British Bryological Society

A Charity Registered in England and Wales – No. 228851

Annual Report of the Trustees 2025

Annual General Meeting 2026

Annual General Meeting 2026

The next AGM will be held at 4.30 pm on Saturday 3rd October 2026 at the Natural History Museum in London

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM, held at Lindholme Hall, Doncaster on Sunday 5th September 2025
3. Matters arising
4. Annual Report of the Trustees for 2025
5. Accounts and Treasurer's report for 2025
6. Report from Council
7. Election of Officers
    a. Bulletin Editor (Joint)
    b. Bulletin Editor (Joint)
    c. Conservation Officer
    d. Meetings Secretary
    e. Website Editor
    f. Education Officer
    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, LINDHOLME HALL 2025

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 16.00 on Saturday 4th October 2025 at Lindholme Hall, Doncaster

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

1. Apologies for absence were received from Dr K.J. Adams, Dr N. Bell, Dr J. Denyer, C. Halpin, Dr R. Hodd, N. Hodgetts, Dr D. Long, Dr P. Stanley, S. Pilkington.

2. Minutes of the last AGM, held at Exeter University, on 7th September 2024.

Following a proposal by **M. Crittenden**, seconded by **W. Tyler-Batt**, 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 2024

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

5. Accounts and Treasurer's Report for 2024

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 42 in the May 2026 issue of *Field Bryology (No. 135)*.

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.

Vice-President – As the current Vice-President, Andrew Branson will become President on 1st January 2026, Council nominated **Dr Rory Hodd** as the next Vice-President. There were no other nominations. After a proposal by **P. Martin**, seconded by **Dr E.M. Kungu**, **Dr R. Hodd** was elected unanimously.

Council nominated the following officers for re-election:

General Secretary – D.J. Scott

Treasurer – D. Adamson

Membership Secretary – C. Halpin

Recorder for Mosses – S.L. Pilkington

Recorder for Liverworts – N.G. Hodgetts

Journal Managing Editor – Dr N.E. Bell

Librarian – Dr. K. Adams

The meeting agreed to elect these *en bloc.* Following a proposal from **P. Thompson**, **seconded by G. Rothero**, these officers were duly elected by a majority vote (to serve for a 2-year period commencing 1st January 2026).

Recording Secretary - Dr O.L. Pescott had agreed to continue as Recording Secretary for another two years or until such time as implementation of the new recording system is deemed ready to hand over to a new Recording Secretary. To comply with the Society's Rules, this nomination was proposed by the President **(PGM)** and seconded by the Past-President **(EMK)**. All in favour with one abstention.

Elected members – there were no nominations for elected members to replace Dr R. Hodd, Dr S.E. Grahame or G. Greiff.

8. Proposed change of charitable status of the BBS to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Following approval at the last AGM to change the status of the Society to a CIO, a submission had been made to the Charity Commission on 29th August 2025. A decision from the CC had not been received at the time of the meeting but was expected early in 2026. In anticipation of a favourable outcome, the President asked the meeting to approve the dissolution of the British Bryological Society and the transfer of all its assets to the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation – the British and Irish Bryological Society – once that had been approved by the Charity Commission. This was proposed by **D. Adamson**, seconded by **Professor J. Duckett** and unanimously agreed.

9. Proposed changes to the Rules of the Society in order to align these with the Society's new status.

A revised set of Rules have been prepared and approved by Council. These were minor amendments made to ensure that there are no anomalies between the Rules and the proposed Constitution of the CIO. The current Rules will remain in force until the CIO and its Constitution have been approved by the Charity Commission. They will be subordinate to the Constitution and are not subject to approval by the CC. The proposal to accept these revised Rules was made by A. Branson and seconded by D. Adamson and unanimously agreed.

10. Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts

M. Murtagh had agreed to continue as Independent Examiner of the BBS accounts. Proposed by **C. Shaw**, seconded by **P. Thompson**, and **M. Murtagh** was unanimously elected.

11. Place and date of the next Annual General Meeting

This is scheduled to take place on **Saturday 3rd October 2026** at the Natural History Museum in London. Field meetings are planned for the Friday and Sunday in Sussex/Kent.

11. Other future meetings

There will be a spring meeting in the Trossachs between 18th and 25th April 2026. A 3-day meeting is planned in the Lake District in May 2026. A meeting in Slovenia is being organised for the beginning of June 2026, followed by a week in Co. Waterford at the end of August 2026.

12. Any other business

Dr P. Stanley had asked for it to be mentioned and minuted that the Secretary had arranged for the loose Council and AGM minutes from 1995 to 2018 to be professionally bound and that they are now archived in the BBS library at Treborth.

There being no further business, the meeting ended when the President's gavel came down at 17.00.

D. J. Scott, General Secretary

October 2025

British Bryological Society

A Charity Registered in England and Wales – No. 228851

Annual Report of the Trustees for the year 2025

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

Trustees at the date this report was approved:

Dr. K.J. Adams (Librarian)
Mr. D. Adamson (Treasurer)
Mr. A. Branson (President, Bulletin Editor, Joint)
Dr. J. Denyer (Conservation Officer)
Ms. M. Crittenden (Education and Training Officer)
Dr. S. Grinsted (Elected Member)
Ms. C. Halpin (Website Editor, Membership Secretary)
Dr. R.I.L. Hodd (Vice-President)
Mr. N.G. Hodgetts (Recorder for Liverworts)
Mr. P.G. Martin (Past-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 2026, but not during 2025

In addition, the following served as Trustees during 2025
Dr. E.S. Grahame, Mr. G.R.L. Greiff, Dr. E.M. Kungu.

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, 28 June 2024 and 7 September 2024.

Organisation

The British Bryological Society is managed by a Council which meets twice a year; Council membersare 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* asa 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 descriptionsof 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 2025 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 Britain 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 2025

1. *Membership and Volunteers*

   Society membership has effectively stabilised to 827 from the 2024 figure of 829. The new membership system is now bedded in thanks to the hard work of the Membership Secretary.

2. *Journal of Bryology*

   The Society's journal is published in four parts during the year. Volume 47 (2025) had a total of 28 papers on a wide range of topics including newly recorded species, floristic studies, phenology and phylogenetic studies. All papers are peer reviewed, and the impact factor was 1.1.

   There were new species recorded from Tahiti, Chile, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and India. A species new to Europe, *Ditrichum divaricatum* was discussed in a paper by Fedosov *et al*. In Britain, *Frullania calcarifera* was recorded for the first time in 2024 described by Mamontov & Vilnet. Matt Sutton's finds of *Orthothecium strictum* and *Scapania hyperborea* new to Britain were described in a paper by Sutton & Hodgetts.

   A particularly interesting paper this year was published on the Special Area of Conservation, Monchique in SW Portugal. This was by Porley, Garcia & Sergio and for Ron Porley was the culmination of 15 years of recording in the area.

3. *Field Bryology*

   Field Bryology is issued twice a year and, along with the website, keeps members informed of the activities of the Society, alongside the publication of articles of interest to members. New vice-county records are published, and the Society's news and business are passed on to members.

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*

   Work has progressed on the new edition of the Field Guide which should be published in 2026.

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 during the year and one in Germany. In the spring we had our meeting in Wharfedale attended by 66 members. Soon after that in April we had a meeting in Freiberg in Germany led by Michael Luth. This was another successful meeting which Michael had kindly led in previous years; 15 members attended, which included some members from other European countries. In the summer, we had two meeting, one in the far west – Clare, Ireland, and one in the far north of Scotland – Orkney; 30 members attended Clare and 12 to

Orkney. Our final meeting was our AGM autumn paper reading meeting near Doncaster which was attended by 34 members.

Local meetings continue to flourish on a regional basis.

8. *Education and Training*

A microscope workshop was held in North Wales on reproductive structures. This was the second workshop on this subject due to its popularity. The course was run by Jeff Duckett.
Planning took place for a Recorders conference to be held in Manchester in late 2026.

9. *Recording Mosses and Liverworts*

In 2025 there were 79 vice-county records for liverworts and 239 for mosses. Amongst the records, there were the notable finds of the liverworts *Scapania hyperborea* and *Frullania calcarifera* which were new to the British Isles. For mosses, *Orthothecium strictum* was recorded new to Britain and *Tetrodontium repandum* new to Scotland.

10. *Charitable Status and Society Name Change*

The agreed change of the Society's name to the British and Irish Bryological Society will entail some work. Before that could take place, the decision was made to change our charitable status to a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO).
A lot of work was done in 2025 to make this change possible by a small committee with the guidance of our treasurer.

Financial Review 2025
Accounts and Treasurer's Report
Amounts in this report are rounded to the nearest pound

Receipts and payments account for the year ending 31 December 2025

		General Fund	Bequest fund	2025 Total		2024 Total
Receipts	AGM & Meetings income	4,205		4,205		1,134
	Calendar sales	0		0		458
	Census catalogue sales	10		10		20
	Donations General	0		0		1,000
	Field Guide sales	12,170		12,170		13,825
	Gift Aid recovered	948		948		2,601
	Interest - Natwest	744		744		935
	Interest & dividends Bequest		3,093	3,093		2,206
	Interest & dividends General	8,827		8,827		9,784
	Journal expenses from T&F	9,076		9,076		9,076
	Journal royalties from T&F	16,847		16,847		14,545
	Lenses & Forceps sales	557		557		827
	Membership subscriptions	19,715		19,715		16,188
	Other income	23		23		0
	Royalties Atlas	479		479		0
	Royalties European Bryaceae	583		583		723
	Workshops	5,004		5,004		5,770
		79,188	3,093	82,281		79,092
Payments	AGM & Meetings	-3,762		-3,762		-1,941
	Annual report	-417		-417		-486
	Bequest fund grants		-2,424	-2,424		-1,755
	Bryophyte Key	0		0		-2,000
	Courses & Workshops	-5,303		-5,303		-6,963
	Dropbox	0		0		-96
	Equipment purchases	0		0		-4,134
	Field Bryology Postage	-5,705		-5,705		-4,987
	Field Bryology printing	-4,570		-4,570		-5,121
	Field Guide New	-3,775		-3,775		-1,405
	Field Guide Old	0		0		-9,585
	Field Guide postage	-3,622		-3,622		-5,495
	ICO Data protection	-47		-47		-35
	Insurance	-924		-924		-969
	iRecord expenses	0		0		-1,344
	Journal costs	-18,672		-18,672		-18,244
	Journal editorial expenses	-9,076		-9,076		-9,076
	Legal fees	-4,101		-4,101		0
	Lenses & forceps	-522		-522		0
	Membership management system	-1,860		-1,860		-3,780
	PayPal charges	-222		-222		-430
	Posts & sundries	-348		-348		-226

	Stripe charges	-540		-540		-42
	Sundry	-111		-111		-144
	Trustees' expenses	-98		-98		-292
	Website	-3,606		-3,606		-3,185
	Zoom	-156		-156		-156
		-67,437	-2,424	-69,861		-81,891
Net increase/(decrease) in bank & cash		11,751	669	12,420		-2,799
British Bryological Society Statement of Balances as at 31 December 2025						
		General fund	**Bequest fund**	**2025 Total**		**2024 Total**
Investments						
	CCLA 6557 Bequest		22,762	22,762		22,254
	CCLA 6559 Bequest		17,823	17,823		18,178
	CCLA 6560 Bequest		33,055	33,055		34,717
	CCLA 6561 Bequest		7,201	7,201		7,053
	CCLA 6563 General	3,687		3,687		3,761
	CCLA 6564 General	132,984		132,984		139,670
	CCLA 6565 General	7,201		7,201		7,053
		143,872	**80,841**	**224,713**		**232,685**
Bank accounts						
	CCLA deposit bequest fund		17,032	17,032		21,161
	CCLA Deposit general fund	120,239		120,239		104,189
	Deposit account	55,901		55,901		55,066
	Current account	1,110		1,110		2,165
	PayPal account	749		749		200
	Stripe	426		426		255
		178,425	**17,032**	**195,457**		**183,036**
Net assets		**322,297**	**97,873**	**420,170**		**415,721**
Non-financial assets						
Field Guide				0		4,803
Census Catalogue (written down)				0		0
				0		4,803

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

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		**Number**	**£**
Attendance at courses	**Indvidual**		**4**	**1,000**
Bryological research	**Indvidual**		**2**	**1,424**
				2,424

3 Trustee payments & remuneration

		£
Professional fees		**0**
		0

4 Trustee expenses		**Number of trustees**	**£**
Reimbursement of outlays on behalf of Society		**6**	**1,064**

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 2025.

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
20th April 2026

Officers' Reports for 2025

General Secretary

The main topic to occupy the thoughts of Council in 2025 was the conversion of the BBS to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and a change of name to the British and Irish Bryological Society. The task was entrusted to a small working group, but the bulk of the work was carried out by our treasurer, David Adamson, in conjunction with the specialist firm of solicitors we had engaged to help navigate the formalities with the Charity Commission. We are indebted to David for his drive and clarity in pushing it through.

Once the transfer of assets from the BBS to the new BIBS has been duly completed, the BBS will be closed after a reasonable elapse of time. From a members' point of view, there will be no discernible difference when the changeover occurs. The clock face will be the same; the mechanism behind it will have changed. At the time of writing the formation of new CIO charity 'The British and Irish Bryological Society' has been approved by the Charity Commission.

Jeff Scott, March 2026

Field Bryology Editors

Two issues were published in 2025. Although they displayed the usual seasonal dimorphism, with the May issue (80 pages) longer than the November issue (68 pages), this was not as marked as in some recent years. The articles covered a range of topics relating to the morphology, distribution, ecology, conservation and parasites of bryophytes in Britain and Ireland, and the history of bryology. Field meeting and workshop reports (including reports on successful meetings in Hungary and Germany) took up a substantial proportion of both issues, reflecting the increasing number of BBS meetings and the fact that the Spring meeting now has several field options each day. We thank all contributors for their hard work in preparing articles, especially the Recorders who produce such clean copy for their annual articles on the Liverwort and Moss Years, and our loyal proof-readers Agneta Burton, Sue Grahame and Mark Lawley.

Andrew Branson & Chris Preston, March 2026

Website Editor

Routine content updating such as posting News items and adding events continued as usual throughout 2025. In addition to this:

- Sharon Pilkington, Sean O'Leary and Jonathan Sleath continued their sterling work on the ID notes, updating an estimated 100+ species! We estimate that we have now 'completed' more than 50% of the British & Irish taxa i.e. added both ID notes and images. We continue to receive many compliments on these pages, and images are frequently used in publications throughout the world (for example, in the recently published Austrian Flora).
- A new Conservation section was added following the appointment of a new Conservation Officer at the Autumn 2024 Council meeting.
- We have started to look at providing better functionality for ordering publications, in preparation for the release of the new *Field Guide*. This functionality will enable us to take pre-orders, and to better manage the order fulfilment process by sending automatic order acknowledgements and other notifications.

During July and August, we had some issues with performance as the website was subjected to persistent bot attacks. Our website providers, Castlegate IT, recommended installing a Cloudflare firewall which seems to have resolved the issues. Thank you to those members who contribute images or text to the website, and/or feedback on errors and broken links. As always, please let us know of any issues you encounter.

Claire Halpin, March 2026

Conservation Officer

The Conservation Officer post was re-established in autumn 2024 and in 2025 the new 'BBS Conservation Group' was formed. This currently has 21 members and includes BBS members from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland and representatives of statutory agencies and non-governmental organisations, including Plantlife, National Botanic Gardens of Ireland, Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh, Natural Resources Wales, Natural England and NatureScot.

In 2025, the BBS Conservation Group responded to consultations and gave advice/input into bryophyte conservation projects including: Northern Ireland species recovery project (Plantlife), Scottish Biodiversity List review (NatureScot) and Aspen Bristle-moss *Nyholmiella gymnostoma* translocation in Scotland (Plantlife). The Conservation Officer also responded to enquiries on several other potential bryophyte conservation projects. The BBS were added to the contact list of a number of projects for future consultations such as the NI Species Recovery Partnership (NI SRP) and Wales Metal Mines Programme, and formed a link with the European Committee on the Conservation of Bryophytes. Information on known bryophyte conservation activities, projects and publications in the different regions was summarised for a report to BBS Council in February 2025. The BBS website has been updated to include a Conservation section, with information on bryophyte habitats, species, threats and conservation efforts. This is in progress, with additional habitat and species information to be added.

Joanne Denyer March 2026

Librarian

Sales:

Census Catalogue (update) 2008	-
Census Catalogue (update) 2021	1
BBS *Bulletins*	-
Field Bryology	-
English Names of Bryophytes	- (on-line)
Practical Bryophyte Chromosomes (Newton)	-
Collecting Bryos. in the Tropics (O'Shea)	-
Chinese x20 lenses	10
Chinese x30 lenses	1
Idealtek Stainless steel forceps	7
Mini-blade packs of 10	2
Micrometer Eyepiece Scales	1
Micrometer calibration slide	-
Loans:	
Chinese Microscope	-
Free pdfs:	
Microscope techniques 1 & 2	8

There were 11 standard sales orders in 2025. Only one additional copy was purchased of the updated *2021 Census Catalogue of British & Irish Bryophytes* since its publication on-line. Micrometer calibration slides have been added to the sales items. In addition to sales items, during the year eight beginners have again taken advantage of the free pdfs of Microscope Techniques for Beginners and Bryophyte Microscopy tips. We are continuing to exchange *Field Bryology* for the Belgian *Muscillanea* and Swiss *Meylania* and *J. Bryol*. for various Polish publications.

Ken Adams, February 2026

Membership Secretary

Membership status

With the introduction of the new membership system, the breakdown of membership numbers given in previous annual reports has become less meaningful. People join and members lapse or rejoin at any time of year instead of on the fixed 1st January date within our old system, so all that can be provided is a snapshot.

The following figures are from a snapshot of the membership database on 31st December 2025 (last year's numbers in brackets):

Active individual members: 827 (829)

Comprised of:

Honorary:	11 (11)
Ordinary:	696 (716)
Junior:	4 (6)
Loyalty:	51 (21)*
Student:	65 (75)

*The large increase in number of Loyalty members is down to the way we now classify members – we now include in this figure all members eligible for Loyalty membership, where we used to just count members who paid the reduced subscription. Many eligible members opt to pay the full rate.

We have lost two of our Institutional members, so now just have the six Institutional subscriptions.

During 2025, changes to the membership can be summarised as follows:

156 members joined

153 members either resigned or allowed their subscriptions to lapse

3 members (that we are aware of) died during 2025

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

As usual, there is a high turnover of members who join for a year but then allow their membership to lapse. Overall though, the numbers are remarkably similar to last year, so I hope we haven't lost too many members because of the new membership management system. Undoubtedly some of those who were paying by standing order, will have re-considered their membership and allowed it to lapse this year.

Membership system

The new membership system seems to have settled down, and most members managed to renew their membership for 2025 one way or another. Around 100 members still paid by standing order or bank transfer, and 20 members paid by cheque. We needed – at short notice – to provide the option to pay by PayPal for several international members whose banks charged exorbitant rates for international payments. However, the vast majority of existing and new members – over 700 of you – successfully navigated the new system to set up recurring subscriptions using their debit/credit card.

Thank you to everyone for your patience during this transitional period.

Claire Halpin, March 2026

Education and Training Officer

There have been many workshops and training days delivered throughout Britain and Ireland both by the Society and by organisations such as the FSC. In addition, individual and local groups have delivered ad hoc training and mentoring. In summary, the BBS, as a whole, is active in passing on its knowledge to the next generation of bryologists. Since the last Report to Council two workshops sponsored by the BBS have been delivered. Another very successful Reproductive Structures weekend workshop was provided by Professor Jeff Duckett at Treborth Botanic Gardens, Bangor. This was the second of these workshops due to the demand for this training. It is expected that another such workshop will be delivered in future. In January 2026, Sharon Pilkington, the National Recorder for Mosses, provided training in identifying Acrocarps at Preston Montford FSC. This is always an oversubscribed workshop. The feedback from both workshops was extremely positive. We would

like to thank both Jeff and Sharon for the huge amount of work that both these workshops entail. In addition, both leaders had volunteer helpers whose support was much appreciated. This model of workshop, with a leader responsible for delivery, volunteer helpers on the course and an Education Officer able to provide logistical support, proved to work well. In addition, the provision of space on the BBS Google Drive for images and documents, as well as a WhatsApp group to support logistics and to share enthusiasm both proved very useful.

Looking forward to the coming year we have several workshops, courses and a conference for Bryological Recorders. There was a demand for a targeted QGIS course which emerged as a result of the draft programme for the conference in November. As a result, an online course specifically for those interested in recording and mapping bryophytes will be delivered in March and April 2026 by George Smith of Blackthorne Ecology in Ireland. This was oversubscribed and may well lead to more courses of this nature. In November 2026, the Society will be running a Conference for Bryological Recorders based at the University of Manchester, School of Education, Environment, and Development. This will offer a variety of short workshops and talks and will provide the opportunity for bryologists to network.

For 2027, we hope to deliver courses on *Sphagnum* for intermediates and beginners, Liverworts for Beginners and microscope workshops. These have been the result of requests from participants in previous meetings. It is hoped that BBS sponsored workshops will also be held in both Ireland and Scotland as at the moment most workshops have been run in England and Wales. There are still issues with how we communicate the level of expertise needed for a workshop whether it be beginner, intermediate or advanced. Even though it is quite clear from the workshop description the level needed, this is often ignored. This may well point to a need for more beginner's workshops, in particular. We continue to emphasise the need for travel insurance should participants find themselves unable to attend and to emphasise the need to be aware of the specific fitness requirements for a workshop.

In the past, running workshops has been dependent on the provision of microscopes by a venue. However, the BBS has available its own low and high-power microscopes, which at present are housed in Wales. Even when a location provides microscopes, they are often poorly maintained. Having our own microscopes means that we can be independent of the need for microscope provision. The Society has invested in microscopes with batteries giving yet more flexibility of venue. There continues to be an issue with storage and transport which at the moment is dependent on the good will of the Meetings Secretary, Philippa Thompson. However, we hope to acquire a further five microscopes of each in future which will be stored in the east of England. The purchase of a microscope with camera has proved a successful acquisition. However, in an increasingly digital world, many participants prefer their own microscopes with camera and laptop. This increase in hardware takes up room in teaching contexts and has meant that the number of people taking part has had to be reduced to accommodate the extra space per participant.

Nick Hodgetts, National Recorder for Liverworts, has now finished compiling and checking his Watson-type keys and we hope for publication of this in booklet form later this year. To ensure wider use, the key has been uploaded to the website as a pdf. We look forward to increasing the use of the key in future courses. It was used with excellent effect at the Acrocarps 2026 workshop. The second edition of the *Field Guide* refers to the use of microscopy to identify species and now we have a key which is up to date and somewhat supersedes (in part) that of Smith. Thank you to Nick Hodgetts for all his hard work. The second edition of the *Field Guide* will be published this year and we hope that we might launch it at an event where there is some training in its use.

The quality of the workshops the BBS runs is extremely high and the Committee discussed the possibility of kite marking them. However, it was decided that this was very complicated and it was enough to use the BBS logo in correspondence. This could be revisited in future.

There is a pressing need to train the bryologists of the future given the lack of formal bryological education at Secondary and Tertiary levels. Some thought needs to be given as to how we can help ensure that bryophytes are considered within curricula. A new GCSE in Natural History will be launched in the future and Margaret Crittenden continues to be part of the consultation process on behalf of the Society. It is intended to give all students – wherever they live – the time, skills and knowledge to appreciate nature, as well as develop important practical skills in data analysis and observation. We will be interested to see who will take this up. It is intended for use in both urban and rural settings.

As ever, the Education and Training Committee would like to thank all those willing to pass on their expertise and enthusiasm to others.

Margaret Crittenden, March 2026

Meetings Secretary

There were five National Meetings organised for 2025.

There was a UK Spring meeting in Yorkshire in March organised by Gordon Haycock, with assistance from Steven Heathcote and Tom Blockeel. There were seven days of field excursions and a dedicated microscope space for the week. It was attended by 64 members, with 35 sites visited. There were 4380 records of 370 species in 46 tetrads, which included nine new or de-bracketed species for VC54 and many new records of rare Wharfedale taxa. There was a seven-day meeting in Freiburg in Breislau, Germany, in April organised by Michael Lüth. Fifteen people attended, eight of whom came from European countries outside the UK and Ireland, including Michael himself. Twenty-five sites were visited. A new site was found for *Schistidium spinosum*, a species critically endangered in Europe, and one for *Enthosthodon pulchellus*, critically endangered in Germany. The group were taken to see many rare and beautiful species during the week

There was a seven-day field meeting in Co Clare in June organised by Rory Hodd with support from Jo Denyer. This was attended by 29 people, 21 of whom came from Ireland, one from Poland and the rest from the UK; 21 sites were visited. There were 21 moss and three liverwort vouchers of new or de-bracketed vice-county records. There was a seven-day meeting held in Orkney organised by John Crossley. There were 12 participants, two of whom came from outside the UK and Ireland. A total of eight sites were visited, with 643 new records and ten specimens new or debracketed for VC111

The 2025 AGM was held at Lindholme Hall, Hatfield Moors, in October and was organised jointly by Philippa Thompson and Steven Heathcote. There were two days of field excursions and a full programme of paper readings on the day of the AGM. The meeting was attended by 36 people, and 154 records were collected for VC63.

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, Northamptonshire 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.

Philippa Thompson, March 2026

Recorder for Liverworts

2025 was quite a bumper year for liverworts, with two species reported new to our flora and several interesting range expansions. I processed a total of 81 voucher specimens. There was a big increase on 2024 in Ireland, a small increase in Scotland, and slight decreases in England and Wales. There

were no new county records from the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands. Of the BBS meetings, the summer meeting in Orkney was particularly productive. This year's laurels go to Rory Hodd, with 12 new county records or debracketings, all from Ireland. Matt Sutton had 7, Nick Hodgetts 7, Sean O'Leary 6, Jo Denyer 5, Ciarán Flynn 4, Mark Lawley 4, Dean McCullough 4, Cian Ó Ceallaigh 3, Philippa Thompson 4, Tom Blockeel 3, Liz Kungu 3, Cian Ó Ceallaigh 3 and Sharon Pilkington 3. Everyone else mentioned contributed one or two each. Several vouchers were joint contributions.

First, the two 'new to Britain' finds. Matt Sutton found *Scapania hyperborea* in a small coastal mire in the isle of Lewis. This is an arctic-montane plant that does, however, reach southern Norway. The identification was confirmed by Tomas Hallingbäck The second 'new' liverwort is *Frullania calcarifera*, a Macaronesian-Mediterranean species, found on a clifftop on the Devon coast, collected by Misha Ignatov and Elena Ignatova and identified by Yuriy Mamontov, the Russian *Frullania* specialist.

Following an unusually hot and dry summer in England and Wales, it was a good year for 'reservoir bryophytes', those specialist species that appear, often in quantity, in the exposed draw-down zone. Combs Reservoir in Derbyshire is known as a site for *Physcomitrium sphaericum*, but *Riccia canaliculata* is new, found here first by Sky Wallis, growing with *P. sphaericum* and other bryophytes, then collected by Tom Blockeel. Tom and colleagues also had *Riccia huebeneriana* in Valehouse Reservoir in Cheshire, and Jonny Hughes had *R. cavernosa* at Grafham Water in Huntingdonshire. In Somerset, Andrew Branson found *R. subbifurca* at Wimbleball Lake, near Brompton Regis. In Wales, Steven Heathcote found *Fossombronia foveolata* at Alwen Reservoir in the north, while Claire Halpin had *Anthoceros agrestis*, a species that is normally found in arable fields, at the side of a Brecon reservoir. In Ireland, Rory Hodd found *Riccia fluitans* in the drawdown zone of a reservoir near Carrickfergus in Co. Antrim, and he and colleagues also had *R. subbifurca* on seasonally exposed mud in a Kerry turlough.

Ciarán Flynn continued his work in the under-recorded Co. Armagh, with *Jubula hutchinsiae* and *Saccogyna viticulosa* reported as new, and *Lejeunea lamacerina* and *Scapania nemorea* debracketed. Also in the North, Dean McCullough had two new records of *Drepanolejeunea hamatifolia*, in Cos. Cavan and Monaghan, and one of *Plagiochila bifaria*, in Co. Armagh. *D. hamatifolia* was also found in Co. Longford, this time by Chris Preston. Rory Hodd and Jo Denyer have been busy in several areas of Ireland. They had a particularly productive day out in a north-facing valley in the Wicklow Mountains, just on the Co. Dublin side of the vice-county border, with no fewer than five new records. Elsewhere Rory found, among other things, *Reboulia hemisphaerica* in Co. Cork and *Riccardia incurvata* in Co. Tipperary. Cian Ó Ceallaigh had *Cephalozia curvifolia* and *Plagiochila asplenioides* in Co. Longford, another under-recorded part of the country.

The summer meeting in Orkney resulted in several interesting finds. *Haplomitrium hookeri* was found by Wouter Van Landuyt on Graemsay, an island that previously had no bryophyte records at all, and was later found again on Hoy, along with huge quantities of *Fossobronia foveolata* in flooded dune slacks. *Riccardia latifrons* was seen several times during the meeting, initially by Barrie Hamill. We saw a large amount of *Herbertus norenus* at its known Hoy site where it was discovered in 2021, and plenty of it was seen on a neighbouring hill, too. North-facing base-rich cliffs and peaty banks on the island of Rousay were also very interesting, with *Cephalozia catenulata*, *Metzgeria conjugata* and *Nardia geoscyphus* among the finds. John Crossley returned to Rousay later in the year and added *Porella cordaeana*. Mark Lawley had a trio of new records during a trip to Coll: *Marchantia polymorpha* subsp. *ruderalis*, *Nardia geoscyphus* and *Odontoschisma elongata*. I found *Mesoptychia gillmanii* in rich coastal dune turf at a well-known coastal site in the north-west.

Matt Sutton had *Radula holtii* new to Wales, in an inaccessible part of an otherwise fairly well-known site. He also refound *Herbertus stramineus* on Cadair Idris, its most southerly site in Britain, and added another Welsh site for *Schistochilopsis opacifolia* on the same mountain. The other outstanding

Welsh record this year was Jamie Warren's *Cephaloziella dentata* on the Lleyn Peninsula, new to North Wales.

Some of the most notable records from England this year came from the south-west. Lionel Pike found *Plagiochila heterophylla* new to south-west England at two spots in the same South Devon wood. Meanwhile, Sharon Pilkington had *Jungermannia eucordifolia* in a Somerset stream, also new to south-west England. *Drepanolejeunea hamatifolia* may be continuing its expansion in the south-west, with two new records, one from Lionel in Devon and one from Sharon in Somerset.

Elsewhere in England, Jonathan Sleath had *Odontoschisma francisci* in North Hampshire, Gary Lawrence got the only liverwort NVCR of the Wharfedale meeting with *Cephalozia pleniceps*, growing through *Sphagnum*. Jamie Warren took *Cephaloziella turneri* out of brackets for the Isle of Wight; it was growing on a crumbling soil bank in Parkhurst Forest. Sean O'Leary found *Lophozia excisa* and *Scapania aspera* in Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens in Buckinghamshire. He also added *Sphaerocarpos michelii* and *Porella cordaeana* from the same county.

Nick Hodgetts, February 2026

Recorder for Mosses

240 new vice-county records, debracketings and other amendments were accepted in 2025. The most prolific recorder of 2025 was Rory Hodd, who, either alone or with co-recorders, was responsible for 22 new VC records. Sharon Pilkington contributed 20, Ciaran Flynn 19, Matt Sutton 17, Nick Hodgetts and Liz Kungu 14 apiece and David Long 12. Mark Lawley, Tom Blockeel, Andrew Branson, Chris Preston, Gordon Rothero, Claire Halpin, Claire Shaw and Joanne Denyer all added between 5 and 10 records.

Orthothecium strictum was added to the British checklist, having been discovered on Lewis in the Outer Hebrides in 2024 by a holidaying Matt Sutton. In colour and form it resembles *O. rufescens*, but is much smaller.

Nearly 40% of new VC records came from Ireland. Outstanding finds of rare species included George Smith's *Dicranum undulatum* in West Meath, Rory Hodd's *Fissidens serrulatus* in Killarney and Neil Lockhart and Christina Campbell's *Scopelophila cataractae* in Co. Wicklow. The summer meeting in Co. Clare generated no fewer than 24 important moss records.

Records from Scotland contributed 22% of the total. Undoubtedly the most exciting Scottish find was made by Rory Whytock. High in the Cairngorm Mountains, he discovered *Tetrodontium repandum,* a Critically Endangered and presumed extinct species new to Scotland and not seen anywhere in Britain since 1958.

11% of records came from Wales, a slight increase on 2024. A particular highlight was Matt Sutton's *Chenia leptophylla* new to the principality. Among many other outstanding finds were *Habrodon perpusillus* in Bangor (Mark Lawley), *Bryum mildeanum* in Glamorgan and *Grimmia orbicularis* in urban Abergavenny (both Sam Bosanquet).

English highlights included two discoveries by Tom Blockeel and David Wood (albeit in the same Midlands river) of *Cinclidotus riparius*. The hyperoceanic *Daltonia splachnoides* continued to spread, and was found in Wharfedale during the spring meeting by Tom Blockeel and on Somerset Exmoor by Sharon Pilkington. Andrew Branson's recording in South Somerset produced another flush of important VC records but arguably his best find of the year was the extremely small and elusive *Micromitrium tenerum* in Hampshire's New Forest.

Sharon Pilkington. February 2026

Recording Secretary's Report

This year work has focused on ironing out issues identified with the iRecord bryophyte-recording systems. This resulted in a costed list of ten actions provided to the web developer in November 2025. These issues should all have been completed by the time this report appears. Improvements notwithstanding, the majority of Regional Recorders (RRs) have now engaged with iRecord to some extent, at least to the point of obtaining verification permissions for their vice-county. This will allow a much smoother flow of records from the field to the NBN and beyond in the future. Whilst there is no absolute requirement for RRs to upload their own data to iRecord, many have now made progress with using this system as the main route for communicating their data to the central BBS database. Updates to the BBS website detailing this process will be published late Spring 2026; in the meantime, RRs who are willing to experiment should email the Recording Secretary: feedback has been positive to date. My AGM presentation also overviewed progress in this area, and demonstrated that iRecord bryophyte data is increasing rapidly due to several prolific recorders switching to it as their main repository. Thank you to the BBS Database Working Group (Claire Halpin, Sharon Pilkington, George Greiff and Jonathan Sleath) and Council for continued support, and to other recorders who have been engaging with iRecord more at my request (or indeed from their own initiative).

As usual we have assisted with numerous other data enquiries this past year, including around 12 direct requests for the Society's raw data or summaries. 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 NBN data, around 30 million copies of BBS records were downloaded across more than 4,400 downloads in 2025 (this number excludes those downloaded with justification 'Testing').

Changes to our Regional Recorders in 2025 were as follows: a swap, where Clare Shaw takes on Westmorland (v.c. 69) from Andy McLay and Andy receives Cumberland (v.c. 70) from Clare; David Newman takes on both parts of Kent (v.cc. 15 & 16), previously stewarded by Jan Hendey from 2008 to 2022; Ieuan Reynolds adopts South Aberdeenshire (v.c. 92), vacant since around 2013; Nick Hodgetts adds the Outer Hebrides (v.c. 110) to his portfolio and Sean O'Leary Shetland (v.c. 112) to his; whilst in the Republic of Ireland Cian Ó Ceallaigh adopts West Galway (v.c. H16), previously without a Recorder. 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.

During 2025 I have received support from various BRC staff, including Colin Harrower, Cristiane Forgiarini Da Silva, Robin Hutchinson and Martin Harvey; thank you also to Claire Halpin on the BBS side for website updates.

Dr Oliver Pescott, 12 March 2026
Biological Records Centre (UKCEH Wallingford)