterraneum* in an inland situation in Sussex, *Grimmia laevigata*, and *Bryum gemmilucens*. The very rare *Weissia levieri*, lost from Devon when its Torquay specimen was redetermined as *W. wilsonii*, was restored to the county list when a new population was discovered at a new site.

Sharon Pilkington February 2024

Recording Secretary's Report

In 2023 we have again been able to make useful progress in the way in which we communicate BBS data holdings to Regional Recorders and others. As stated in my 2022 report, this year Sam Amy and I were able to produce an overview of BBS bryophyte data contributed to iRecord and iNaturalist, as well as outlining some possible future databasing and recording options available to the Society. Both of these featured as *Field Bryology* articles. During my shared parental leave, Sam was also able to produce a new “Rare & Interesting” column for *FB*, resuming service after the Census Catalogue hiatus. The article on the future of the BBS database has directly informed the Council decision to form a Working Group (WG) to decide on progress on this area, and, as of the time of writing, three WG meetings have occurred, with draft proposals being prepared for the consideration of Council in 2024.

Around 35 datasets were received in 2023, with most (almost 80%) of these already having been compiled for loading to the database, entirely due to Sam's hard work. We have also continued to make updates to the UKSI, to ensure accurate display of records on the NBN website, as well as pursuing an update to the BBS data on the NBN Atlas. The latter has been frustratingly delayed for a host of reasons; however, the data up to the end of 2022 are now with the NBN, and should be included in the February 2024 update.

We have of course also assisted with numerous other data enquiries this past year, including around 15 direct requests for the Society's raw data or summaries. These requests supported individual recorders, bryological consultants, and the planning of BBS field meetings. As usual, the number of direct requests to the Recording Secretary does not capture the numerous downloads of BBS data from the NBN or GBIF.

2023 was an exceptionally quiet year for Regional Recorder turnover; the only change to report being for v.-cc. 61–65 (i.e. Yorkshire *in toto*), where Steven Heathcote takes over from Tom Blockeel. Whilst my records only begin in 1990 (with free admittance that I have made no effort to extend these backwards in time), Tom has apparently overseen some parts of God's own county since the late 1970s, perhaps a modern record within the BBS. As always, Regional Recorder details for each vice-county can be viewed under the relevant vice-county page on the BBS website (see <https://www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk/recording/vice-county-maps>). Note that I also keep a spreadsheet-based record of all appointments.

This year I have been again indebted to Sam Amy for her tireless work across numerous tasks. Thanks also to other BRC staff, including Steph Rorke for database updates and Martin Harvey for support

with iRecord-related issues; thanks also to Claire Halpin on the BBS side for website updates.

**Dr Oliver Pescott & Sam Amy,
Biological Records Centre (UKCEH Wallingford), February 2024**



Accounts

British Bryological Society

A Charity Registered in England and Wales – No. 228851



Annual Report of the Trustees 2022

Annual General Meeting 2023

Annual General Meeting 2023

The next AGM will be held at 4.30 p.m. on Saturday 9th September 2023 at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM, held at Teesside University, Middlesbrough on Saturday 10th September 2022
3. Matters arising
4. Annual Report of the Trustees for 2022
5. Accounts and Treasurer's report for 2022
6. Report from Council
7. Election of Officers
 - a. Vice-President
 - b. General Secretary
 - c. Treasurer
 - d. Librarian
 - e. Membership Secretary
 - f. Recorder for Liverworts
 - g. Recorder for Mosses
 - h. Recording Secretary
 - i. Conservation Officer
 - j. Elected member
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts
9. Changes to the Rules
10. Place and date of the next Annual General Meeting
11. Other future meetings
12. Any other business

BRITISH BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, MIDDLESBROUGH, 2022

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting at 4.30 p.m. on Saturday 10th September 2022 at Teesside University, Middlesbrough campus

Present: Dr E.M. Kungu (President, in the chair) and 28 others.

1. Apologies for absence were received from: K.J. Adams, O.L. Pescott, A. Branson, M.L. Rayner, N.G. Hodgetts, M. Stribley, L. Ruffino, K. Rogers, M. Watling and S. Heathcote

2. Minutes of the last AGM, held at Plas Caerdeon, Barmouth on 12th September 2021.

Following a proposal from M. Crittenden, seconded by S. Pilkington, the Minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting and will be signed by the President.

3. Matters arising:

Gordon Rothero reiterated his gratitude for the Honorary membership awarded to him at the last AGM.

4. Annual Report of the Trustees for 2021

There were no further questions on the Annual Report of the Trustees and it was received by the meeting.

5. Accounts and Treasurer's Report for 2021

There were no questions on the Accounts and Treasurer's report; they had been approved by Council and the Independent Examiner and were accepted by the meeting.

A written Treasurer's interim report to the end June 2022 had already been submitted to Council, the main points of which were:

- Interim accounts to the end of June 2022 were presented. Receipts and payments are in line with expectations. The value of our investments has fallen in line with the fall in the value of the stock market.
- Internet banking and access with NatWest is in the final stages of being set up.
- In answer to a previous question, the Treasurer clarified that any changes to the CCLA (investment) accounts require two authorised signatories.
- Gift Aid – work is under way to claim outstanding contributions from HRMC.
- The Society holds a higher than average level of reserves.

R.H. Carter commended the Treasurer for her comprehensive interim report.

6. Report from Council

The President's Report from Council, which was given at the meeting, will be published as Council Newsletter No. 39 in the May 2023 issue of *Field Bryology* (No. 129).

7. Election of Officers

No nominations had been received from members following the notice published in *Field Bryology*, for these or any other posts.

Council made the following nominations for the officers who were due for re-election:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| a. Bulletin Editor (Joint) | C.D. Preston |
| b. Bulletin Editor (Joint) | A. Branson |
| c. Website Editor (Joint) | C. Halpin |
| d. Website Editor (Joint) | A. Baker |
| e. Education and Training Officer | M. Crittenden |

The meeting agreed to elect these *en bloc*. Following a proposal by **P. Thompson** seconded by **J. Sleath**, these Officers were duly elected by a majority vote (to serve for a 2-year period commencing 1st January 2023).

As the Meetings Secretary, **L. Ruffino**, had indicated that she would be stepping down from that post at the end of 2022, Council nominated **P. Thompson**. After a proposal by E. Kungu, seconded by M. Crittenden, **P. Thompson** was elected as Meetings Secretary (to serve for a 2-year period commencing 1st January 2023).

Election of Elected Members of Council

Council nominated **Sue Grahame**, **Rory Hodd** and **George Greiff** for election. These were proposed by P. Thompson, N. Bell and J. Sleath respectively, seconded by A. Baker, G. Rothero and M. Crittenden respectively. All three were elected unanimously and will serve for a 3-year period commencing 1st January 2023.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts

M. Murtagh had agreed to continue in this role. After a proposal by M.A.S. Burton, seconded by C. Halpin, **M. Murtagh** was unanimously elected as Independent Examiner of the Accounts.

9. Place and date of the next Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 9th September 2023 at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

10. Other future meetings

P. Thompson delivered a brief outline of planned future meetings. The current list is still rather sparse as the pandemic continues to cast its shadow. However, it was confirmed that the spring 2023 meeting in the Lake District is planned to go ahead from 25th to 31st March. There were, as yet, no firm plans for a summer 2023 meeting, but Coll & Tiree was a possibility still to be confirmed. The autumn 2023 meeting will be the BBS centenary meeting in the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh from 9th to 12th September 2023. Spring and summer meetings for 2024 have still to be confirmed, but it was hoped that the much-postponed meeting in Hungary would take place sometime in spring 2024.

11. Any other business.

The Secretary gave notice that Council had agreed that two changes should be made to the Rules of the Society to be put to a vote at the next AGM in 2023:

1). The Managing Editor of the *Journal of Bryology* had formerly been employed by the BBS and was paid out of BBS funds. That is no longer the case. Although the Managing Editor could attend Council meetings, he or she was specifically debarred from being a full voting member. Therefore, to remedy this anomaly, it was proposed that Section 5 Management of the Society (a) be amended as follows:

‘The Officers of the Society shall be President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Editor or Editors (including the Managing Editor of the Journal of Bryology but excluding the Scientific Editors), Librarian and such others as the Society may appoint. The President and the Vice-President shall not be debarred from simultaneously holding one of the other offices of the Society apart from those of General Secretary or Treasurer.’

2). The Society’s Rules state that there should be a quorum of 10 eligible members at Special General meetings or of Council meetings, but there is no mention of a quorum for AGMs. The Charity Commission’s guidance strongly recommends that a charity’s governing document should specify a quorum for both a trustees’ meeting and an AGM. Therefore, it is recommended that the BBS Rules should be amended to include a quorum of 15 eligible members for an AGM.

Notice of the intention to change these items will be published in the May 2023 edition of *Field Bryology* (No. 129).

There being no further business, the meeting closed when the President's gavel came down at 17.30.

D.J. Scott, Hon. General Secretary,
September 2022

British Bryological Society

A Charity Registered in England and Wales – No. 228851

Annual Report of the Trustees for the year 2022

Address of Principal Office: 19 Abbots Grove, Peterborough, PE4 5BP

Trustees at the date this report was approved:

Dr K.J. Adams (Librarian)
Dr A. Baker (Website Editor, Joint)
Mr A. Branson (Bulletin Editor, Joint)
Dr M.A.S. Burton (Past-President)
Ms M. Crittenden (Education and Training Officer)
Dr E.S. Grahame (Elected Member) *
Mr G.R.L. Greiff (Elected Member) *
Ms C. Halpin (Website Editor, Joint and Membership Secretary)
Dr R.I.L. Hodd (Elected Member) *
Mr N.G. Hodgetts (Recorder for Liverworts)
Dr E. M. Kungu (President)
Mr P.G. Martin (Vice-President)
Dr O.L. Pescott (Recording Secretary)
Ms S.L. Pilkington (Recorder for Mosses)
Dr C.D. Preston (Bulletin Editor, Joint)
Ms G. Quartly-Bishop (Treasurer)
Ms M. Rayner (Elected Member)
Ms K. Rogers (Elected Member)
Mr G.P. Rothero (Conservation Officer) Ms P. Thompson (Meetings Secretary)
Mr D.J. Scott (General Secretary)
Mr R. Whytock (Elected Member)

*Trustees in 2023, but not during 2022

In addition, the following served as Trustees during 2022

Ms L. Ruffino, Mr M. Stribley

The Constitution of the British Bryological Society

The governing document of the British Bryological Society is The BBS Rules, adopted April 1963, amended 12 April 2003, 6 September 2003 and 9 September 2006.

Organisation

The British Bryological Society is managed by a Council which meets twice a year; Council members are the Trustees of the Society. The Council comprises the Officers of the Society, the immediate Past President, and six elected members.

Appointment of Trustees

Officers of the Society are elected at an Annual General Meeting for a term of two years. The six Elected Members each serve for three years, two being elected at each Annual General Meeting. Prospective trustees are asked to read the Charity Commission's publication *The Essential Trustee* as a check of their eligibility, and newly appointed trustees are asked to sign the Charity Commission *Trustee Eligibility Declaration*.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees have complied with the Charity Commission requirement for the BBS to provide identifiable public benefits, and have had due regard to the Charity Commission public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant. Of the descriptions of charitable purposes set out by the Charities Act, the work of the BBS is covered by the following: b) the advancement of education; f) the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science; and i) the advancement of environmental protection or improvement. Details of the ways in which public benefit has been delivered during 2022 are given in the account of BBS achievements below.

Objectives of the BBS

- (a) To promote and advance all branches of bryology throughout the world and especially in relation to bryophytes of the British and Ireland;
- (b) To facilitate the exchange of information among bryologists by organising field meetings, conferences, lectures and exhibitions, publishing the results of bryological study and research, maintaining a library, and other appropriate means;
- (c) To promote in every way possible the conservation of bryophytes.

Activities of the BBS

- (a) Publication of journals and books relating to bryology
- (b) Maintaining a website
- (c) Maintaining a library of bryological literature
- (d) Organisation of meetings and workshops
- (e) Promoting awareness of bryophytes, and providing advice and education
- (f) Gathering information about bryophytes and their natural habitats
- (g) Conservation of bryophytes
- (h) Sponsoring or supporting bryological research

The BBS is registered for Gift Aid.

The BBS neither owns nor leases any land or buildings.

Achievements during 2022

1. Membership and Volunteers

At the end of 2022, our membership stood at 691 paid up members, with a net gain of 58 members during the year. Although there is a steady turnover of membership, the overall trend is an increasing membership. Claire Halpin took over as Membership Secretary at the start of the year, and has worked hard to establish email contact with the majority of the membership, send reminders to those members who inadvertently failed to pay their subscriptions, sort out the gift aid membership, arrange online access to the bank account, and rationalise the numbers and payments from institution members.

2. Journal of Bryology

The Journal continues to thrive with Neil Bell as managing editor. Although there was some delay in

production of the issues 2-4 of Volume 44 due to lack of content in the middle of the year, publication is set to be almost back on schedule within the next couple of months. The last issue of Volume 44 will be devoted to the updated IUCN Red List of Bryophytes in Britain. Volume 44 of The Journal will run to 401 pages when fully published, similar to volumes 43 (412 pages) and 42 (414 pages). The most notable achievements in volume 44 were the publishing of the new British IUCN Red List (to appear in issue 44(4)), the 'fundamental questions' monograph and Fedosov *et al.*'s 'Integrative floristics: a modern approach to biodiversity surveys in the molecular era, as applied to an expedition to the Khamar-Daban range, southern Siberia, Russia'. The latter article reports the results of a major expedition to southern Siberia with a novel use of molecular methods to facilitate identifications.

Five species new to science were described – *Hymenostylium chapadense* M.J.Cano & J.A.Jiménez from Brazil, *Vinealobryum islandicum* R.H.Zander from Iceland, *Algaria overbergensis* Hedd. & R.H.Zander from South Africa, *Hennediella austroafricana* Hedd. & M.J.Cano from South Africa and *Glyphomitrium ambiguum* Fedosov, Ignatova & Ignatov from Russia.

The New National and Regional Bryophyte (NNRBR) column remains popular, although with considerably fewer entries (80) compared with last year (163). This is partially due to the column not appearing in 44(4), which is entirely devoted to the Red List, and partially to fewer contributions being received (perhaps due to the impact of the covid pandemic on fieldwork).

The impact factor for The Journal in 2021 (the latest year for which we have data), was 1.667, considerably up from 1.361 in 2020. The Journal currently has 11 Scientific Editors, a copy-editor, and a proof reader and the managing editor is immensely grateful to all of them for their hard work.

3. Field Bryology

The two issues published in 2022 followed the usual pattern, with the May issue (96 pages) longer than the one appearing in November (56 pages). As we anticipated last year, we were again able to include field meeting reports from May onwards, after their absence during the covid pandemic. The focus of the articles in 2022 was almost exclusively on the bryophytes of Britain and Ireland, but we did include one study of a bryologically rich area of France (the eastern Queyras) and a biographical account of Michael Proctor's life.

4. BBS Website

The BBS Website continues to provide an excellent resource for bryologists nationally and globally, and after all the hard work in previous years setting up the new website this year has been mostly routine content maintenance.

Many of the regional groups use the Events section to publicise meetings and to post meeting reports. There is now information provided on specific habitats, including reservoirs, arable land and calcareous grasslands. Considerable information has been added to the Species Finder pages. These provide direct access to the relevant page of the BBS publications the Field Guide and Atlas for any given species plus many additional macro and micro photographs and additional sources of information. Claire Halpin, Sharon Pilkington, Sean O'Leary and Jonathan Sleath have made extensive contributions to these pages, and we are very grateful for their input.

Dr Phil Stanley has been very helpful throughout the year in providing scanned copies of many historical documents which are now available to the membership.

5. Other Publications

The BBS *Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland – a field guide* continues to sell well, and work is in progress on producing a 2nd edition to include the taxonomic changes of the last 20 years.

6. Library and Sales

The BBS Library continues to be hosted at Treborth Botanic Garden, Bangor and Jane Smith has now taken over from Sean Russell as assistant Librarian for the day to day running. We continue to exchange *Field Bryology* for the Belgian *Muscillanea* and Swiss *Meylania* and the *Journal of Bryology* for various Polish publications. Free PDFs of *Microscope Techniques for Beginners* and *Bryophyte Microscopy* are available. Nineteen copies of the *Census Catalogue of British and Irish Bryophytes 2021* were sold, plus other small items of bryological equipment.

7. Meetings

In 2022 the Society organised two main field meetings and an annual indoor meeting.

The spring meeting, held in Cornwall, was attended by approximately 30 people. Just under 3000 records were made, seven of which were new v-c. records or 'debrackets' for VC1 and VC2. Two tetrads with few records were visited in a county which previously has had very good tetrad coverage, and many important sites were re-recorded at monad level.

A summer meeting was held on the Island of Jura, attended by 15 people. Over 2700 records were made, predominantly in monads that held no, or very few, previous records. Twenty-three new v-c. records were found during the week.

The AGM in September was attended by around 30 members. It was held at Teesside University in Middlesbrough, with paper readings on the Saturday and an interesting excursion to South Gare, a brownfield site adjacent to a coastal dune system on the Sunday. One hundred and sixty-two records were made of 70 taxa with a total of six new v-c. records and debrackets.

There are now 25 local recording groups and many of these are very active, holding regular smaller meetings throughout the year which usually combine recording the local areas with teaching and encouraging beginners. Reports of many of these meetings are available on the website.

The Society is grateful to all those involved in the hard work of organising these meetings, as well as to the attendees who have contributed their time and effort to make them a success.

8. Education and Training

The Education and Training Committee has been very active during 2022 in developing new ideas to expand the Society's role in this area. Nick Hodgetts has been commissioned to compile new bryophyte keys which will complement those in the Field Guide by including microscopic as well as field characters for identification. Mags Crittenden has started to develop an online course to teach bryophyte identification, and Pete Martin has been looking at the support required to help our new or recently recruited vice-county recorders.

A number of very popular and successful workshops/courses have taken place during the year. A group of eleven people met at Treborth Botanic Gardens, near Bangor, in February to join Lucia Ruffino and Philippa Thompson for the BBS Liverwort Beginner's workshop. The group was very fortunate to be supported by Shaun Russell, former curator. In May, the NE Scotland Bryophyte group organised a beginners training workshop at the James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen. Mags Crittenden ran a course on 'Using the Field Guide to identify Bryophytes' in October where she had attendees from Cornwall, Leicestershire and Switzerland among others. There is clearly a need for this type of course which would be classified as for 'Beginners with some experience'. Most BBS courses continue to be oversubscribed and further courses are being planned for the coming years.

9. Recording Mosses and Liverworts

Post-*Census Catalogue*, it is fitting that BRC were able to appoint a new botanical assistant in 2022, permitting us to make much faster progress across numerous BBS-related tasks. During 2022 we have completed the updates required to bring both the BBS database and the UK Species Inventory (UKSI)

in line with the new BBS checklist; performed, and updated, numerous MS Access-based quality checks on incoming data; processed most data (around 46 sets comprising almost 100,000 records) and amendments received post-*Census Catalogue*; and led on the recent *Field Bryology* post-*Atlas* database summary. On the back of all this hard work, we were able to distribute updated vice-county datasets to all Regional Recorders in November 2022. Three new Regional Recorders were appointed in 2022 and two vice-counties now lack a recorder due to recent retirements. Bryophyte recorders using iRecord submitted around 13,400 records in 2022, indicating a rich source of data and local enthusiasm. There were around 40 direct requests for the Society's raw data or summaries during the year. These requests supported individual recorders, bryological consultants, and the planning of BBS field meetings, among other things. As usual, the number of direct requests to the Recording Secretary does not capture the numerous downloads of BBS data from the NBN or GBIF.

In 2022 there were 244 moss additions and amendments to the census catalogue, fewer than in 2021. But the 68 liverwort amendments were an increase on 2021. However, for the first time since 2019, a significant number of moss records (24) were generated through resumption of spring and summer field meetings in Cornwall and Jura, respectively, and 5 liverwort vice-county records from the Jura meeting. Many species/vice-county combinations were newly bracketed by the 2021 Census Catalogue, and 32% of the moss vouchers submitted in 2022 were de-bracketers compared to 16% the previous year.

Four new moss taxa were added to the British and Irish moss flora, including *Tortula bolanderi* from Norfolk, and *Leucobryum albidum*, a species previously overlooked as variation within our other two *Leucobryum* species.

It was a successful and prolific moss and liverwort recording year in Scotland with some superb discoveries. *Dicranum elongatum*, on Skye, is the first new record of this rarity in many years. Other Scottish highlights include new populations of the mosses *Andreaea sinuosa*, *Cynodontium strumiferum*, *Philonotis rigida* and *Grimmia elongata* and the liverworts *Sphenobolus saxicola* and *Nardia breidlerii*, the latter both from the Cairngorms and last seen in their vice-counties in 1898. *Riccia fluitans* was recorded new to Scotland twice. Several liverwort records extended the species' known range.

Fewer vouchers were received from Ireland than in 2021, but nonetheless there were some exceptionally good finds, especially in Northern Ireland, which is normally more poorly recorded than the Republican vice-counties. The mosses *Grimmia longirostris*, *G. muehlenbeckii* and *Bryoerythrophyllum campylocarpum* (the latter also found for the first time this year in mainland Scotland and England) and the liverwort *Mesoptychia fitzgeraldiae* in Co. Antrim were all very significant new records.

Numbers of vice county records for both mosses and liverworts were also down in Wales. Among the best finds there were the mosses *Grimmia elongata* in Pembrokeshire, *Ephemerum cohaerens*, *Micromitrium tenerum*, and *Aloina brevirostris*, the last new to Wales.

English highlights include a significant SW extension of range for the rare moss *Tomentypnum nitens* onto Exmoor. Bryologists taking advantage of exceptionally low water levels in the autumn to search reservoir sediment for inundation zone specialists reported populations of *Physcomitrium readeri* and *Riccia huebeneriana* as far apart as Sussex and Cornwall and Hampshire. Climate change probably means that we will see these plants more frequently in future. For the liverworts, *Southbya tophacea* from a chalk bank by a forestry track in Dorset was one of the most pleasing records of the year. This rare plant also had a new record last year (in Ireland), other significant records include *Sphaerocarpos michelii* and *Targionia hypophylla* from Somerset.

Financial Review 2022 – Accounts and Treasurer’s Report

BRITISH BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Charity Commission registered number 228851)

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS for the financial year ended 31st December 2022

GENERAL FUND	Note	2022	2021	Movement
Receipts		£	£	£
Interest and investment income	<u>1</u>	4,936	4,017	919
Members' subscriptions		17,608	13,106	4,502
Journal of Bryology (Royalties)	<u>3</u>	11,719	14,117	(2,399)
J Bryol Editorial Expenses - Advance received from T&F	<u>3</u>	9,076	9,076	-
Field Bryology		97	25	72
Field Guide	<u>4</u>	17,706	15,182	2,524
Census Catalogue	<u>5</u>	183	591	(408)
Bryological Atlas	<u>11</u>	416	2,759	(2,342)
Supplement to Liverwort Flora - sales		1,524	-	1,524
European Bryaceae	<u>7</u>	6,427	-	6,427
Other publications		161	-	161
AGM and other meetings	<u>12</u>	5,433	7,373	(1,940)
Lenses and forceps, etc. net of refunds & returns		456	260	196
Bank complaints compensation		-	450	(450)
Sundries		-	-	-
Total Receipts		75,742	66,956	8,786
Payments				
Journal of Bryology	<u>3</u>	14,799	14,401	398
J Bryol Editorial Expenses paid out	<u>3</u>	9,076	13,614	(4,538)
Field Bryology	<u>6</u>	12,580	12,095	485
Field Guide	<u>4</u>	-	-	-
Census Catalogue	<u>5</u>	391	569	(178)
Bryological Atlas		-	-	-
Supplement to Liverwort Flora - publication grant to Jean Paton		1,250	-	1,250
Supplement to Liverwort Flora - sales paid to Jean Paton		1,338	-	1,338
European Bryaceae	<u>7</u>	-	8,140	(8,140)
Annual Report		393	335	58
Meetings expenses	<u>12</u>	5,982	7,141	(1,159)
Purchase of forceps, lenses etc		250	-	250
Previous website hosting		-	35	(35)
Website		1,548	8,857	(7,309)
Library move		-	-	-
Library purchases		408	-	408
Insurance		85	952	(867)
Bank charges etc		-	-	-
ICO - Data Protection Registration		35	35	-
Records dataset management	<u>13</u>	-	3,000	(3,000)
Sundries incl postage and packing for forceps etc		565	167	397
Total Payments		48,699	69,341	(20,642)
Net of Receipts (payments)		27,043	(2,386)	29,429

BEQUEST AND DONATION FUND		Note	2022 £	2021 £	Movement £
Receipts		<u>2</u>			
Interest and investment income			2,045	1,948	97
Donations (owing from current account)			500	1,290	(790)
Total Receipts			2,545	3,238	(693)
Payments					
Grants		<u>8</u>	1,500	1,240	260
Total payments			1,500	1,240	260
TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE					
Total receipts			78,287	70,193	8,094
Total payments			50,199	70,581	(20,382)
Net of Receipts (payments)			28,088	(388)	28,476
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2022					
CASH FUNDS					
Paypal			11,604	37,178	(25,573)
Nat. West. a/c			56,267	9,587	46,680
COIF Deposit Funds		<u>9</u>	102,816	95,835	6,981
TOTAL cash funds at this year-end			170,687	142,599	28,088
INVESTMENT ASSETS					
		<u>10</u>			
General Fund					
COIF Investment Fund accumulation units			3,185	3,500	(315)
COIF Investment Fund income units			125,090	141,549	(16,460)
COIF Property Fund income units			7,487	8,499	(1,012)
Total			135,761	153,548	(17,786)
Bequest and Donation Fund					
COIF Fixed Interest Fund income units			20,512	23,448	(2,936)
COIF Investment Fund accumulation units			15,394	16,916	(1,522)
COIF Investment Fund income units			31,093	35,184	(4,091)
COIF Property Fund income units			7,487	8,499	(1,012)
TOTAL			74,485	84,046	(9,561)
Total investment assets			210,246	237,593	(27,348)
OTHER ASSETS					
Bryological library			-	-	
Small stocks for sale of lenses, forceps, publications			-	-	
Back issues of journals and sundry items			-	-	
Field Guide, 720 Copies @ £6.69			4,817	8,878	(4,061)
Census catalogue, 86 copies @ £2.79			240	315	(75)
TOTAL			5,057	9,193	(4,136)
NET AVAILABLE ASSETS			385,990	389,385	(3,396)

NB Figures are rounded to the nearest pound for presentation purposes

These accounts were approved by Council on 25th March 2023 and have been agreed by the Independent Examiner. His certificate is reproduced below.

Treasurer's report

Notes to the accounts for the Financial Year 1 January to 31 December 2022

Amounts in this report are rounded to the nearest pound.

1 As permitted under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011, the accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis. All funds are unrestricted. Receipts and payments are presented net of rebates settled through Paypal.

2 Some assets are assigned by the trustees to the Bequest and Donation Fund, to provide investment income from which grants are made. When this Fund was established on 1st January 1995, its status was not explicit. The trustees wish to make it clear that they regard the Fund as expendable endowment, in view of the large size, in the context of the normal expenditure of the Society, of the legacies that have gone into formation of the Fund. With regard to future donations and legacies, if any evidence exists, or can be inferred from the circumstances of the donation or legacy, that a donor or testator had a specific intention one way or the other, the gift or legacy will be treated accordingly and, if appropriate, administered by the Bequest Committee. Where there is no such evidence, the gift or legacy will, except as described below, be treated as income and added to the accumulated monies available for disbursement by the Bequest Committee. Where the gift or legacy is a large sum (£500 or more) in the context of the normal expenditure of the Society, the trustees consider it reasonable to assume that the donor or testator would not have expected the Society necessarily to spend promptly such a sum of money, but would have expected the Society to invest the gift or legacy as expendable endowment and to use the income, unless and until the trustees choose to embark on some major project on which the endowed funds could reasonably be spent. Any such gift or legacy regarded as an addition to endowment will be noted in the accounts and will be invested along with the Bequest and Donation Fund; the resulting income will be available for disbursement by the Bequest Committee.

3 In 2022, royalties of £11,719 were received from the publisher and the costs of the purchase of members' copies of £14,799 were paid out. It can be seen that royalties have declined below the level of cost of purchase, which means that the Journal made a loss of £3,080. Payments of editorial expenses have been separated from costs of purchase of members' copies for the first time to enable matching to the relevant advance. Note: Following Council decisions in 2006 the *Journal of Bryology* Editor was not a member of Council. The Editor received remuneration commensurate with the work involved and took on financial responsibility for any expenses incurred that related to editing the journal. This is covered by an editorial advance paid by the Publisher (Taylor and Francis).

4 Sales of the Field Guide in 2022 in the year net of Paypal rebates were £17,706. Costs associated with the Field Guide were nil as there were no reprint or other publishing-related expenses in year for this title. The surplus in 2022 was therefore £17,706 (2021: £15,182. 2020: £8,659. 2019: deficit £6,313. 2018: surplus £11,821.) Over its lifetime, the Field Guide to date has provided a net surplus to the Society.

5 Census catalogue publication. Sales revenue of £183 was below costs associated with the 2022 edition of the Census catalogue, which were £391.

6 In 2022, *Field Bryology* numbers 127 and 128 were published. Actual payments in year totalled £12,580, being the amounts owed for issue 126 (November 2020) as well as numbers 127 and 128.

7 The Council of the British Bryological Society agreed in 2018 to back a Monograph for Bryaceae financially with a loan of up to £12,500 in support of publication. The first tranche of £2,000 was paid for the production of plates in 2018, with a further £2,000 paid in 2020, along with £800

paid to the publisher. The book has now been published, and final publication costs of £8,140 are presented in the 2021 accounts. In 2022, sales of £6,427 took place and there were no further publication costs incurred.

8 £1,500 was paid out in 2022 in relation to grants awarded from the Bequests & Donation Fund. This was awarded to Des Callaghan to support research into *Thamnobryum*.

9 Deposit Funds are deposited with CCLA. As at the December 2022 statement, the General Fund was £87,040 and Bequest & Donation Fund was £15,776 making a total of £102,816 shown in cash assets. The General Fund owes the Bequest & Donation Fund £3,366 for the net amounts paid out of General Fund cash accounts on its behalf (carried forward from 2019).

10 Reserves policy: the Society maintains reserves, amounting to the fund balances (less commitments) at year end, to provide contingent resources to enable it to meet its contractual commitment towards ongoing publication of the *Journal of Bryology*, to support and underwrite the cost of publishing projects, to meet requests from within the Society or from other bodies for financial help in the promotion of bryology, to pay upfront and underwrite costs of meetings, and to meet unforeseen costs. With regard to the financial implications and risks of the Society's charitable activities, the trustees consider that the reserve should not fall below £100,000. In the event that it does, the trustees may consider raising the level of the membership subscription and/or re-designation of part of the Bequest and Donation Fund. Most funds, while being held in reserve, are placed on deposit to earn interest or invested to provide income. This policy is reviewed annually at the first Council meeting of the year as part of the process of approving the Accounts (including Notes to the Accounts).

11 Bryophyte Atlas. Royalties of £416 were received from the publisher, NatureBureau, in November 2022. The 2021 amount is for 2021 and 2020 royalties combined, which were received together in November 2021.

12 Meetings. In 2022 the Society held several in-person meetings. Meeting expenses of £5,982 exceeded receipts of £5,433, a small loss of £549.

13 Records dataset management. In 2021, the Society made a one-off payment to Sharon Pilkington for her services in collating a large dataset of bryophyte records. Sharon is a trustee of the Society and the payment has been disclosed to the Charity Commission as required by the prevailing guidance.

Gail Quartly-Bishop, March 2023

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the British Bryological Society

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the British Bryological Society for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Respective Responsibilities of the trustees and the examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act') and that an independent examination is needed.

My responsibilities:

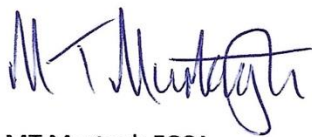
- to examine the accounts in accordance with section 145 of the Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



MT Murtagh FCCA
49 Farleigh Fields
Orton Wistow
Peterborough PE2 6YB
29th March 2023

Officers' Reports for 2022

General Secretary

It is pleasing to see, after a few difficult years, that the Society can now confidently display the 'Business as usual' sign in the website window. 2022 saw the eagerly anticipated publication of Jean Paton's *A Supplement to the Liverwort Flora of the British Isles*. The 2022 spring meeting was held in Cornwall and was centred not far from Jean's home in Probus. So, it was a delight for old friends to meet up for dinner and spend some time in the field with her, as well as a privilege for those of us who had not met her before to make her acquaintance. The BBS was more than happy to assist in the marketing and taking of orders of the *Supplement* thanks to the combined efforts of website editor, Claire Halpin, and Council member, Matt Stribley.

Jeff Scott, March 2023

Field Bryology Editors

The two issues published in 2022 followed the usual pattern, with the May issue (96 pages) longer than the one appearing in November (56 pages). As we anticipated last year, we were again able to include field meeting reports from May onwards, after their absence during the covid pandemic. The focus of the articles in 2022 was almost exclusively on the bryophytes of Britain and Ireland, but we did include one study of a bryologically rich area of France (the eastern Queyras) and a biographical account of Michael Proctor.

Andrew Branson & Chris Preston, March 2023

Website Editors

After a busy couple of years, work on the website settled down in 2022 and has been mostly routine content maintenance. Several local groups now use the Events section to publicise meetings and to post meeting reports. We continue to post relevant News items when we hear about them, and have started to post on topical themes such as Reservoir habitats (autumn 2022) and Arable land (winter 2022/23).

Work on the Species Finder pages is ongoing. We have made a first pass through all species uploading photos, and are now going back filling in some gaps. We would like to thank Sharon Pilkington particularly for her work on additional identification notes on these pages. Sean O'Leary and Jonathan Sleath have also made significant contributions, so thanks are due to them too. There has been some work on a Habitat section to the website, and again, thanks to Sharon for contributing the page on Calcareous grassland.

Dr Phil Stanley has been very helpful throughout the year in providing scanned copies of many historical documents such as old Atlases, membership lists, Annual reports. Many of these have already been uploaded to the website, and others are work in progress. Several other members have also contributed images, News posts and other information, so thank you to everyone who has helped with content throughout the year.

Thanks are also due to Castlegate IT, who keep our website up and running. We have had a couple of minor problems with availability this year, but Castlegate usually pick these up and resolve them before anyone else is aware. There are no plans at present for any major enhancements to the website.

Claire Halpin & Ambroise Baker, February 2023

Librarian

Sales:

Census Catalogue (update) 2008	-
Census Catalogue (update) 2021	19
BBS <i>Bulletins</i>	-
<i>Field Bryology</i>	13
<i>English Names of Bryophytes</i>	-
<i>Practical Bryophyte Chromosomes</i> (Newton)	-
<i>Collecting Bryos. in the Tropics</i> (O'Shea)	-
Chinese x20 lenses	5
Chinese x30 lenses	3
Idealtek Stainless steel forceps	14
Mini-blade packs of 10	1
Micrometer Eyepiece Scales	1

Loans:

Micrometer calibration slide	-
Chinese Microscope	1
free pdfs Microscope techniques 1 & 2	2

There were just 14 standard sales orders in 2022, but 19 copies were distributed of the updated *Census Catalogue of British & Irish Bryophytes* with the new bracketing cut-off at 1970 and adoption of most of the new European Catalogue 2020 names. In addition to sales items, two beginners have taken advantage of the free pdfs of Microscope Techniques for Beginners and Bryophyte Microscopy tips during the year. Jane Smith has now taken over from Sean Russell as assistant Librarian for the day to day running of the BBS Library at the Treborth Botanic Garden, Bangor. We are continuing to exchange *Field Bryology* for the Belgian *Muscillanea* and Swiss *Meylania* and *J. Bryol.* for various Polish publications.

Ken Adams, February 2023

Membership Secretary

I took over as Membership Secretary at the start of 2022 and have had a year of being a 'new broom', as the many members who have received emails or letter from me on one subject or another will doubtless testify!

The first task was reconciling subscription payments with individual members, and sorting out some of the discrepancies – members paying too little, not paying at all, a few paying twice... I've also made a concerted effort to update and track down up-to-date email addresses for everyone. This enabled me to send out email reminders in April, May and June to those who hadn't paid, resulting in many members who may have unintentionally allowed their membership to lapse, to re-join sooner rather than later. This in turn reduced the number of requests for back issues of the *Journal* and *Field Bryology*.

We managed to sort out online banking with NatWest by mid-year (thanks to our Treasurer for helping with this) which again has made life easier, both for checking payments and paying in cheques. Gift Aid was a bit of a problem, as most of the signed Gift Aid forms had been mislaid at some point over the years, and so I decided to start from scratch with an appeal to all members at the end of the year to complete a new form if they are able to donate Gift Aid.

Finally, I reviewed the list of institutional members, and removed some institutions which no longer existed, I was unable to reach, or did not wish to continue. Institutional subscriptions now tend to be

managed by third party agents who can be difficult to deal with, however, I have managed to make contact with the remaining 8 institutions or their agents and set up a system for renewals going forward. I hope that the Membership Secretary from over 15 years ago will no longer receive letters and cheques from these agents by post!

At the end of 2022, our membership stood at 691 members, broken down as follows:

Honorary: 10

Ordinary: 610

Junior: 3

Senior: 17

Student: 43

Institutional: 8

During 2022, changes to the membership can be summarised as follows:

- 137 members joined
- 36 members either resigned or we were notified of their decease
- 43 members allowed their membership to lapse with no contact

Therefore, there was a net gain of 58 members. The number of people joining and leaving this year is remarkably close to the figures for 2021 (138 and 77 respectively). As in previous years, there is quite a high turnover of members who join for a year but then allow their membership to lapse. Overall though, the membership at present seems to be growing year-on-year.

Claire Halpin, February 2023

Education and Training Officer

Several workshops/ courses have occurred this year. As reported in September, Mags Crittenden ran a course on 'Using the Field Guide to identify Bryophytes' in October 2022, where she had attendees from Cornwall, Leicestershire and Switzerland, among others. There is clearly a need for this type of course which would be classified as for 'Beginners with experience'. Lucia Ruffino will be running her online and face-to-face courses this year for COFNOD. She has had to double up as there was such a large demand. Again, a pointer to a need for more beginner-level courses. David Holyoak ran his workshop on the Bryaceae in January 2023 which was oversubscribed, furthering the support for more training. A Liverwort course run by Nick Hodgetts is planned for 2024. Courses on Acrocarps and Pleurocarps are being planned for 2025 and 2026.

The results of a questionnaire sent to recorders asking if they needed more support and, if so, what type of support were reported by Peter Martin. The main issues appeared to be the use of Excel/ QGIS/ MapMate and also the lack of online and in-the-field training for recorders. The Recorder's Handbook is still a valuable resource. A Recording Conference which would be accessible to all, not just recorders, is a possibility for 2024 tacked onto the AGM weekend. This would include some training in mapping and recording, as well as training in the field. Thank you to the recorders who were able to respond. Watson-type keys for all the mosses have now been produced by Nick Hodgetts and will be available on the website. These will need some revision and the membership is encouraged to trial these and send revisions or comments to Nick via the website. We are very grateful to Nick for this very large body of work and look forward to the next tranche of keys on liverworts.

Mags Crittenden continues to work on an online course to be launched at the September 2023 AGM as part of the BBS Centenary. Thank you to John O'Reilly of Ptyxis Ecology for very pertinent advice. As part of the development of this course, online support groups will be started via Zoom. In future, educational resources will be shared and developed via a Google Drive associated with the education@ email address which can then be shared with whoever would like to contribute. When documents are deemed to have been finished, they can then be uploaded to the Members area of the website.

Mags Crittenden, March 2023

Meetings Secretary

In 2022 the Society organised two main field meetings and an annual indoor meeting.

The spring meeting, held in Cornwall, was attended by approximately thirty people. Just under 3000 records were made, 7 of which were new v-c. records or 'debrackets' for VC1 and VC2. Two tetrads with few records were visited in a county which previously has had very good tetrad coverage, and many important sites were re-recorded at monad level.

A summer meeting was held on the Island of Jura, attended by 15 people. Over 2700 records were made, predominantly in monads that held no, or very few, previous records. 23 new v-c. records were found during the week.

The AGM in September was attended by around 30 members. It was held at Teesside University in Middlesbrough with paper readings on the Saturday and an interesting excursion to South Gare, a brownfield site adjacent to a coastal dune system on the Sunday. 162 records were made of 70 taxa with a total of six new v-c. records and debrackets.

The Society is grateful to all those involved in the hard work of organising these meetings, as well as to the attendees who have contributed their time and effort to make them a success.

Philippa Thompson, February 2023

Recorder for Liverworts

A total of 68 liverwort specimens have been processed this year. The numbers are considerably up on 2021 largely thanks to a very productive trip to the Isle of Man by Des Callaghan. Vouchers from Scotland have also increased, while England and Ireland have stayed about the same. There has been a significant decrease only in Wales, and there are no new vouchers from the Channel Islands. Des Callaghan is the most prolific contributor with 14 vouchers, then Rory Whytock (8), Nick Hodgetts (7), Sharon Pilkington (4), and Gordon Rothero and George Smith (3 each), with many other recorders contributing one or two vouchers. Five vouchers resulted from the summer meeting on Jura.

The vouchers from the Isle of Man have a high proportion of debracketings, reflecting the paucity of resident and visiting bryologists, and also that records from Jean Paton's bryophyte Flora of the island have gone into brackets in the new Census Catalogue. Of the species that have not previously been recorded from the Isle of Man, the apparent absence of *Colura calyptrifolia* was a clear gap to be filled, and this has now been done.

The hot, dry summer in the south resulted in a good exposure of mud on the margins of ponds and reservoirs, and a rash of records of *Riccia huebeneriana*. As well as being recorded from many of its known sites, it was seen for the first time in West Cornwall and both of the Hampshire vice-counties. Another liverwort notable for multiple vouchers is *Marsupella aquatica*. *Lophocolea semiteres* has also been newly recorded from four vice-counties, including one in Ireland, as it continues its vigorous onward march.

Andrew Branson's record of *Southbya tophacea* from a chalk bank by a forestry track in Dorset is one of the most pleasing records of the year. This rare plant also had a new record last year (in Ireland), and should be looked out for on disturbed calcareous substrates in the south. Andrew also managed to find *Aneura mirabilis* in Somerset's Blackdown Hills, another find that is always exciting. Paul Rooney's *Sphaerocarpos michelii* from Somerset is significant, being a small south-western extension of its range on the English mainland. Staying in Somerset, Sharon Pilkington found *Targionia hypophylla* on a cliff in Draycott Sleights Nature Reserve, the first time it has been recorded in the vice-county since PGM Rhodes' 1915 record in Cheddar Gorge. *Targionia* is widely perceived

to be on the decline in Britain, but perhaps the increasingly Mediterranean climate of southern England will favour it. One of Des's Isle of Man vouchers is of *Lophozia excisa* on quarry spoil; Mark Hill had the same species on 'fell-field' vegetation developing over industrial waste at Redcar in Yorkshire.

In Scotland, two records from Arran are particularly striking for their incongruity: *Dumortiera hirsuta* and *Phaeoceros laevis* from a waterfall by 'a car park behind a block of flats', from Liz Kungu and Hannah Udall. *Riccia fluitans* was recorded new to Scotland twice, independently. *Colura calyptrifolia* has appeared at another eastern site, found by Gordon Rothero at Loch Leven in Fife. Rory Whytock's record of *Lophocolea bispinosa* at Grantown-on-Spey represents a considerable range extension north of this introduced species, and his Perthshire record of *Calypogeia suecica* is some way south-east of previous records of that species. Rory has also found two plants last seen in their respective vice-counties by MacVicar in 1898: *Sphenolobus saxicola* from crags just above Aviemore; and *Nardia breidlerii* from Coire an t'Sneachda in the Cairngorms. Two records of alpine species have emerged from re-examination of herbarium specimens. Rory Whytock's 2017 *Gymnomitrium brevissimum* on Ben Lomond, and a 2014 specimen of *Marsupella sparsifolia* from the Cairngorms collected by Nick Hodgetts.

In Ireland, *Plagiochila exigua* and *Radula voluta*, both recorded from Co. Clare by Rory Hodd and Micheline Sheehy Skeffington, fill gaps between the Kerry and Galway populations of these two oceanic species. *Mesoptychia fitzgeraldiae* in Co. Antrim likewise fills a gap, this time between the limestone of north-west Ireland and the Scottish populations. George Smith has been busy in the still under-recorded Irish midlands, with useful vouchers from Cos. Leix and Offaly.

I have decided not to accept vouchers of the varieties of *Lophozia ventricosa* for the foreseeable future. The *L. ventricosa* complex has been something of a muddle for some time, with bryologists in different parts of Europe having different views on the taxa involved. The oil body character that has traditionally been used to differentiate the two varieties of *L. ventricosa* seems to be pretty worthless, as the nature of the oil bodies changes as specimens age. Some bryologists in continental Europe are working on the *L. ventricosa* complex, so clarification of this difficult group may emerge in due course. Therefore, only vouchers for *L. ventricosa sens. lat.* will be accepted until this happens.

	2022					2021				
	England	Wales	Scotland	Ireland	Isle of Man	England	Wales	Scotland	Ireland	Isle of Man
New entries	8	3	18	11	6	6	7	13	9	-
Debrackets	7	1	7	1	7	8	2	4	4	-
Persisting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bracketings	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Deletions	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	17	4	25	12	13	15	9	18	13	-

Nick Hodgetts, February 2023

Recorder for Mosses

In 2022 there were 244 moss additions and amendments to the census catalogue, fewer than in 2021. However, for the first time since 2019, a significant number (24) were generated through resumption of spring and summer field meetings in Cornwall and Jura, respectively.

Many species/vice-county combinations were newly bracketed by the 2021 census catalogue, and 32% of the vouchers submitted in 2022 were debracketers compared to 16% the previous year.

	New records	Updated records	Deletions
England	73 (103)	54 (17)	0 (17)
Wales	14 (46)	4 (2)	0 (8)
Scotland	54 (39)	18 (16)	1 (6)
Ireland	20 (34)	6 (18)	0 (4)
Channel Islands	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total	161 (222)	82 (53)	1 (35)

(The figures in parentheses are those for 2021)

Four new taxa were added to the British and Irish moss flora, including *Tortula bolanderi* from Norfolk and *Leucobryum albidum*, a species previously overlooked as variation within our other two *Leucobryum* species. Research into those species also demonstrated that the differences between them were not well understood. They will now be taken forward as *L. glaucum* s.str., which remains the most likely large species of open habitats, and *L. juniperoideum* s.str., a scarce species of ravines and other sheltered western places. Most of what was formerly recorded as *L. juniperoideum* in woodland is likely to be *L. albidum*.

It was a successful and prolific recording year in Scotland with some superb discoveries. *Dicranum elongatum*, on Skye is the first new record of this rarity in many years. Other Scottish highlights include new populations of *Andreaea sinuosa*, *Cynodontium strumiferum*, *Philonotis rigida* and *Grimmia elongata*. Fewer vouchers were received from Ireland than in 2021, but nonetheless there were some exceptionally good finds, especially in Northern Ireland, which is normally more poorly recorded than the Republican vice-counties. *Grimmia longirostris*, *G. muehlenbeckii* and *Bryoerythrophyllum campylocarpum* (the latter also found for the first time this year in mainland Scotland and England) were all very significant new records. Numbers were also down in Wales. Among the best finds there were *Grimmia elongata* in Pembrokeshire, *Ephemerum cohaerens*, *Micromitrium tenerum*, and *Aloina brevirostris*, the latter new to Wales. English highlights include a significant SW extension of range for the rare *Tomentypnum nitens* onto Exmoor. Bryologists taking advantage of exceptionally low water levels in the autumn to search reservoir sediment for inundation zone specialists reported populations of *Physcomitrium readeri* as far apart as Sussex and Cornwall. Climate change means that we see this little moss more frequently in future.

Sharon Pilkington, March 2023

Recording Secretary's Report

Post-Census Catalogue, it is perhaps fitting that BRC were able to appoint a new botanical assistant in 2022, permitting us to make much faster progress across numerous BBS-related tasks. Sam Amy joined the Biological Records Centre in spring 2022, after previously having worked for UKCEH as a field ecologist. Sam has rapidly got to grips with numerous arcane topics, and has led on the following initiatives: completing the updates required to bring both the BBS database and the UK Species Inventory (UKSI) in line with the new BBS checklist; performing, and updating, numerous MS Access-based quality checks on incoming data; processing most data (around 46 sets comprising

almost 100,000 records) and amendments received post-*Census Catalogue*; and leading on the recent *Field Bryology* post-*Atlas* database summary. On the back of all this hard work, we were able to distribute updated vice-county datasets to all Regional Recorders in November 2022.

Sam has of course also assisted with numerous other data enquiries this past year, including around 40 direct requests for the Society's raw data or summaries. These requests supported individual recorders, bryological consultants, and the planning of BBS field meetings, among other things. As usual, the number of direct requests to the Recording Secretary does not capture the numerous downloads of BBS data from the NBN or GBIF. Members should recall that BBS data are hosted on the NBN under a Creative Commons 'attribution only' licence (CC-BY). This means that they can be downloaded and used for any purpose, even if that purpose is commercial, as long as the BBS source is recognised. (This was decided upon by the former BBS Conservation & Recording Committee in 2015, and even then essentially only re-codified a pre-existing licensing statement established by my predecessor, Dr Mark O. Hill, some years before).

The UKSI updates mentioned above should enable BBS data to be displayed more accurately on the NBN, but they also support governmental processes such as Red Listing, and underlie the popular iRecord platform (meaning that recorders could now utilise the iRecord phone app for field recording). Related to this, bryophyte recorders using iRecord submitted around 13,400 records in 2022, indicating a rich source of data and local enthusiasm that may not have been exploited in some vice-counties or regions. Sam and I intend to summarise this resource in a *Field Bryology* article in 2023.

Three new Regional Recorders were appointed in 2022: Jonathan Sleath replaced Fred Rumsey in v.c. 12 (North Hants.); Agneta Burton and Astrid Biddle took on v.c. 20 (Herts.) as a double-act, a vice-county that has lacked a recorder since Chris Tipper stepped down in 2014; and Clare Shaw took on v.c. 60 (W. Lancs.), vacant since 2016 (previously Des Callaghan). Two other Regional Recorders retired in 2022 leaving as yet unfilled vacancies. These were Jan Hendey (v.cc. 15–16: 2008–2022) and Tom Ottley (v.cc. 13–14: 2012–2016; v.c. 46: 2017–2022). On behalf of the BBS, I thank the new Recorders for taking on their duties, and all the previous Recorders for their dedication and hard work. Regional Recorder details for each vice-county can be viewed under the relevant vice-county page on the BBS website (see <https://www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk/recording/vice-county-maps>). (Note that I also keep a spreadsheet-based record of all appointments.)

As readers will have already realised from the above, this year I have been indebted to Sam Amy for her tireless work across numerous, at times detailed and painful, tasks at BRC. Thanks again to other staff at BRC, including Steph Rorke for database updates and Martin Harvey for support with iRecord-related issues; thanks also to Claire Halpin on the BBS side for website updates.

Dr Oliver L. Pescott, February 2023



Accounts

British Bryological Society

A Charity Registered in England and Wales – No. 228851



Annual Report of the Trustees 2021

Annual General Meeting 2022

Annual General Meeting 2022

The next AGM will be held at 4.30 pm on Saturday 10th September 2022 at Teesside University, Middlesbrough Campus.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM, held at Plas Caerdeon on Sunday 12th September 2021
3. Matters arising
4. Annual Report of the Trustees for 2021
5. Accounts and Treasurer's report for 2021
6. Report from Council
7. Election of Officers
 - a. Joint Editor of *Field Bryology*
 - b. Joint Editor of *Field bryology*
 - c. Joint Website Editor
 - d. Joint Website Editor
 - e. Meetings Secretary
 - f. Elected member
 - g. Elected Member
 - h. Elected member
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts
9. Place and date of the next Annual General Meeting
10. Other future meetings
11. Any other business

BRITISH BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, BARMOUTH, 2021

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting at 4.30 p.m. on Sunday 12th September 2021 at Plas
Caerdeon, Barmouth, North Wales**

Present: M.A.S. Burton (President, in the chair), M. Ball, A. Biddle, J. Bingley, T. Blockeel, M. Crittenden, R. Jeffery, M. Godfrey, G. Greiff, C. Halpin, M. Hill, L. Kungu, M. Lawley, D. Long, P. Martin, C. McLennan, S. O'Leary, S. Pilkington, C. Preston, L. Ruffino, J. Scott, M. Stribley, P.J. Thompson.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from: S. Caporn, A. Baker, M. Watling, K. Adams, J. Sleath, G. Rothero, N. Hodgetts, N. Bell, P. Stanley and O. Pescott

2. **Minutes of the last AGM, held via Zoom video-conference on 12th September 2020.**

Following a proposal from L. Ruffino, seconded by P. Thompson, the Minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting and will be signed by the President.

3. **Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous AGM.

4. **Annual Report of the Trustees for 2020**

There were no further questions on the Annual Report of the Trustees and it was received by the meeting.

5. **Accounts and Treasurer's Report for 2020**

The Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting at short notice and so was unable to deliver the Treasurer's Report. It was agreed that an interim report should be circulated by the Treasurer after the meeting, including a summary of the accounts and of signatories.

The accounts had been prepared by the Treasurer, G. Quartly-Bishop, and approved by Council and the Independent Examiner.

6. **Report from Council**

The President's Report from Council, which was given at the meeting, will be published as Council Newsletter No. 38 in the May 2022 issue of *Field Bryology – Bulletin No. 127*.

The President gave thanks to several members who had contributed towards enabling the day-to-day business of the BBS to proceed almost normally despite Covid restrictions. In particular, thanks were given to Oli Pescott for facilitating the AGM and Council Zoom meetings and Claire Halpin and Ambrose Baker for their work on ensuring the success of the new website.

7. **Election of Vice-President**

Council nominated Mr. P. Martin as the next Vice-president of the BBS (to take office from 1st January 2022). There were no other nominations.

After a proposal by E. Kungu seconded by M. Godfrey, P. Martin was elected, with one abstention.

8. **Election of Officers**

No nominations had been received from members following the notice published in *Field Bryology*, for these or any other posts.

As P. Martin is having to relinquish his post of Membership Secretary after the statutory 10 years allowed, C. Halpin agreed to take on this role. After a proposal by L. Ruffino seconded by E. Kungu, C. Halpin was elected unanimously with one abstention.

Council made the following nominations for the officers who were due for election:

a. General Secretary	J. Scott
b. Conservation Officer	G. Rothero
c. Librarian	K. Adams
d. Recorder for Liverworts	N. Hodgetts
e. Recorder for Mosses	S. Pilkington
f. Recording Secretary	O. Pescott

The meeting agreed to elect these *en bloc*. Following a proposal by **M. Godfrey** seconded by **D. Long**, these Officers were duly elected by a majority vote (to serve for a 2-year period commencing 1st January 2022).

8. Election of Elected Members of Council

Council nominated Marion Rayner and Karen Rogers for election (for a 3-year term from January 2022). These two were proposed by M. Crittenden seconded by C. Halpin, all in favour.

9. Election of an Honorary Member

The president introduced a proposal from Council to elect a new Honorary member of the BBS. Dr David Long delivered a detailed appreciation of Gordon's valuable contributions to the Society, part of which is reproduced below:

"Gordon has been an extremely active member of the Society since he joined in 1980 and was first elected to Council at the Sheffield AGM in 1991. Since then he has been on Council from when he became Recorder for Mosses in 1997, serving in this role for 13 years until January 2010 and preparing annual reports of new vice-county records. He currently serves on Council both as the Conservation Officer and Convener of the Bequest Committee. Gordon is Bryophyte County Recorder for six vice-counties in the Scottish Highlands, probably covering a larger area than any other recorder, and for two of these (the island of Rum and Assynt in Sutherland) he has published bryophyte county floras.

Gordon's bryological work can be divided into seven main categories: BBS Council work including Recordship for Mosses, Bryophyte Conservation, Local County Records, teaching and training, bryological recording and surveying in the Scottish Highlands, research on and monitoring of montane snowbeds and bryological exploration in the French Pyrenees.

Gordon has been a very active participant in BBS meetings; as far as I can tell, his first meeting was the summer 1983 meeting in Kerry, for which he wrote up the report of the second week in the BBS Bulletin. Since then, he has organised at least five BBS meetings in the Scottish Highlands and Islands, written ten meeting reports, and participated in many others. He has also been a regular participant on overseas BBS meetings, including those in Brittany in 1993, Italy in 1997, Normandy in 2013, Italy in 2006, Albania in 2014 and in the Black Forest in 2015."

M.A.S. Burton seconded N. Hodgetts' proposal and Gordon Rothero was elected as an Honorary member of the BBS by a majority vote with just one abstention, to applause.

10. Appointment of new Independent Examiner of the Accounts

The current Independent Examiner, **Mrs J.H. Bingley**, is stepping down from the role after 14 years. The President commended her consistent and valued contribution to the Society throughout these years.

Council had nominated **Mr Michael Murtagh FCCA** as the new Independent Examiner.

P.G. Martin seconded **D J Scott's** proposal and **Mr Michael Murtagh** was unanimously elected as Independent Examiner of the Accounts.

11. Place and date of the next Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 10th September 2022 at Teesside University Campus, Middlesbrough.

12. Other future meetings

The Meetings Secretary, **L. Ruffino**, reported that plans were in place to hold a full set of meetings in 2022, but all depending on the rules prevailing at the time concerning Covid-19. It was hoped that the spring meeting in Hungary in April could go ahead, but shared accommodation will not be possible. The Summer meeting on

Jura, postponed from 2020, is also planned to go ahead in June 2022. It is anticipated that there will be a second summer meeting in 2022 to be held in Upper Teesdale. The 2023 spring meeting is planned to be held in the Lake District.

D. Long suggested that some thought should be given to holding a late summer meeting in Ireland in the near future.

13. Any other business

BBS Centenary 2023. There was general discussion on ways that the Society could mark this:

M. Hill reminded the meeting that the first field meeting of the Moss Exchange Club (the parent of the BBS) was held in Dolgellau in 1922 and that the BBS was formally constituted on 1st January 1923.

Any special commemorative meeting would be better held over a long weekend, rather than a full week. **L. Ruffino**

A symposium with a publication at the end of it, similar to the Diamond Jubilee of 1983, was proposed by the President, **A. Burton**

C. Halpin also suggested that smaller meetings should be spread around the regions to enable more people to take part.

Younger members with greater expertise in social media platforms would be a great asset in publicising events – **J. Bingley**. This would also be a good way to encourage younger members to both join the BBS and participate in events – **G. Greiff**

Urban bryology initiatives were suggested by **M. Godfrey** to encourage wider participation.

National Moss Day 2023:

This is an initiative suggested by **D. Long** and will be the first time that it will be celebrated by the BBS, although it has been an annual fixture in some countries for some time. No decision was made on the actual date for National Moss Day 2023, but **M. Hill** commented that it should not be held during the summer as bryophytes are not obvious then.

L. Ruffino recommended that the best way to promote this event would be through the various local BBS groups.

Thanks were expressed to the outgoing President for guiding the society through the difficult period of the last two years.

There being no further business, the meeting closed when the President's gavel came down at 5.27 p.m.

D.J. Scott, Hon. General Secretary

September 2021

British Bryological Society

A Charity Registered in England and Wales – No. 228851

Annual Report of the Trustees for the year 2021

Address of Principal Office: 19 Abbots Grove, Peterborough, PE4 5BP

Trustees at the date this report was approved:

Dr K.J. Adams (Librarian)
Dr A. Baker (Website Editor, Joint)
Mr. A. Branson (Bulletin Editor, Joint)
Dr M.A.S. Burton (Past-President)
Ms. M. Crittenden (Education and Training Officer)
Ms. C. Halpin (Elected Member, Website Editor, Joint, and Membership Secretary)
Mr. N.G. Hodgetts (Recorder for Liverworts)
Dr. E. M. Kungu (President)
Mr. P.G. Martin (Vice-President)
Dr O.L. Pescott (Recording Secretary)
Ms. S.L. Pilkington (Recorder for Mosses)
Dr C.D. Preston (Bulletin Editor, Joint)
Ms. G. Quartly-Bishop (Treasurer)
Ms. M. Rayner (Elected Member) *
Ms. K. Rogers (Elected Member) *
Mr. G.P. Rothero (Conservation Officer)
Ms. L. Ruffino (Meetings Secretary)
Mr. D.J. Scott (General Secretary)
Mr. M. Stribley (Elected Member)
Ms. P. Thompson (Elected Member)
Mr. R. Whytock (Elected Member)

* Trustees in 2022, but not during 2021

In addition, the following served as Trustees during 2021

M.F. Godfrey, Prof. S.J.M. Caporn

The Constitution of the British Bryological Society

The governing document of the British Bryological Society is The BBS Rules, adopted April 1963, amended 12th April 2003, 6th September 2003 and 9th September 2006.

Organisation

The British Bryological Society is managed by a Council which meets twice a year; Council members are the Trustees of the Society. The Council comprises the Officers of the Society, the immediate Past President, and six elected members.

Appointment of Trustees

Officers of the Society are elected at an Annual General Meeting for a term of two years. The six Elected Members each serve for three years, two being elected at each Annual General Meeting. Prospective trustees are asked to read the Charity Commission's publication *The Essential Trustee* as a check of their eligibility, and newly appointed trustees are asked to sign the Charity Commission *Trustee Eligibility Declaration*.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees have complied with the Charity Commission requirement for the BBS to provide identifiable public benefits, and have had due regard to the Charity Commission public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant. Of the descriptions of charitable purposes set out by the Charities Act, the work of the BBS is covered by the following: b) the advancement of education; f) the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science; and i) the advancement of environmental protection or improvement. Details of the ways in which public benefit has been delivered during 2016 are given in the account of BBS achievements below.

Objectives of the BBS

- (a) To promote and advance all branches of bryology throughout the world and especially in relation to bryophytes of the British Isles;
- (b) To facilitate the exchange of information among bryologists by organising field meetings, conferences, lectures and exhibitions, publishing the results of bryological study and research, maintaining a library, and other appropriate means;
- (c) To promote in every way possible the conservation of bryophytes.

Activities of the BBS

- (a) Publication of journals and books relating to bryology
- (b) Maintaining a website
- (c) Maintaining a library of bryological literature
- (d) Organisation of meetings and workshops
- (e) Promoting awareness of bryophytes, and providing advice and education
- (f) Gathering information about bryophytes and their natural habitats
- (g) Conservation of bryophytes
- (h) Sponsoring or supporting bryological research

The BBS is registered for Gift Aid.

The BBS neither owns nor leases any land or buildings.

Achievements during 2021

1. Membership and Volunteers

At the end of 2021 membership of the BBS stood at 608 paid-up members, a net gain of 61 in total membership, with 138 people joining the Society. The BBS is registered for Gift Aid with 158 members paying their membership under this scheme.

Many members carry out informal voluntary work for the Society. The BBS does not employ any staff and, in addition to the 20 Members of Council, members are active in organising meetings, running training workshops and field meetings for the 17 local groups, as well as the longer BBS meetings in Britain and Ireland and abroad. During 2021 Covid-19 restrictions led to cancellation or postponement of most planned meetings but recording activities by individuals maintained a good

level of submissions for both mosses and liverworts. Members take on editorial roles, contribute articles to BBS publications, undertake committee work and approximately 60 members take on the role of Regional Recorder for vice-counties. During the year six new Regional Recorders covering eight vice counties were appointed.

2. Journal of Bryology

The first of four 2021 issues included the new checklist of bryophytes of Britain and Ireland, incorporating new taxa recorded since the 2008 checklist as well as the taxonomic revisions and changes in nomenclature. A new Editor had been appointed and was in place early in 2021 to deal with Volume 43. The impact factor for 2020 was up slightly from 2019. The Journal continues to attract submissions on diverse topics and in 2021 there were contributions from 22 countries; an approximately even split between authorship from European countries and the rest of the world. Publication continued despite the pandemic affecting working conditions for some members of the Editorial Board.

3. Field Bryology

Two issues were published, as normal, with articles by some new as well as established contributors and included articles that covered other organisms associated with bryophytes. The lack of field meeting reports due to the Covid pandemic resulted in a reduction in the length of the second issue, but there was still a good range of topics covered in the articles submitted during the year.

4. BBS Website

In March 2021 the new website was launched successfully after intensive work by the website Editors with Castlegate IT. It has received very positive feedback from members as well as from organisations and other users to access information on bryophytes and on-line publications. There is easy access to identification aids and keys. Access to older documents has been provided by merging information from an existing member-maintained website. The Editors have encouraged input from members on use of the site as well as for content and images. The website provides an excellent platform for encouraging interest in bryophytes by non-members, as well as a valuable resources for members.

5. Other Publications

The BBS Field Guide, *Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland – a field guide* continued to sell well and the BBS provided some support for the publication of David Holyoak's *European Bryaceae*. The published new *Census Catalogue of British and Irish Bryophytes* was made available on the new BBS website, and a limited number of hard copies produced.

6. Library and Sales

There were, again, fewer sales items ordered during the year, but requests for the free pdf guide to microscopy techniques continue. The continuing Covid restrictions in 2021 prevented any further progress with updating the BBS library based at Treborth Botanic Gardens, but additional items have been purchased for the library. Copies of the new *Census Catalogue of British and Irish Bryophytes* were distributed by the librarian to those who purchased the volume (otherwise available on the website).

7. Meetings

The first meeting of the Society in 2021, following the relaxation on Covid-19 restrictions was the September AGM and field meeting, held at Plas Caerdeon, North Wales, where there were facilities for evening microscope work after days in the field. Some local recording meetings were possible during the year, dependent on local Covid regulations. Meeting organisers have been willing to continue to plan future meetings, postponed during the pandemic, and in some cases, finding alternative venues.

8. Education and Training

One weekend course on Liverworts for Beginners did run at Treborth Botanic Gardens, but most of the planned activities were affected by Covid restrictions. Members of the Education and Training Committee contributed to an on-line FSC course on bryophytes and have participated in discussions jointly with JNCC and the Natural History Museum and also with the RHS regarding recording biodiversity and training about bryophytes.

9. Recording Mosses and Liverworts

There was increased recording activity compared with the first pandemic year, though only a few records came from the one BBS field meeting that was possible to run in September. Herbarium and literature research resulted in some debracketings and deletions but a total of 222 new moss records were submitted from across Britain and Ireland and there were 35 new liverwort entries.

There were, again, about 40 direct requests for the Society's data this year; supporting individual recorders, bryological consultants, and those planning Society field meetings. As always, the number of direct requests to the Recording Secretary does not capture the numerous downloads of BBS data from the NBN and from GBIF. Six new Regional Recorders were appointed during the year, some taking on Vice Counties for which there had been no Recorder for some years. New bryophyte recorders were discovered in some regions through their submission of records via iRecord – a major source of records in 2021: over 12,600. The BBS database was checked thoroughly and updated in preparation for the new Census Catalogue, published in November.

10. Bryophyte Conservation

The new British and Irish checklist, produced in 2020, was published in the *Journal of Bryology* in autumn 2022. Conservation is a devolved matter but the Conservation Officer had ongoing discussions with JNCC regarding the delays in signing off the updated Red List for the UK and the consequences for listings of bryophytes on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. The Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest, of which the BBS is a member, has produced a video and an advocacy campaign, raising the profile of Scotland's temperate rainforest.

Financial Review 2021 – Accounts and Treasurer’s Report

BRITISH BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Charity Commission registered number 228851)

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS for the financial year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	2021	2020	Movement
GENERAL FUND				
Receipts				
Interest and investment income	<u>1</u>	4,017	4,143	(126)
Members' subscriptions		13,106	11,221	1,885
<i>Journal of Bryology</i> (Royalties)	<u>3</u>	14,117	15,473	(1,356)
<i>J Bryol</i> Editorial Expenses - Advance received from T&F	<u>3</u>	9,076	9,076	-
<i>Field Bryology</i>		25	-	25
<i>Mosses and Liverworts Field Guide</i>	<u>4</u>	15,182	11,766	3,416
<i>Census catalogue</i>	<u>5</u>	591	54	537
<i>Bryological Atlas</i>	<u>11</u>	2,759	-	2,759
Other publications		-	45	(45)
Lenses and forceps, etc. net of refunds & returns		260	373	(113)
AGM and other meetings	<u>12</u>	7,373	-	7,373
Bank complaints compensation		450	-	450
Sundries		-	-	-
Transfer from PayPal		-	-	-
PayPal fee reversal		-	137	(137)
Total Receipts		66,956	52,288	14,668
Payments				
<i>Journal of Bryology</i>	<u>3</u>	14,401	13,391	1,010
<i>J Bryol</i> Editorial Expenses paid out	<u>3</u>	13,614	4,561	9,054
<i>Field Bryology</i>	<u>6</u>	12,095	4,743	7,352
<i>Field Guide</i>	<u>4</u>		3,107	(3,107)
<i>Census Catalogue</i>	<u>5</u>	569	-	569
<i>Annual Report</i>		335	1,958	(1,623)
Previous website hosting		35	-	35
Website		8,857	8,413	444
Bryum Monograph - plates		-	2,000	(2,000)
Bryum Monograph - publication	<u>7</u>	8,140	800	7,340
Library move		-	204	(204)
Library purchases		-	76	(76)
Meetings expenses	<u>12</u>	7,141	149	6,992
Insurance		952	897	55
Bank charges etc		-	-	-
ICO - Data Protection Registration		35	35	-
Records dataset management	<u>13</u>	3,000	-	3,000
Sundries incl postage and packing for forceps etc		167	96	71
Total Payments		69,341	40,429	28,912
Net of Receipts (payments)		(2,386)	11,859	(14,245)

BEQUEST AND DONATION FUND	Note	2021	2020	Movement
	<u>2</u>	£	£	£
Receipts				
Interest and investment income		1,948	2,075	(127)
Donations (owing from current account)		1,290	114	1,176
Total Receipts		3,238	2,189	1,049
Payments				-
Grants	8	1,240	2,500	(1,260)
Total payments		1,240	2,500	(1,260)

TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE				-
Total receipts		70,193	54,477	15,717
Total payments		70,581	42,929	27,652
Net of Receipts (payments)		(388)	11,548	(11,936)

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

CASH FUNDS				
Paypal		37,178	17,657	19,521
Nat. West. a/c		9,587	35,460	(25,873)
COIF Deposit Funds	9	95,835	89,870	5,964
TOTAL cash funds at this year-end		142,599	142,987	(388)
INVESTMENT ASSETS	10			
General Fund				
COIF Investment Fund accumulation units		3,500	2,737	763
COIF Investment Fund income units		141,549	115,484	26,065
COIF Property Fund income units		8,499	7,397	1,101
Total		153,548	125,618	27,929
Bequest and Donation Fund				
COIF Fixed Interest Fund income units		23,448	25,020	(1,573)
COIF Investment Fund accumulation units		16,916	13,229	3,687
COIF Investment Fund income units		35,184	28,705	6,479
COIF Property Fund income units		8,499	7,397	1,101
TOTAL		84,046	74,352	9,694
Total investment assets		237,593	199,970	37,623
OTHER ASSETS				
Bryological library		-	-	-
Small stocks for sale of lenses, forceps, publications		-	-	-
Back issues of journals and sundry items		-	-	-
Field Guide, 1,327 Copies @ £6.69		8,878	13,072	(4,195)
Census catalogue, 113 copies @ £2.79		315	-	315
Sums Owed (uncleared cheques) General Fund		-	(35)	35
TOTAL		9,193	13,037	(3,844)
NET AVAILABLE ASSETS		389,385	355,994	33,391

NB Figures are rounded to the nearest pound
 These accounts were approved by Council on 4th May 2022 and have been agreed by the Independent Examiner. His certificate is reproduced below.

Treasurer's report

Notes to the accounts for the Financial Year 1st January to 31st December 2021

Amounts in this report are rounded to the nearest pound.

1 As permitted under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011, the accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis. All funds are unrestricted. Receipts and payments are presented net of rebates settled through Paypal.

2 Some assets are assigned by the trustees to the Bequest and Donation Fund, to provide investment income from which grants are made. When this Fund was established on 1st January 1995, its status was not explicit. The trustees wish to make it clear that they regard the Fund as expendable endowment, in view of the large size, in the context of the normal expenditure of the Society, of the legacies that have gone into formation of the Fund. With regard to future donations and legacies, if any evidence exists, or can be inferred from the circumstances of the donation or legacy, that a donor or testator had a specific intention one way or the other, the gift or legacy will be treated accordingly and, if appropriate, administered by the Bequest Committee. Where there is no such evidence, the gift or legacy will, except as described below, be treated as income and added to the accumulated monies available for disbursement by the Bequest Committee. Where the gift or legacy is a large sum (£500 or more) in the context of the normal expenditure of the Society, the trustees consider it reasonable to assume that the donor or testator would not have expected the Society necessarily to spend promptly such a sum of money, but would have expected the Society to invest the gift or legacy as expendable endowment and to use the income, unless and until the trustees choose to embark on some major project on which the endowed funds could reasonably be spent. Any such gift or legacy regarded as an addition to endowment will be noted in the accounts and will be invested along with the Bequest and Donation Fund; the resulting income will be available for disbursement by the Bequest Committee.

3 In 2021, royalties of £14,117 were received from the publisher and the costs of the purchase of members' copies of £14,401 were paid out. It can be seen that royalties have declined below the level of cost of purchase, which means that the Journal made a small loss in 2021 of £284. For 2021, payments of editorial expenses have been separated from costs of purchase of members' copies for the first time. For comparative purposes, amounts for 2020 have been restated accordingly. With regards to editorial expenses, the advance of £9,076 in 2020 was matched with one payment of £4,561 and the remaining amount owed for 2020 was not paid until January 2021. Thus, the total editorial expenses paid out in 2021 is £13,614 instead of the usual £9,076 because of this delayed payment. Note: Following Council decisions in 2006 the *Journal of Bryology* Editor was not a member of Council. The Editor received remuneration commensurate with the work involved and took on financial responsibility for any expenses incurred that related to editing the journal. This is covered by an editorial advance paid by the Publisher (Taylor and Francis).

4 Sales of the *Field Guide* in 2021 in the year net of Paypal rebates were £15,182. Costs associated with the *Field Guide* were nil as there were no reprint or other publishing-related expenses in year for this title. The surplus in 2021 was therefore £15,182 (2020: £8,659. 2019: deficit £6,313. 2018: surplus £11,821.) Over its lifetime, the *Field Guide* to date has provided a net surplus to the Society.

5 *Census Catalogue* publication. In 2021, the Society published an updated *Census Catalogue* with expenses totalling £569, being the cost of typesetting. No other expenses have been paid out to date. Sales revenue in 2021 was £591, so the *Census Catalogue* broke even in the year.

6 In 2021, *Field Bryology* numbers 125 and 126 were published. Actual payments in year totalled £12,095, being the amounts owed for issue 124 (November 2020) as well as numbers 125 and 126.

7 The Council of the British Bryological Society agreed in 2018 to back a Monograph for Bryum financially with a loan of up to £12,500 in support of publication. The first tranche of £2,000 was paid for the production of plates in 2018, with a further £2,000 paid in 2020, along with £800 paid to the publisher. The book has now been published, and final publication costs of £8,140 are presented in the 2021 accounts.

8 £1,240 was paid out in 2021 in relation to grants awarded from the Bequests & Donation Fund. These grants were: £490 to Des Callaghan to support research on the habitat of the liverwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii*; and 3 x £250 to allow students of bryology to attend courses and conferences.

9 Deposit Funds are deposited with CCLA. As at the December 2021 statement, the General Fund was £82,104 and Bequest & Donation Fund was £13,731. The General Fund owes the Bequest & Donation Fund £3,366 for the net amounts paid out of General Fund cash accounts on its behalf (carried forward from 2019).

10 Reserves policy: the Society maintains reserves, amounting to the fund balances (less commitments) at year end, to provide contingent resources to enable it to meet its contractual commitment towards ongoing publication of the *Journal of Bryology*, to support and underwrite the cost of publishing projects, to meet requests from within the Society or from other bodies for financial help in the promotion of bryology, to pay upfront and underwrite costs of meetings, and to meet unforeseen costs. With regard to the financial implications and risks of the Society's charitable activities, the trustees consider that the reserve should not fall below £100,000. In the event that it does, the trustees may consider raising the level of the membership subscription and/or re-designation of part of the Bequest and Donation Fund. Most funds, while being held in reserve, are placed on deposit to earn interest or invested to provide income. This policy is reviewed annually at the first Council meeting of the year as part of the process of approving the Accounts (including Notes to the Accounts).

11 *Bryological Atlas*. Royalties were received from the publisher, NatureBureau, in November 2021, having skipped a year in 2020.

12 Meetings. In 2020, there were no in-person residential meetings, hence the zero receipts in that year and a small payment relating to a meeting in the previous year. In 2021, the Society was able to hold an in-person residential meeting at Plas Caerdeon. Receipts from this meeting exceeded payments by £332 (a further payment of £100 was made as a deposit to secure accommodation for a future meeting in Cumbria).

13 Records dataset management. A one-off payment to Sharon Pilkington for her services in collating a large dataset of bryophyte records. Sharon is a trustee of the Society and the payment has been disclosed to the Charity Commission as required by the prevailing guidance.

Gail Quartly-Bishop, May 2022

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the British Bryological Society

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the British Bryological Society for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Respective Responsibilities of the trustees and the examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act') and that an independent examination is needed.

My responsibilities:

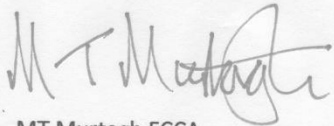
- to examine the accounts in accordance with section 145 of the Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



MT Murtagh FCCA
49 Farleigh Fields
Orton Wistow
Peterborough PE2 6YB
6th May 2022

Officers' Reports for 2021

General Secretary

2021 saw a slow return to normal business for the Society after the trials of the covid pandemic. Bryological activities were slow to non-existent at the beginning of the year, but these began to pick up as local groups began to venture out.

The spring and summer meetings had to be postponed yet again, and the spring Council meeting was held virtually, but we finally managed to meet in person and hold the autumn Council meeting and AGM for the first time in 2 years. Although meetings by Zoom were an expediency to suit the times, there is no real appetite to substitute these for the real thing in the future.

One bright light in a sombre 2021 was a new FSC publication in the AIDGAP series – *Sphagnum mosses: field key to the mosses of Britain and Ireland*. This was co-written by BBS members Martin Godfrey and Karen Rogers, who have very generously agreed to donate any royalties they receive to the BBS.

Jeff Scott, March 2022

Field Bryology Editors

There was a change in the editorial team in 2021, with Andrew Branson replacing Mari Whitelaw as co-editor when Mari found that the calls on her time had become too numerous for her to continue. We thank Mari for her dedication to *Field Bryology* during her time as co-editor.

We were able to publish the usual two issues in 2021, one in May of normal size (84 pages) and the other in November which was rather slim (56 pages). The articles covered a wide range of bryological topics, written by some experienced and some new contributors. There was also a paper on bryophilous fungi and a note on a terrestrial alga that might be spotted by bryologists. The slim November issue clearly reflects the effect of the Covid pandemic, with the absence of the normal field meeting reports. Fortunately field meetings have now resumed and we hope that the reports will once again be a regular feature from May 2022 onwards.

Andrew Branson & Chris Preston, February 2022

Website Editors

2021 was another busy year for the website editors. Having been given access to our new website by the developers shortly before Christmas 2020, the first 2 months of 2021 saw us reorganising and transferring most of the content from our old website to the new one. By the middle of February, the bulk of this was done, and we set a launch date of Monday 8th March 2021.

Early on the Monday morning, our developers Castlegate IT changed the necessary configuration settings, and the new website was up and running. It was an anxious moment, but everything went smoothly. The only slight glitch was that access to *Journal of Bryology* online didn't immediately work, and we had to implement a temporary solution for a couple of weeks until this was resolved. Of course, this wasn't our work done for the year. Since launching, we have been working to maintain and add to the content, including:

- Adding images and identification notes to the Species Finder pages
- Adding meeting details to the Events section of the website, and subsequently adding meeting reports / photos when provided by the organisers

- Enabling ordering of the new *Census Catalogue 2021*, and access to a downloadable PDF of the Catalogue
- Merging the content of Dr Phil Stanley's Lumiweb website into the BBS website, including his *Cumulative Index* and details – and often content – of historical Atlases, Census Catalogues etc

Work on the Species Finder pages especially is ongoing, and we would like to thank Sharon Pilkington and Sean O'Leary for their help with these.

We have received much positive feedback about the new website since it launched, both verbally and via emails, from users in the UK and abroad. Particularly pleasing are the various organisations looking to develop a new website (including the British Lichen Society and BSBI) who have contacted us to ask about our experiences in developing the website and which developers we used. Inevitably now that the website is in use, there are minor things we want to change, to tailor it for our use. At the Autumn Council meeting, we requested a small budget for future changes and this was agreed. There are no plans at present for any major enhancements to the website.

Claire Halpin & Ambroise Baker, February 2022

Conservation Officer

2021 has been another difficult year for obvious reasons and the status of the Conservation Committee is still under review, essentially because of problems arising from conservation being a devolved matter. The new British and Irish checklist was produced at the end of 2020 and was published in the *Journal of Bryology*, and this was followed by a new census catalogue, published in the autumn of 2021. The updated bryophyte Red List for the UK has still not been signed off by Natural England; after a long delay in accepting the first draft that was compiled by Des Callaghan and Nick Hodgetts, NE has decided that data accumulated during the delay should be used and Des Callaghan is producing the revised list.

This delay in the red list has had a knock-on effect on the bryophyte listing on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act which is currently undergoing its seventh quinquennial review. A significant change to the criteria for inclusion on Schedule 8 means that all species listed as Critically Endangered using IUCN criteria will automatically go onto Schedule 8. After representations to JNCC the new red list will be used and this will lead to a significant increase in the number of bryophytes on the schedule but, as yet, the new list is not available. This is just the first stage in the process as the list will then go to the devolved governments for ratification and in Scotland at least, this apparently will involve a further round of consultation.

In Scotland, the Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest, an organisation managed by Plantlife and the Woodland Trust and of which the BBS is a member, has managed to raise the profile of our temperate rain forest with the production of an excellent video and an advocacy campaign. Discussions with the Scottish Government are on-going, but it is hoped that these will produce significant funding, particularly for tackling invasive rhododendron. BBS member Oliver Moore is ASR's advisor on bryophytes and lichens.

Another issue for the BBS to consider is a response to the translocation of beavers to various localities in the UK and any management that that involves. Work in Knapdale suggests that significant local damage to Atlantic hazel can occur and potentially other locally important trees. The spread of beavers on Tayside has been remarkable and further spread may be difficult to manage but it is unclear as yet how much of a threat this is to our temperate rain forest habitat but there is a clear threat to aspen bristle moss.

Gordon Rothero, February 2022

Librarian

Sales:

Census Catalogue (update) 2008	3
Census Catalogue (update) 2021	79
BBS <i>Bulletins</i>	-
<i>Field Bryology</i>	-
English Names of Bryophytes	-
<i>Practical Bryophyte Chromosomes</i> (Newton)	1
<i>Collecting Bryos. in the Tropics</i> (O'Shea)	-
Chinese x20 lenses	1
Chinese x30 lenses	1
Idealtek Stainless steel forceps	16
Mini-blade packs of 10	13
Micrometer Eyepiece Scales	1
Loans: Micrometer calibration slide	-
Chinese Microscope	1
free pdfs Microscope techniques 1 & 2	9

There were just 13 standard sales orders in 2020, down 7 on 2020, not unexpected in view of continuing Covid 19 restrictions on field work in 2021 but 91 copies were distributed to the end of the year of the updated *Census Catalogue of British & Irish Bryophytes* with the new bracketing cut-off at 1970 and adoption of most of the new European Catalogue 2020 names. In addition to sales items, 9 beginners have taken advantage of the free pdfs of Microscope Techniques for Beginners and Bryophyte Microscopy tips during the year. Due to Covid restrictions there has been no progress with further updating the BBS Library at the Treborth Botanic Garden, Bangor but copies of Michael Lüth's 3 volume *Mosses of Europe Photographic Flora* and David Holyoak's *European Bryaceae* have been purchased for the BBS Library. We are continuing to exchange *Field Bryology* for the Belgian *Muscillanea* and Swiss *Meylania* and *J. Bryol.* for various Polish publications.

Ken Adams, February 2022

Membership Secretary

At the end of 2021, our membership stands at 608 paid up members.

The membership comprised of the following:

Honorary:	12
Ordinary:	545
Concessions:	41
(students/senior)	
Institutional:	10

In 2022 we had a net membership gain of 61. 77 members did not renew membership (resignations/death) and 138 people joined the society.

Gift aid has been registered by 158 members.

Peter Martin, March 2022

Education and Training Officer

As a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, there has been little in the way of training courses that have actually happened. A number had been planned for, but with fluctuating COVID infections and equally fluctuating regulation which also varied with each country in the UK, a number were cancelled or postponed. We hope that the next year or so will bring increased opportunities for the BBS to share its expertise with enthusiasts.

One such course which did take place was a 'Liverworts for Beginners', weekend at Treborth Botanic Gardens, near Bangor, run by Philippa Thompson and Lucia Ruffino supported by Shaun Russell, former curator of the Botanic Garden. There were a number of drop-outs from the course which is an inevitable result of people's worry about travelling and staying away from home at this difficult time. However, for those who attended, the course was a great success, despite the weather.

Martin Godfrey had planned for a one-day course based at Manchester Metropolitan University under the auspices of Simon Caporn. It was to be entitled 'Dicranum and Friends' and would have included a large component on microscope technique which is a skill that many beginner bryologists lack and need one-to-one tuition. We hope that this will be able to take place in 2023.

An additional outlet for teaching and learning was the virtual environment. The Field Studies Council had taken a lead in this in having a graduated learning approach. After the Education and Training committee decided that we did not have the resources to deliver the equivalent of the 'Identiplant' online model, Lucia Ruffino very bravely has provided some of this through the FSC in her online training course followed up by residential courses. Lucia and Nick Law provide the only FSC content on Bryophytes to date. This is an area of T and L which might well be worth the BBS increasing its provision despite the obvious drawbacks.

The new website has been a real triumph for the BBS through the good offices of Claire and Amboise. It could be argued that the top performing pages are all to do with a thirst to know more about bryophytes with a particular emphasis (it seems) on *Bryum pseudotriquetrum* and *Brachythecium rutabulum*! The expanding scope of the website would, in future, be an excellent vehicle for providing some of the online training that may be essential if we are to maximise the legacy of our society.

Nick Hodgetts has produced a preliminary key to the 'Pottiales' using Watson as a template and which is consistent with the new checklist. It includes microscopic details and is therefore not suitable as a field key but could run alongside the Field Guide making this aspect of bryology more accessible in future. It has been uploaded to the website. Nick hopes to produce another instalment shortly.

Mags Crittenden, representing the BBS, has been attending workshops run jointly by JNCC and the Natural History Museum on 'Urban Biodiversity – what do we need to know'. This is a follow up to a workshop last year on the same/ similar theme. The central question was what do we need to know about urban biodiversity, why do we need to know it and how do we collect the data on it? This led to the inevitable conversation about lack of enough experts in the field to have the time to disseminate the knowledge necessary to record accurately. The RHS is interested in ways in which they can increase biodiversity in their holdings and Mags will, she hopes, be in conversation with them about training etc. In addition, there may be a source of funding for training through the JNCC and the Natural History Museum. We shall see.

Mags Crittenden, March 2022

Meetings Secretary

The outdoor recording activities and meetings of the Society continued to be severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021. Continuing lockdown measures in winter/spring meant that the Spring Meeting scheduled for April 2021 was postponed to March 2023. The Summer Meeting in Jura was again postponed, to June 2022, as Covid had led to the closure of facilities such as the local campsite, café, and the cancellation of boat trips. The latter in particular would have meant a severely curtailed recording programme that would not reach the under-recorded parts of the island.

Given the relaxation of Covid security measures in the summer, the Autumn Meeting at Plas Caerdeon, Barmouth, North Wales was held from 11th to 18th September. The meeting was efficiently organised by Margaret Crittenden, following Welsh Covid guidance. The weather was kind and attendees all relished the opportunity of working together after such a prolonged period without meetings. The opportunity to learn from expert bryologists both in the field and during indoor microscope sessions is a very important part of the Society's meetings and gives beginners a chance to improve their identification skills.

Unfortunately, the end of the year saw another postponement of a field meeting, the one scheduled for early April 2022 in Hungary. It was deemed necessary to postpone this meeting given the uncertainties relating to future air travel restrictions and other Covid measures. The Hungary meeting was postponed to Spring 2024.

Local recording meetings continued to be held, as and when local relaxation of Covid measures allowed, and were run in accordance with local Covid 19 regulations in place at the time.

Lucia Ruffino, Meetings Secretary, March 2022

Recorder for Liverworts

There has been a small increase in specimens processed this year, with 55 in total. While specimens from England and Ireland are slightly down, those from Wales are slightly up and Scottish submissions are double on the previous year. There are no new vouchers from the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, and no deletions. There are two bracketed entries resulting from literature and herbarium research. The 'top contributors' are; Rory Hodd (8, 2 of which with Jo Denyer), Tom Blockeel (7, 1 of which with Sharon Pilkington), Rory Whytock (6), Nick Hodgetts (5, 1 of which with J. Owens, Phil Perrin & Maria Long), George Smith (3) and Matt Sutton (3). While the meeting in North Wales marked a welcome return to something like normality after the last couple of years, it yielded only a small number of NVCRs in an area that is well-recorded.

Orkney has been particularly productive this year. John Crossley's *Herbertus noreus* on Hoy is particularly pleasing, and a significant extension of the range of this species southwards. In addition, a weekend bryology session on Papa Westray produced several new vouchers, including *Mesoptychia gillmanii*. Elsewhere in Scotland, it was interesting to find *Barbilophozia kunzeana* in heath, presumably much more akin to its Scandinavian habitat than the flushes where it is normally found in Britain. Rory Whytock has become very good at spotting *Calypogeia suecica*, which is presumably not particularly rare in the 'wider Cairngorms' area, with no fewer than three NVCRs. His find of *Scapania gymnostomophila* in VC94 is also significant, although it is somewhat surprising that it had not been recorded previously from this vice-county. A bit further south, in Perthshire, Rory also had *Scapania curta* in an unremarkable habitat; this species must surely be overlooked on tracksides in Scotland. In central Glasgow, Keith Watson spotted a tiny liverwort on the banks of the River Kelvin that turned out to be the New Zealand native *Tricholepidozia tetradactyla*, which had presumably 'escaped' from the nearby Botanic Gardens. The prize for the most unusual habitat goes to Brian Sims, who found *Riccia sorocarpa* on the roof of an animal cage in Woburn Safari Park. Which animal was unspecified, but hopefully there was no serious jeopardy involved. *Riccia* is well

represented generally in this year's vouchers, especially from England. Elsewhere in England, Richard Lansdown's *Sphaerocarpos michelii* from Gloucestershire and Tim Purches' *Porella cordaeana* from Cornwall are both worthy of attention, and Pete Martin's *Cephaloziella turneri* on Lundy is somehow satisfying, bridging as it does the populations in south-west England and Wales.

In Wales, *Riccia huebeneriana* and *Lepidozia pearsonii*, both found by Matt Sutton in Pembrokeshire, represent small range extensions south-westwards, while *Fossombronia caespitiformis*, found a couple of years previously in Cardiganshire by Tom Ottley, is a welcome but not unexpected addition. The specimen was revisited following the 'de-lumping' of *F. caespitiformis* and *F. husnotii*. Sam Bosanquet's record of *Schistochilopsis opacifolia* in the Brecon Beacons marks a significant southerly extension of its range.

In Ireland, Rory Hodd and Jo Denyer have made significant contributions, including a new site for *Southbya topheae*, found below sea level in a disused quarry along with *Oleolophozia perssonii*, here at its second Irish site. As usual, Rory has made plenty of other contributions from Ireland, among which *Moerckia hibernica* from The Burren is particularly noteworthy. I was pleased to find a good population of *Reboulia hemisphaerica* in an area of the south-west where it is particularly scarce.

In addition to the listings presented here, it is necessary to note that *Tricholepidozia tetradactyla* has (originally as *Telaranea murphyae*) been recorded in VCs 1, 9 and 11, *T. murphyae* was synonymised with *T. tetradactyla* by Villareal et al. (2014). The transfer of *T. murphyae* records to *T. tetradactyla* was overlooked in the new Census Catalogue.

	2020				2021			
	England	Wales	Scotland	Ireland	England	Wales	Scotland	Ireland
New entries	14	6	9	11	6	7	13	9
Debrackets	5	2	0	3	8	2	4	4
Persisting	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bracketings	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Deletions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	20	8	9	14	15	9	18	13

Nick Hodgetts, February 2022

Recorder for Mosses

Increased recorder activity in the second pandemic year has produced a good crop of new and updated moss records. However, the ongoing difficulty of organising spring and summer meetings meant that few (2%) of these were generated by attendance at the Barmouth meeting in September.

There were 310 additions and amendments to the Census Catalogue, which represents 117 more additions and amendments than in 2020. The proportion of new and updated records stayed much the same as the previous year, but deletions jumped to 11% of the total from less than 1%. This is primarily a consequence of the reworking of herbarium collections of *Racomitrium heterostichum* and *Weissia longifolia* by Tom Ottley and Des Callaghan, respectively. The long-awaited new Census Catalogue was not published until November and the consequences of the changed date for bracketing to 1970 were felt only mildly.

	New records	Updated records	Deletions
England	103 (70)	17 (19)	17 (0)
Wales	46 (32)	2 (7)	8 (0)
Scotland	39 (27)	16 (4)	6 (1)
Ireland	34 (25)	18 (8)	4 (0)
Channel Islands	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total	222 (154)	53 (38)	35 (1)

(The figures in parentheses are those for 2020)

The list contains a number of additions to the British and Irish flora, with *Bryoerythrophyllum campylocarpum* from Cardiganshire and Cork and subsequently elsewhere in Wales. The newly recognised *Ptychostomum touwii* was found in Cornwall, and *Tortula pallida* in several vice-counties in south Wales and Sussex, latterly also in West Gloucestershire and South Somerset.

There were several notable finds from Scotland, including the most northerly population of *Tortula atrovirens* from Orkney, *Ditrichum lineare* on Arran and *Bryoerythrophyllum campylocarpum* new to Scotland on the Isle of Skye. In Ireland, highlights include the first Irish occurrence of *Dicranella howei* in Co. Kildare and *Ulota drummondii* in Co. Dublin.

In Wales, Matt Sutton's remarkable efforts once again produced a swathe of notable records, including *Cynodontium tenellum* and *Bryum gemmilucens*, both new to Wales in Pembrokeshire, and *Didymodon tomaculosus* from Carmarthenshire.

Highlights in England include *Orthotrichum columbicum* in two Yorkshire vice-counties, *Pterigynandrum filiforme* and *Bryum creberrimum* in Buckinghamshire and *Antitrichia curtipendula* in a North Hampshire wood. *Bryum riparium* from Somerset Exmoor is remarkable so far south-west and *Entosthodon mouretii* in the Cheddar Gorge in North Somerset is the first recent English record of this species.

Sharon Pilkington, March 2022

Recording Secretary's Report

The main event in 2021 was the publication of the new census catalogue. In preparation for this, the BBS database at the Biological Records Centre in Wallingford was updated to reflect the new taxonomy of the recently published British and Irish checklist. The census catalogue update also entailed a shift in the bracketing date cut-off, and lists of proposed bracketings resulting from this were created and circulated to Regional Recorders for checking. This exercise also required that the BBS database be as up-to-date as possible, and so a special effort was made to ensure that all data received over the past few years, and any amendments, were all processed and loaded in advance of the bracketing date checks. Thanks are due to Sharon Pilkington, for ably assisting with dataset formatting and preparation, and Tom Blockeel, for numerous checks of bracketing proposals. Thank you also to all Regional Recorders who responded to queries.

Records received via iRecord (www.irecord.org.uk) numbered over 12,600 for 2021; as I have noted before in my reports, Regional Recorders not reviewing incoming data through this platform are clearly missing an opportunity to engage new bryologists and support other enthusiasts in their area. iRecord data verified as “correct” or “considered correct” by BBS Regional Recorders are now shared with the NBN alongside other BBS datasets (see <https://registry.nbnatlas.org/public/show/dr2141>). In addition to these iRecord data, records made through iNaturalist (<https://inaturalist.org/>) are now also shared with the BBS and iRecord for verification. At least two Regional Recorders have discovered new bryophyte recorders, and interesting local records, through this route in 2021, and around 15,000 records of bryophytes in Britain and Ireland (mostly with photos) have been created through this route to date.

There were again around 40 direct requests for the Society's raw data or summaries this year; requests supported individual recorders, bryological consultants, and the planning of BBS field meetings, e.g. through the provision of vice-county “wants” lists. As usual, the number of direct requests to the Recording Secretary does not capture the numerous downloads of BBS data from the NBN or GBIF. Unfortunately the work on the census catalogue in 2021 meant that some other annual outputs, such as the Rare and Interesting column in *Field Bryology*, were postponed. I hope to return this to normal service in 2022.

Six new Regional Recorders covering eight vice-counties were appointed in 2021: Claire Halpin replaced Graham Motley in v.c. 42 (Brecks.); Matt Sutton replaced Sam Bosanquet in v.c. 45 (Pemb.); Philippa Thompson took on the previously vacant v.c. 49 (Caerns.); Martin Godfrey adopted the also previously vacant v.c. 50 (Denbs.); Gail Quartly-Bishop replaced Anthony Gregory in v.c. 59 (S. Lancs.); and Rory Whytock took on v.c.c. 94, 95, and 96 (Banffs., Moray, and Easternness), all of which had been vacant for over ten years. On behalf of the BBS, I thank the new Recorders for taking on their duties, and all the previous Recorders for their dedication. Regional Recorder details for each vice-county can now be viewed under the relevant vice-county page on the BBS website (see <https://www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk/recording/vice-county-maps>).

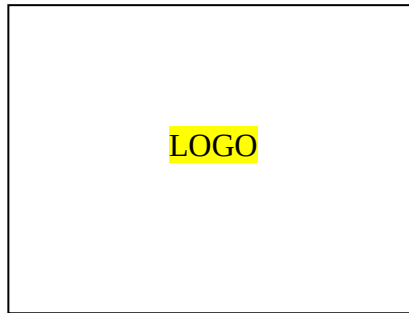
I thank staff at BRC, particularly Steph Rorke, for supporting me and the BBS in various ways, and Claire Halpin for website updates.

Dr Oliver L. Pescott, February 2022

Accounts

British Bryological Society

A Charity Registered in England and Wales – No. 228851



Annual Report of the Trustees 2020

Annual General Meeting 2021

Annual General Meeting 2021

Conditional upon Government regulations at the time, the AGM will be held at 4.30 on Sunday 12th September 2021 at Plas Caerdeon, North Wales

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM, held via video-conference on 12th September 2020
3. Matters arising
4. Annual Report of the Trustees for 2020
5. Accounts and Treasurer's report for 2020
6. Report from Council
7. Election of Officers
 - a. Vice-President
 - a. General Secretary
 - b. Conservation Officer
 - c. Librarian
 - d. Membership Secretary
 - e. Recorder for Liverworts
 - f. Recorder for Mosses
 - g. Recording Secretary
 - h. Elected Member
 - i. Elected member
8. Confirmation of co-option of Bulletin Editor (Joint)
9. Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts
10. Place and date of the next Annual General Meeting
11. Other future meetings
12. Any other business

BRITISH BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020, VIA VIDEO-CONFERENCE

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting via ZOOM video-conference at 10.00 a.m. on
Saturday 12th September 2020**

Present: **M.A.S. Burton** (President, in the chair) and 24 other members. (Attendees would normally sign the new Attendance Book, presented to the Society by P. Stanley, to record their attendance. In these unusual circumstances of a Covid-19 pandemic, a printed list will be inserted instead.)

1. Apologies for absence were received from: **S. Grahame, R.H. Carter, J. Sleath and S. Caporn.**

2. Minutes of the last AGM, held on Saturday 5th October 2019 at the Botanic Garden, Leicester

Following a proposal from **P. Stanley**, seconded by **M. Godfrey**, the Minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting and will be signed by the President.

3. Matters arising:

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

4. Annual Report of the Trustees for 2019

There was an error made in the compilation of this booklet. The Secretary apologised for inadvertently including the Recording Secretary's Report of the previous year (2018) instead of 2019. The correct report will be published in the next edition of *Field Bryology*. There were no further questions on the Annual Report of the Trustees; it was received by the meeting.

5. Accounts and Treasurer's Report for 2019

There were no questions on the Accounts and Treasurer's Report; they were accepted by the meeting.

The accounts had been prepared by the previous Treasurer, **S. Peacock**, and approved by Council and the Independent Examiner.

6. Report from Council

The President's Report from Council, which was given at the meeting, will be published as Council Newsletter No. 37 in the May 2021 issue of *Field Bryology – Bulletin No. 124*.

The President thanked **Sally Peacock** for her clear presentation of the accounts during the past two years and also thanked **Claire Halpin** and **Ambroise Baker** for their work in taking the new website forward. **O. Pescott** was thanked for facilitating the online Zoom meetings during this difficult year.

7. Election of Officers

No nominations had been received from members following the notice published in *Field Bryology*, for these or any other posts.

Council made the following nominations for the officers who were due for election:

a. Treasurer G. Quartly-Bishop

Gail Quartly-Bishop had been co-opted by Council as Acting Treasurer following the resignation of the previous Treasurer, **S. Peacock**. Following a proposal by **L. Ruffino**, seconded by **C. Halpin**, she was duly elected as Treasurer with immediate effect by a unanimous vote.

b. Education and Training Officer M. Crittenden

c. Field Bryology Editor (Joint) C.D. Preston

d. Field Bryology Editor (Joint) M. Whitelaw

e. Meetings Secretary	L. Ruffino
f. Website Editor (Joint)	C. Halpin
g. Website Editor (Joint)	A. Baker

The meeting agreed to elect these *en bloc*. Following a proposal by **P. Stanley** seconded by **G. Rothero**, these Officers were duly elected by a majority vote (to serve for a 2-year period commencing 1st January 2021).

8. Election of Elected Members of Council

Council nominated **P. Thompson** (who had already been co-opted onto Council as an Elected member to replace **D. J. Scott** who had been elected General Secretary) and **R. Whytock** for election (for a further 2-year and a 3-year term respectively from January 2021). These two were proposed by **G. Rothero**, seconded by **E. Kungu**, all in favour.

9. Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts

Mrs J.H. Bingley was willing to act as the Independent Examiner of the Accounts in 2021. The President said that the Society was exceedingly grateful to **Mrs Bingley** for taking on this role for another year. **G. Quartly-Bishop** proposed that she be re-appointed; **M. Godfrey** seconded the proposal, agreed unanimously.

10. Place and date of the next Annual General Meeting

Although the situation is currently fluid owing to Covid-19, it is hoped that the next Annual General Meeting will take place on the 2nd or 3rd week of September at Plas Caerdeon in Merionethshire.

11. Other future meetings

The Meetings Secretary, **L. Ruffino**, reported that plans were in place to hold a full set of meetings in 2021, but all depending of the rules prevailing at the time concerning Covid-19. The spring meeting will be in the Lake District in April, but shared accommodation will not be possible. The Summer meeting on Jura, postponed from 2020, is also planned to go ahead in June 2021. It is also anticipated that the late summer meeting will take place in Merionethshire in Wales based at Plas Caerdeon. The dates for this are not yet fixed and it is hoped that Plas Caerdeon will be able to include a weekend in order to hold the AGM.

C. Halpin reminded the meeting that 2023 will be the Centenary Year of the BBS. **L. Ruffino** stated that no plans were yet in place for meetings to commemorate the event and welcomed any suggestions from the membership.

J. Bingley stated that similar organisations to the BBS had successfully arranged their AGM meetings using video conferencing. The usual programme of presentations had been made possible by spreading the frequency of these over several days instead of being condensed into one long day. She suggested that this method could be explored if the same restrictions were still in place next year.

13. Any other business

P. Stanley drew attention to the fact that the 'Rules' ('Constitution') of the Society make no mention of what a quorum for the AGM should be. The 'Rules' were last revised in 2006. It was agreed that Council should examine the existing clauses and decide whether any need to be updated. **Action: DJS**

P. Stanley was commended by the meeting for his sterling efforts in scanning and committing to .pdf and DVD the following historical documents: MEC Reports: 1896 – 1922 (Complete set); BBS Reports: 1923 – 1944 (Complete set); Bulletins (old style): 1963 – 2002 (Complete set prior to *Field Bryology*).

They are currently held in the BBS Dropbox archive which does not have public access but the documents will ultimately be available on the new website. The documents were also recorded on a DVD which has been deposited with the BBS library at Treborth Botanic Garden in Bangor, N. Wales.

The President thanked everyone for having taken part in this first online AGM to allow the Society's business to be carried out.

There being no further business, the meeting closed when the President's gavel came down at 10.45 a.m.

D.J. Scott, Hon. General Secretary

September 2020

British Bryological Society

A Charity Registered in England and Wales – No. 228851

Annual Report of the Trustees for the year 2020

Address of Principal Office: 19 Abbots Grove, Peterborough, PE4 5BP

Trustees at the date this report was approved:

Dr K.J. Adams (Librarian)
Dr A. Baker (Website Editor, Joint))
Dr M.A.S. Burton (President)
Prof. S.J.M. Caporn (Elected Member)
Ms M. Crittenden (Elected Member)
Mr M.F. Godfrey (Past President and Education and Training Officer)
Ms C. Halpin (Elected Member and Website Editor, Joint)
Mr N.G. Hodgetts (Recorder for Liverworts)
Dr E. M. Kungu (Vice-President)
Mr P.G. Martin (Membership Secretary)
Dr O.L. Pescott (Recording Secretary)
Ms S. L. Pilkington (Recorder for Mosses)
Dr C.D. Preston (Bulletin Editor, Joint)
Ms G. Quartly-Bishop (Treasurer)
Mr G.P. Rothero (Conservation Officer)
Ms L. Ruffino (Meetings Secretary)
Mr D.J. Scott (General Secretary)
Mr M. Stribley (Elected Member)
Ms P. Thompson (Elected Member)
Dr. M. Whitelaw (Bulletin Editor, Joint)
R. Whytock (Elected Member)*

* Trustees in 2021, but not during 2020

In addition, the following served as Trustees during 2019

S. Peacock

The Constitution of the British Bryological Society

The governing document of the British Bryological Society is The BBS Rules, adopted April 1963, amended 12 April 2003, 6 September 2003 and 9 September 2006.

Organisation

The British Bryological Society is managed by a Council which meets twice a year; Council members are the Trustees of the Society. The Council comprises the Officers of the Society, the immediate Past President, and six elected members.

Appointment of Trustees

Officers of the Society are elected at an Annual General Meeting for a term of two years. The six Elected Members each serve for three years, two being elected at each Annual General Meeting. Prospective trustees are asked to read the Charity Commission's publication *The Essential Trustee* as a check of their eligibility, and newly appointed trustees are asked to sign the Charity Commission *Trustee Eligibility Declaration*.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees have complied with the Charity Commission requirement for the BBS to provide identifiable public benefits, and have had due regard to the Charity Commission public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant. Of the descriptions of charitable purposes set out by the Charities Act, the work of the BBS is covered by the following: b) the advancement of education; f) the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science; and i) the advancement of environmental protection or improvement. Details of the ways in which public benefit has been delivered during 2016 are given in the account of BBS achievements below.

Objectives of the BBS

- (a) To promote and advance all branches of bryology throughout the world and especially in relation to bryophytes of the British Isles;
- (b) To facilitate the exchange of information among bryologists by organising field meetings, conferences, lectures and exhibitions, publishing the results of bryological study and research, maintaining a library, and other appropriate means;
- (c) To promote in every way possible the conservation of bryophytes.

Activities of the BBS

- (a) Publication of journals and books relating to bryology
- (b) Maintaining a website
- (c) Maintaining a library of bryological literature
- (d) Organisation of meetings and workshops
- (e) Promoting awareness of bryophytes, and providing advice and education
- (f) Gathering information about bryophytes and their natural habitats
- (g) Conservation of bryophytes
- (h) Sponsoring or supporting bryological research

The BBS is registered for Gift Aid.

The BBS neither owns nor leases any land or buildings.

Achievements during 2020

1. Membership and Volunteers

At the end of 2020 membership of the BBS stood at 540 paid-up members, an overall gain of 9 in total membership, and there were 48 new members during the year (compared to 46 in 2019). The BBS is registered for Gift Aid with 157 members paying their membership under this scheme.

Many members carry out informal voluntary work for the Society. New liverwort records were submitted by 29 people through the year and 50 people added new mosses to vice-county lists. In addition to the 20 Members of Council, approximately 30 people are active in the organisation of meetings, including field meetings for the 17 local groups, in BBS publications and committee work

(the BBS does not employ any staff); others (~60) take on the role of Regional Recorders in each vice-county (3 new Regional Recorders were appointed in 2020).

2. Journal of Bryology

The *Journal* continues to thrive, although there were a few delays during 2020. Volume 42 of the *Journal of Bryology* ran to 414 pages, well within the page allowance set by Taylor & Francis. Advanced article on-line publication continued for all content of the *Journal*.

A major achievement was the publication of the new annotated European bryophyte checklist with its attendant index. Other papers were almost evenly divided between taxonomic revisions, descriptions of new species, ecological papers and regional checklists. Authors of articles came from a wide geographical spread spanning 23 different countries; when the popular New National and Regional Bryophyte column is included the number of contributors totalled 108 from 33 countries, with 55% from European countries. The impact factor fell slightly to 1.152, down from 1.361 in 2019, but this is anticipated to increase following the publication of major checklists: the European checklist in June and the revised British and Irish checklist accepted for 2021 publication.

There are currently 13 scientific editors and one proof reader who enabled the *Journal* production to continue during a year when home working and furlough due to the pandemic caused problems for some members of the editorial board.

3. Field Bryology

The two issues published, numbers 123 and 124, totalled 180 pages and there was a continuing supply of suitable articles with varied content. These included taxonomic studies, articles on sites where there is scope for future exploration, book reviews and obituaries, as well as articles on significant records and Society business. There will, however, be no accounts of field meetings for some time to come, with the postponement or cancellation of all field meetings in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. Some delays of anticipated articles have been experienced due to closure of museums, archives and libraries during the pandemic.

4. BBS Website

The development of the new website continued throughout 2020 after the approval by Council for the selected web developers, CastlegateIT, to work with the BBS Website editors, Claire Halpin and Ambrose Baker, with the launch planned for early in 2021. The existing website, hosted by RBGE, was kept up to date with key information, particularly relating to updates about scheduled meetings in relation to Covid, but had otherwise received little attention.

The new website development was a major collaborative effort between the BBS Website Editors and CastlegateIT and additional input and feedback from other BBS members was encouraged. Content from the existing website was uploaded, organising existing material and adding new features to improve access to information for members and for non-members interested in bryology.

5. Other Publications

The BBS Field Guide, *Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland – a field guide* continued to sell well and provides a welcome source of revenue to the Society.

6. Library and Sales

There were slightly fewer sales items ordered during the year, but the librarian was able to supply 13 people with free pdf guides to microscopy techniques. He also enhanced and extended the BBS Photographic Archive of past and present BBS members. The successful removal of the library to Bangor had been completed in 2019, but Covid restrictions in 2020 prevented any further progress with maintaining it.

7. Meetings

Guidance on holding meetings during the pandemic with the changing Covid-19 regulations were published on the BBS website, providing links to the latest Government regulations in the different countries of the UK. Although the planned field meetings, the Spring meeting in North Wales and the Summer meeting on Jura had to be postponed, a few local group meetings were held in accordance with the regulations at the time. The September AGM was held on-line on Zoom since it was not possible to hold the planned Autumn indoor meeting and AGM, at Teesside University.

8. Education and Training

The Education and Training activities were restricted to two events. A liverwort workshop, at Manchester Metropolitan University, was held before any Covid-19 restrictions were imposed. The Year 2 Bryophyte foundation course, part of the joint project with Plantlife in the West Country, was delivered via Zoom by Sharon Pilkington. This was attended by 24 New Generation Botanist trainees and several field days on Dartmoor followed the on-line introduction. Plans were developed for other postponed courses, including the “Advanced” aspects of the Plantlife training project, to be delivered in 2021. A draft of a beginner/intermediate bryophyte key using microscopic features to supplement the Field Guide was prepared by Nick Hodgetts. Although it is unclear how the BBS might be involved, there are ongoing discussions with the FSC about their proposed “Identimoss” project.

9. Recording Mosses and Liverworts

About 50 data sets were received in 2020 and an additional 7400 records were received via iRecord, illustrating the extent of bryophyte recording outside direct submissions via Regional Recorders, and the potential for further engagement with new bryologists.

There were around 40 direct requests for the Society’s data this year; requests supported individual recorders, bryological consultants, and the planning of Society field meetings. As always, the number of direct requests to the Recording Secretary does not capture the numerous downloads of BBS data from the NBN and from GBIF. Additionally, there has been more work on improving the UK Species Inventory for bryophytes (that provides the taxonomic dictionary underlying the NBN Atlas and iRecord) and work in preparation for the forthcoming new official census catalogue. Three new Regional Recorders were appointed during the year.

10. Bryophyte Conservation

Involvement with conservation initiatives has continued throughout the year, although no Committee meetings were possible in 2020.

A new checklist of bryophytes for Britain and Ireland was produced by the Conservation and Recording Committee, through the Nomenclature Panel, providing a much needed update that will be published in the *Journal of Bryology*. BBS members carried out consultancy work for Natural England on the status and ecology of several moss species. In Scotland, the BBS became a partner in the Alliance for Scotland’s Rainforest, an organisation managed by Plantlife and The Woodland Trust to encourage sustainable management of the oceanic woodlands that have internationally important bryophyte communities. BBS members are also involved with the Celtic Rainforest Life project in Wales that has similar objectives with an additional interest in the value of oceanic bryophytes as early indicators of nitrogen pollution that may damage these woodland sites.

Financial Review 2020 – Accounts and Treasurer’s Report

BRITISH BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Charity Commission registered number 228851)

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	2020	2019
GENERAL FUND			
Receipts			
Interest and investment income	1	£4,143	£3,928
Members' subscriptions (less rebates settled through Paypal)		£11,221	£12,589
<i>Journal of Bryology</i> (Royalties)	3	£15,473	£14,494
<i>Bryophyte Field Guide</i> (less rebates settled through Paypal)	4	£11,766	£8,083
Census catalogue		£54	£9
Other publications		£45	£13
Lenses and forceps, etc. net of refunds & returns		£373	£369
AGM and other meetings		£0	£175
Gift-Aid	5	£0	£0
Editorial Expenses - Advance from Taylor & Francis		£9,076	£9,076
Bank error correction		£0	£25
Leaflet distribution		£0	£32
Sundries		£0	£42
Transfer from PayPal		£0	£3,906
PayPal fee reversal		£137	£1
Total Receipts		£52,288	£52,742
Payments			
Production and distribution			
<i>Journal of Bryology</i>		£17,952	£4,516
<i>Field Bryology</i>	6	£4,743	£2,622
<i>Field Guide</i>		£3,107	£14,395
<i>Annual Report</i>		£1,958	£1,793
Web Domain		£0	£59
New website		£8,413	£0
Bryum Monograph - plates	7	£2,000	£0
Bryum Monograph - publication		£800	£0
Library move		£204	£2,035
Library purchases		£76	£0
Meetings		£149	£0
Workshops and field trip transport		£0	£2,357
Spring Meeting Accommodation 2019		£0	£925
Spring Meeting Expenses 2020		£0	£540
AGM Expenses and Accommodation		£0	£597
Insurance		£897	£757
Bank charges and sundries		£0	£25
ICO - Data Protection Registration		£35	£35
Sundries		£96	£133
Total Payments		£40,429	£30,789
Net of Receipts (payments)		£11,859	£21,953

BEQUEST AND DONATION FUND**Receipts**

Interest and investment income	8	£2,075	£2,084
Donations (owing from current account)		£114	£1,106

Total Receipts

£2,189	£3,190
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Payments

Grants		£2,500	£240
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Total payments

£2,500	£240
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TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Total receipts	£54,477	£55,932
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Total payments	£42,929	£31,029
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STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**CASH FUNDS**

Paypal		£17,679	£4,804
Nat. West. a/c		£35,460	£42,079
COIF Deposit Funds	9	£89,870	£83,653
TOTAL cash funds at this year-end		£143,009	£130,536

INVESTMENT ASSETS

11

General Fund

COIF Investment Fund accumulation units		£2,737	£2,716
COIF Investment Fund income units		£115,484	£116,513
COIF Property Fund income units		£7,397	£7,834
Total		£125,618	£127,063

Bequest and Donation Fund

COIF Fixed Interest Fund income units		£25,020	£24,283
COIF Investment Fund accumulation units		£13,229	£13,126
COIF Investment Fund income units		£28,705	£28,961
COIF Property Fund income units		£7,397	£7,834
TOTAL		£74,352	£74,204
Total investment assets		£199,970	£201,267

OTHER ASSETS

Bryological library		£0	£0
Small stocks for sale of lenses, forceps, publications		£0	£0
Back issues of journals and sundry items		£0	£0
Field Guide, 2376 Copies @ £6.69		£13,072	£15,895
Bryological Atlas, 290 Copies @ £35		£0	£0
Sums Owed (uncleared cheques) General Fund	10	-£35	-£4,081
TOTAL		£13,037	£11,814
NET AVAILABLE ASSETS		£356,016	£343,617

NB Figures are rounded to the nearest pound

These accounts were approved by Council on 19th May 2021, and have been agreed by the Independent Examiner. Her certificate is reproduced below.

Treasurer's report

Notes to the accounts for the Financial Year 1 January to 31 December 2020

Amounts in this report are rounded to the nearest pound.

1. As permitted under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011, the accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis. All funds are unrestricted.
2. Some assets are assigned by the trustees to the Bequest and Donation Fund, to provide investment income from which grants are made. When this Fund was established on 1st January 1995, its status was not explicit. The trustees wish to make it clear that they regard the Fund as expendable endowment, in view of the large size, in the context of the normal expenditure of the Society, of the legacies that have gone into formation of the Fund. With regard to future donations and legacies, if any evidence exists, or can be inferred from the circumstances of the donation or legacy, that a donor or testator had a specific intention one way or the other, the gift or legacy will be treated accordingly and, if appropriate, administered by the Bequest Committee. Where there is no such evidence, the gift or legacy will, except as described below, be treated as income and added to the accumulated monies available for disbursement by the Bequest Committee. Where the gift or legacy is a large sum (£500 or more) in the context of the normal expenditure of the Society, the trustees consider it reasonable to assume that the donor or testator would not have expected the Society necessarily to spend promptly such a sum of money, but would have expected the Society to invest the gift or legacy as expendable endowment and to use the income, unless and until the trustees choose to embark on some major project on which the endowed funds could reasonably be spent. Any such gift or legacy regarded as an addition to endowment will be noted in the accounts and will be invested along with the Bequest and Donation Fund; the resulting income will be available for disbursement by the Bequest Committee.
3. In 2020, royalties of £15,473 were received from the publisher for *Journal of Bryology* and the costs of the purchase of members' copies of £17,952 were paid to the publisher. The costs in year are higher than the royalties because of the timing of payments – in 2019, payments were only £4,516. For both years together, the net surplus is £7,499, which is in line with previous experience. Following Council decisions in 2006, the *Journal of Bryology* Editor (Dr. E.M. Kungu) was not a member of Council. She received remuneration commensurate with the work involved and took on financial responsibility for any expenses incurred that related to editing the journal. This is covered by an editorial advance paid by the Publisher (Taylor and Francis).
4. Sales of the *Field Guide* in the year net of PayPal rebates were £11,766. The costs associated with the *Field Guide* totalled £3,107. The surplus in 2020 was therefore £8,658 (2019: deficit £6,313. 2018: surplus £11,821.) Over its lifetime, the *Field Guide* to date has provided a net surplus to the Society.
5. Gift Aid may be claimed for up to four years. No claims were made in 2020.
6. In 2020, *Field Bryology* numbers 123 and 124 were published. Actual payments in year totalled £4,743, relating to numbers 122 and 123 with the payment for number 124 expected in 2021.
7. The Council of the British Bryological Society agreed in 2018 to back a Monograph for Bryum financially with a loan of up to £12,500 in support of publication. The first tranche of £2,000 was paid for the production of plates in 2018, with a further £2,000 paid in 2020, along with £800 paid to the publisher. The book has now been published, and final publication costs will also be seen in the 2021 accounts.

8. £2,500 was paid out in 2020 in relation to grants awarded from the Bequests & Donation Fund. These grants were: £250 for one student to attend a course and three research grants of £750 each.

9. Deposit Funds are deposited with CCLA. As at the most recent 2020 statement, the General Fund was £78,087 and Bequest & Donation Fund was £11,783. The General Fund owes the Bequest & Donation Fund £3,366 for the net amounts paid out of General Fund cash accounts on its behalf (cumulative with 2019 total). Owing to the transfer between treasurers which took place in 2020 and the complicating factor of a change in the previous treasurer's address, a full set of CCLA statements was not available to support the production of the accounts; balances have been reconstructed from statements received in 2021.

10. Financial assets and liabilities include £35 paid out as a cheque not cleared as at the year end.

11. Reserves policy: the Society maintains reserves, amounting to the fund balances (less commitments) at year end, to provide contingent resources to enable it to meet its contractual commitment towards ongoing publication of the Journal of Bryology, to support and underwrite the cost of publishing projects, to meet requests from within the Society or from other bodies for financial help in the promotion of bryology, to pay upfront and underwrite costs of meetings, and to meet unforeseen costs.

With regard to the financial implications and risks of the Society's charitable activities, the trustees consider that a reserve in the range £40,000 to £100,000 is appropriate. If the reserve falls below the lower end of this range, the trustees may consider raising the level of the membership subscription and/or re-designation of part of the Bequest and Donation Fund. Most funds, while being held in reserve, are placed on deposit to earn interest or invested to provide income.

This policy is reviewed annually at the first Council meeting of the year as part of the process of approving the Accounts (including Notes to the Accounts).

Gail Quartly-Bishop, May 2021

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the British Bryological Society

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the British Bryological Society

I report on the accounts of the British Bryological Society for the year ended 31st December 2020

Respective responsibilities of the trustees (British Bryological Society Members of Council) and the examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

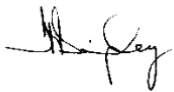
- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



*J H Bingley MA FCIS, Chartered Secretary,
Eaton Farm, Miles Lane, Cobham, Surrey KT11 2ED
20th May 2021*

Officers' Reports for 2020

General Secretary

It goes without saying that 2020 was a very difficult year for society as a whole, let alone our Bryological Society, as the coronavirus pandemic cast its long shadow. However, like everyone else, the Society has had to adapt: the last two Council meetings and the AGM were successfully held via ZOOM video-conferencing. The business was carried out, but it emphasised just how important the usual personal interaction on the periphery of these meetings is, even though it may seem inconsequential at the time.

2020 saw a major change in the Society's officers with the General Secretary, President, Treasurer and Recorder for Mosses all being newly elected at the same time. I am particularly grateful to my predecessor, Rachel Carter, for guiding me through this period to make it as seamless as possible.

Although many ventures were put on hold during 2020, we were able to contract with NatureBureau for the publication of David Holyoak's excellent *European Bryaceae*. This was eventually published in February 2021.

As detailed in the Website Editors' report, contracts were exchanged in 2020 with Castlegate IT to develop a brand new website. At the time of writing, this new website has gone live and is testament to all the tremendous work by that has been put in over a long period by the team, in particular Claire Halpin.

Jeff Scott, March 2021

Field Bryology Editors

The two issues for *Field Bryology* for 2020 have been published, numbers 123 and 124, although, as was the case last year, the publication of the latter was delayed until early 2021. There was also a similarity to last year in the size of the issues, with a bumper issue (104 pages) being followed by one of more normal length (76 pages), the cumulative total of 180 pages being 12 pages more than in 2019. The content has been similarly varied. Gordon Rothero is now well into his stride with his second article on his favourite hills, and flatter areas of Scotland were not neglected with a study of Orkney arable bryophytes. There were also articles on the bryophytes of Hungary and Greece, taxonomic studies of *Sphagnum* and *Dicranella*, a historical article, a number of book reviews and obituaries and the usual items on significant records.

In other respects the year has, of course, been very different to its predecessor. The Field Report on the 2019 'Summer' meeting was published in no. 124 and there will clearly be no more for a while. Less obviously, a couple of items we have been expecting are stuck in the pipeline, and cannot be completed until the authors can return to museums, archives and libraries. Inevitably, we have been worrying whether we will have sufficient material for the next few issues. So far the supply of good articles seems to be holding up, although we might not have a bumper issue in 2021.

We must thank all our authors for their contributions and their rapid and good-natured response to editorial queries and proofs, and our stalwart proof-readers, Agneta Burton, Sue Grahame and Mark Lawley.

Chris D. Preston & Mari Whitelaw, February 2021

Website Editors

Throughout 2020 our focus has been on developing the new website. We hit the ground running in January by drawing up a list of potential developers and contacting them with our requirements specification for quotes.

By March we had a shortlist of 2 preferred developers and – in the nick of time before the national Covid-19 lockdown was imposed – visited both in person to discuss the project and see how we felt about working with them.

One of the developers, Castlegate IT, stood out as by far the best – they were professional and we liked the people. However, their quote was more than our budget. Once more we went back to Council at the Spring meeting, requesting an increase in the budget and justifying our reasons. Fortunately, Council approved the increase and we let all the developers know of our decision.

Work on the new website started within a week of the Council meeting, with the design phase during April and May, moving on to discussing functional requirements in detail during June and July. Once these were both signed off by us, Castlegate began work on the development whilst we reviewed all the content from the current website, organising, updating and adding to it.

Shortly before Christmas, we were given access to the website and the laborious job of uploading all the content we had prepared began.

The project has truly been a collaborative effort, with Castlegate IT and BBS members working closely together to ensure we build a website that fulfils current requirements and provides scope for further developments in the future. We would like to thank the team from Castlegate IT, and all BBS members who have provided help, support and additional content so far. We hope that you won't have to wait much longer to see the results of all this effort!

With the focus on the new website, the current website has received minimal attention this year, just ensuring that any necessary announcements are made – particularly Covid-related ones – and that the website is available. Once again, we would like to thank RBGE for continuing to host the website and provide support.

Claire Halpin & Ambroise Baker, February 2021

Conservation Officer

2020 has been a quiet year for obvious reasons and no meetings of the Conservation and Recording Committee were possible. One major piece of work under the auspices of the Conservation Committee through the Nomenclature Panel, was the production of a new checklist of bryophytes for Britain and Ireland, a necessary update in view of the considerable amount of taxonomic work, not to say upheaval, since the last checklist was produced. The new British and Irish checklist will be published shortly in the *Journal of Bryology*, and this will be followed by a new census catalogue.

For Natural England, consultants and BBS members Des Callaghan and Sharon Pilkington have been looking at the status and ecology of several species. *Micromitrium tenerum* has been lost from some historic sites but has colonised new sites with some indication that waterfowl may be involved in the transport of propagules. *Philonotis marchica* has declined at one Isle of Wight site but another large population has been found. The survey of *Fissidens serrulatus* shows encouraging results, in particular that the population in the mid-reaches of the River Dart is significantly larger than previously thought.

In Scotland the BBS has become a partner organisation in the Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest, an organisation managed by Plantlife and the Woodland Trust, which hopes to raise the profile of our temperate rainforest and its internationally important bryophyte communities. In this way it is hoped that it can obtain significant funding for landscape-scale projects to encourage both sustainable management of our existing oceanic woodlands and increase the amount of such woodland in the core area on the west coast of Scotland. There is a similar rainforest woodland project in Wales, through the Celtic Rainforest Life project, clearing rhododendron from protected woodland sites and encouraging better management of these important sites. In addition, oceanic bryophytes have been included as indicator species of nitrogen-sensitive ancient woodland, trying to provide some protection from nitrogen pollution for important wildlife sites as evidence is growing that such pollution even at relatively low levels is detrimental to the bryophyte interest. There is also funding to survey the bryophytes on a number of mine waste sites in Wales.

The new UK bryophyte red list has been stuck with Natural England for some three years now; the problem has been a reluctance to accept the methodology used for assessing bryophyte populations which was not the

standard IUCN method, although the IUCN had accepted the methodology in the recently published European Red List. There is some hope that the new list will be published soon, in time for it to be used as a baseline for the 7th Quinquennial review of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, with the result that, potentially, more bryophytes will appear on Schedule 8 and thus be afforded some legal protection. The society will respond to the QQR7 consultation when it is published in April.

Gordon Rothero

Librarian

Sales:

Census Catalogue (update) 2008	4
BBS <i>Bulletins</i>	-
<i>Field Bryology</i>	4
English Names of Bryophytes	-
<i>Practical Bryophyte Chromosomes</i> (Newton)	1
<i>Collecting Bryos. in the Tropics</i> (O'Shea)	1
Chinese x20 lenses	3
Chinese x30 lenses	-
Idealtek Stainless steel forceps	18
Mini-blade packs	2
Micrometer Eyepiece Scales	1

Loans:

Micrometer calibration slide	-
Chinese Microscope	1

Pdfs Microscope techniques 1 & 2	13
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There were just 20 sales orders in 2020, down 5 on 2019, which is not unexpected in view of the Covid 19 restrictions on field work. In addition to sales items, 13 people have taken advantage of the free pdfs of Microscope Techniques for Beginners and Bryophyte Microscopy tips during the year. Due to Covid restrictions there has been no progress with maintaining the BBS Library at the Treborth Botanic Garden, Bangor, apart from setting up the insurance. During the year, however, the BBS Photographic Archive collection of facial images of past and present members has been extended to 200 and most of these have been enhanced using an artificial intelligence program. It is available as a pdf on request. We are continuing to exchange *Field Bryology* for the Belgian *Muscillanea* and Swiss *Meylania* and *J. Bryol.* for various Polish publications.

There was some bad news from Shaun Russell in that, owing to personnel reduction and organizational restructuring imposed by Bangor University, he had voluntarily stepped down as Director of Treborth Botanic Garden. The good news, however, is that he has stayed on a Trustee and Director of the Friends of Treborth Botanic Garden. Therefore, he is still able to carry on looking after the BBS Library and the mini-bryology room in the Rivendell building.

A set of Michael Lüth's 3-volume set of photographs of *Mosses of Europe* and a copy of David Holyoak's *European Bryaceae* have been acquired for the BBS Library.

Ken Adams, February 2021

Membership Secretary

At the end of 2020, our membership stands at 540 paid up members.

The membership comprised of the following:

Honorary:	12
Ordinary:	475
Concessions:	43
(students/senior)	
Institutional:	10

In 2020 we gained 9 new members, relating new members with resignations and deaths

In the year we had 48 new members in comparison to 46 in 2019.

Gift aid has been registered by 157 members.

Peter Martin, March 2021

Education and Training Officer

Along with just about all other society activities Education and Training has been severely affected by the Covid Pandemic. We were able to deliver one liverwort workshop, at Manchester Metropolitan University, on 22 February before any restrictions were imposed but other work has either been postponed or carried out on-line.

The liverwort workshop at Treborth has been postponed till 2021. The second-year bryophyte Foundation course, as part of the Plantlife New Generation Botanists joint project in the West Country, was successfully delivered to 24 Devon-based trainees via Zoom followed by several days in the field on Dartmoor in October 2020. The Advanced element of the NGB training, which in 2019 comprised 1 day each of acrocarps, pleurocarps and liverworts and mentoring via local BBS group members, will hopefully resume in May 2021. Although timing is problematic we have also been doing some forward planning on courses for 2021 when we should be able to do the longer liverworts workshop scheduled for 2020 and by request are considering another advanced course on *Scapania*.

To supplement the *Field Guide* the committee felt that a beginner/intermediate bryophyte key using microscopic features would be helpful to novices. The keys in Watson, although very useful, are rather out of date and it was felt that something new and of a similar standard was needed. Council agreed the proposal in the spring and Nick Hodgetts undertook to write it. Nick has given us a draft outline which looks very promising.

At the beginning of the year we decided to revisit the “identimoss” project with the FSC. Mags Crittenden volunteered to be our project officer with the FSC as it rapidly became clear that everything would need to be discussed on-line. Things initially looked promising but after a bit of a hiatus it transpired that the FSC had revised their business model quite substantially and were proposing a rather different pattern of training. We haven’t given up, but things are proceeding rather more slowly.

There will be some committee changes at the end of the year as I am standing down as Chair, to be succeeded by Mags Crittenden with Phillipa Thompson filling the vacated post.

Martin Godfrey

Meetings Secretary

The outdoor recording activities and meetings of the Society were severely affected by the Covid 19 pandemic in 2020. Lockdown measures which came into effect in March 2020 meant that the Society had to postpone the Spring Meeting, which was due to take place at Plas Caerdeon, Barmouth, North Wales. This meeting is now scheduled for Autumn 2021.

A Summer Meeting was scheduled to take place in Jura, but this was also postponed given the risk of spreading the virus to the small island community. The Jura meeting will be postponed to a date to be determined.

After consultation with the local organisers, the Autumn indoor meeting, which was due to take place at Teesside University, was also postponed and the AGM was held online. The Society is now planning to hold its Autumn meeting at Teesside University in 2022.

It should be noted that a number of local recording meetings were held, and they were run in accordance with Covid 19 regulations in place at the time.

The Society published guidance on holding meetings during the pandemic on their website. This guidance referred to the frequently-changing Covid 19 regulations and had links to the latest government regulations in the different countries of the UK. The guidance ensured that local meeting organisers would be aware of the latest regulations as they were planning local recording meetings.

Lucia Ruffino March 2021

Recorder for Liverworts

The liverwort year – 2020

Records are slightly up on 2019, with 51 specimens processed. There is little significant difference between numbers in 2019 and 2020, with England and Scotland a bit up, Wales a bit down, and Ireland the same. There were no new vouchers from the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, and no bracketings or deletions. Rory Hodd contributed 10 vouchers, Sharon Pilkington 4, and Andrew Branson, Jo Denyer, Matt Sutton, Sam Bosanquet and Tristan ap Rheinallt 3 each.

	2019				2020			
	England	Wales	Scotland	Ireland	England	Wales	Scotland	Ireland
New entries	6	13	5	10	13	6	9	11
Debrackets*	7	-	2	4	6	2	0	3
Persisting	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Bracketings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deletions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	13	13	7	14	20	8	9	14

There aren't many rarities or surprises in this year's records, but there are a few. Possibly the most significant record has been of *Barbilophozia hatcheri* from Abbeyford Woods, Okehampton, new to south-west England, which was extracted from one of his old herbarium packets by Mark Pool. This plant is quite common in eastern Scotland, scattered in Wales and northern England, and occasionally turns up elsewhere. One wonders if this represents a chance 'one off' occurrence, or is indicative of a persisting local population. Also new to the region is Sam Bosanquet's *Scapania lingulata* on the isle of Lundy. *Blepharostoma trichophyllum* is a rare and infrequently-seen plant in south-west England, so Sharon Pilkington's record on the banks of the River Dart is very welcome. Andrew Branson proved that even unpromising-sounding sites can be good with his records of *Riccia crystallina* and *Sphaerocarpos michelii* from damp sandy soil in a Dorset caravan park. Andy McLay's record of *Marchesinia mackaii* in Northumberland is a bit of an outlier from its nearest neighbours, all of which are some distance to the west.

In Wales, Matt Sutton's *Scapania cuspiduligera* is particularly satisfying, as he had probably found it the previous year, but the first specimen was too small to be 100% sure: nothing doubtful about the second, though. Equally satisfying is Des Callaghan refinding *Cephaloziella massalongi* on Parys Mountain in Anglesey, the first record since it was seen there by Paul Richards in 1959. Graham Motley had *Tritomaria exsecta* on the Blorenge in Monmouthshire, and Sam Bosanquet found *Plagiochila exigua* on an ash trunk in Glamorgan.. In Scotland, *Calypogeia integristipula*, collected from a rock face in Perthshire by Rory Whytock, is always nice, and the three Arran records from Tristan ap Rheinallt all useful. *Scapania aspera* achieves a new northernmost record with Sean O'Leary's record from Shetland.

In Ireland, as well as his more run-of-the-mill records from SE Galway, Rory Hodd's records of *Adelanthus decipiens* from that county and Co. Clare are satisfying, in that they plug a conspicuous gap in the known occurrence of that species in Ireland. *Plagiochila spinulosa* in SE Galway also fills a small hole. Jo Denyer's *Moerckia flotoviana* from Co. Leitrim is also notable – this species is probably still under-recorded.

Lophocolea semiteres continues to increase, with no fewer than seven new county records widely distributed across England, Scotland and Wales. Finally, Des Callaghan found *Lophocolea muricata* on a tree fern in Somerset. A common plant in the tropics, this is the first time it has been found (outside a greenhouse) in Europe, and the latest to be added to those other 'tropical tree fern' species.

Nick Hodgetts

Recorder for Mosses

In a difficult and unprecedented year for bryologists, there were 193 additions and amendments to the Census Catalogue, excluding a revision of the *Dicranella howei/varia* complex by Tom Blockeel. Remarkably, given the inevitable cancellation of Spring and Summer BBS field meetings, the numbers are almost the same as in 2019 (Table 1).

Table 1. Analysis of amendments to the Census Catalogue for 2020

	2020				2019			
	England	Wales	Scotland	Ireland	England	Wales	Scotland	Ireland
New entries	70	32	27	25	55	30	20	47
Debrackets*	18	7	4	8	13	1	7	19
Reinstated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bracketings*	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deletions	-	-	1	-	3	-	1	-
Totals	89	39	32	33	71	31	28	66

*Debrackets are existing vice-county entries for which a post-1960 record has been vouched. Bracketings are existing entries for which the post-1960 records are unconfirmed, or erroneous but older record(s) are known or thought to be valid. New records include persisting introductions.

A significant number of the year's finds came from people making the most of lockdown time to review their herbaria. New sites for rarities discovered this way included *Dicranum spadiceum* and *Orthotrichum obtusifolium*. Unusually, a relatively large number were also generated by a few self-employed individuals undertaking ecological survey contracts. Overall, the new records were distributed across 71 of the 153 British and Irish vice-counties, and 54 individuals were involved in contributing them (as the first-named recorder on a voucher).

Two new species were added to the British and Irish list through revisions of herbarium specimens. *Dicranella howei*, a moss with a primarily Mediterranean distribution, has long been thought present in these islands and has been confirmed by Tom Blockeel. *Racomitrium obtusum* has long been the source of considerable taxonomic confusion in Britain and Ireland and Tom Ottley's review indicates that it may in fact be more common in some regions than *R. heterostichum*. *Microhypnum sauteri* has also been added to the British list, following Gordon Rothero's discovery at Inchnadamph, West Sutherland.

Some outstanding new records of rare or threatened bryophytes were made in 2020. In Galway, Rory Hodd's *Sphagnum majus* was new to Ireland. Other significant Irish records include *Tortula wilsonii* from Co. Dublin, restoring this rare coastal pioneer to the Republic's list. Although Irish submissions were half the number of 2019, this is to be expected without any recording meetings.

Welsh submissions were higher than the previous year thanks to the determined efforts of a few recorders. Matt Sutton found new sites for *Weissia multicapsularis* and *Tortula cuneifolia* in Cardiganshire, and Tom Ottley found *Campylopus setifolius*. In Breconshire, Claire Halpin did much to stimulate local recording effort, resulting in nine additions and debracketings, including *Hennediella macrophylla*, new to Wales. Claire also photographed many of her finds, and her excellent images now feature on our new website.

In West Lancashire, Joshua Styles discovered *Sphagnum subnitens* var. *ferrugineum* new to England. Other outstanding English records included *Orthotrichum schimperi* in Buckinghamshire and *Ephemerum cohaerens* in West Kent. A new site for *Campylostelium saxicola* was found by Mark Lawley in Herefordshire. North of the border, Nick Hodgetts' *Leptotheca gaudichaudii* in a West Ross garden was new to Scotland and a fourth British site. Rory Whytock found the rare, elusive and tiny *Aongstroemia longipes* in Kintyre whilst *Sphagnum divinum* in West Perthshire was a second site for Scotland.

Sharon Pilkington

Recording Secretary's Report for 2020

Around 50 datasets were received directly in 2020; these are currently being processed in anticipation of a new official census catalogue in 2021. Records received via iRecord (www.brc.ac.uk/irecord) number over 7,400 for the same period; as I have noted before in my reports, Regional Recorders not reviewing incoming data through this platform are clearly missing an opportunity to engage new bryologists and support other enthusiasts. There were around 40 direct requests for the Society's raw data or summaries this year; requests supported individual recorders, bryological consultants, and the planning of BBS field meetings, e.g. through the provision of vice-county "wants" lists. As usual, the number of direct requests to the Recording Secretary does not capture the numerous downloads of BBS data from the NBN or GBIF. Other work this year has included another edition of 'Rare and Interesting' for *Field Bryology*, more work on improving the UK Species Inventory for bryophytes (the UKSI is the taxonomic dictionary underlying the NBN Atlas and iRecord), and work in preparation for the production of the new official census catalogue.

Three new Regional Recorders were appointed in 2020: Pete Howarth replaced Howard Wallis in v.c. 17 (Surrey); Gail Quartly-Bishop replaced John Lowell in v.c. 58 (Cheshire); and Anthony Gregory replaced John Lowell in v.c. 59 (South Lancs.). On behalf of the BBS, I thank the new Recorders for taking on their duties, and the previous Recorders for their dedication. Regional recorder details for each vice-county (kept up-to-date with assistance from the website editors) can now be viewed under the relevant vice-county page on the new BBS website (see <https://www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk/recording/vice-county-maps>).

As usual, I thank staff at BRC, particularly Steph Rorke, for supporting me and the BBS in various ways, and Ambroise Baker and Claire Halpin for website updates.

Oliver L. Pescott, 15th March 2021