

bioindicators'. Lichenology can make a big impact here. I expect to be contacting individuals and the Conservation Committee in due course.

To close, I am pleased that the BLS continues to have a high standing in the national bio-scientific community; despite our small size, we have a big voice ! However, our continuing engagement depends on information from our members. Please contact me on any issue which concerns you and I will see how we can introduce it into the biosciences community.

Dr Anthony Fletcher

SNH GRANT TO BLS FOR SCOTTISH LICHEN DATABASE AND TRAINING

Third 6 month claim – progress so far (March 2005)

Now that the fieldwork season has drawn to an end, training of Lichen Apprentices tailed off through September and October, with a final flurry at Coulin Pinewood, where Site Condition Monitoring (SCM) was carried out. The Dumfries and Galloway SCM sites (including the Water of Ken complex) were successfully undertaken by three Lichen Apprentices (Andy Acton, John Douglass and Joe Hope), with Brian Coppins on hand for two days. Andy Acton also carried out SCM in Glen Nant SSSI, and Joe Hope tackled Glen Affric. The training of Lichen Apprentices has been a great success story, and the BLS are extremely grateful to SNH for providing this unprecedented opportunity to ensure young, active lichenologists are around to carry lichenology forward in the future.

John Douglass (Lichen Apprentice who works as a Ranger for South Lanarkshire Council) is bringing lichen-awareness into his work, through giving talks and training at local schools and within the Ranger service. He is also integrating lichens into general habitat surveys in relation to Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCS), as well as churchyards and cemeteries and in relation to planning applications. Peder Aspen continues to steadily promote the embryo Scottish Churchyard Lichen Group.

A three-day Lichen-awareness course was carried out in Braemar in the late autumn, organised by NESBReC (North-east Scotland Biological Recording Centre). This was aimed at familiarising local recorders with lichens in their area, but also training as to how to collect, identification procedures, correct ways to curate specimens, how to use the BLS referee system and how to send in records. Brian Coppins also undertook training of Historic Scotland Rangers at Holyrood Park.

Much of the emphasis of the project has become very much focussed on data inputting, towards producing a Site-based Scottish Lichen Database. The project received a significant boost in early 2005, when Mark Seaward (BLS Mapping Recorder), undertook to extract and photocopy all BLS Scottish record cards held at Bradford (apart from cards already in our possession, e.g. Brian Coppins and Francis Rose), resulting in over 1,000 cards. There is a gradually increasing band of inputters now drawn into the project: Christine Matheson (Brian Coppins' record cards, Ursula Duncan's typed species lists), Rose Pride (data from Tony Fletcher's files, Francis Rose's record cards), Peder Aspen (Brian Coppins' Fife cards), and Jacqui Middleton, Stephen Ward and Rebecca Yahr all entering data from batches of BLS record cards from the Bradford archive.

Another important data batch arrived from Alan Orange at National Museum at Cardiff, who sent a spreadsheet with Scottish lichen data gleaned from databasing herbarium material, plus Scottish records from Alan's lichen reports.

Sandy Coppins

NEW MEMBERS

Mr R Burghause, An den Reben 30, D-55122 Mainz, GERMANY

Mrs R H Carter, 6 Church View, Wooton, Northampton, NN4 7LJ

Mr U de Bruyn, Margaretenstrasse 46, D-26121 Oldenburg, GERMANY

Dr C Dolnik, Nordseestr 4, D-24107 Kiel, GERMANY

Dr Arve Elvebakk, Department of Biology, University of Tromso, N-9037 Tromso, NORWAY

Mr T Hasse, Hensenstr. 184, D-48161 Münster, GERMANY

Mr R Key, MP, 4 Old Street, Salisbury, SP2 8JL

Dr B Krzewicka, OS. PRZY ARCE 19/46, PL-31-845 KRAKÓW, POLAND

Ms S Lang, Caeciliastr 20, 76135 Karlsruhe, GERMANY

Mr C Levy, 8 Susan Close, Hucknall, Notts, NG15 8DG

Mr C Maughan, 4 Vicarage Lane, Humberston, LEICESTER, LE5 1EE

Mr T Maxwell, 12 Stockwell Park Crescent, Stockwell, LONDON, SW9 0DE

Mr P McInnes, 10 Marionville Crescent, Edinburgh, EH9 6AU

Dr G Neuwirth, A-4910 Ried, Rabenberg 41, AUSTRIA

Mr J O'Reilly, 60A Heathfield Road, Acton, London, W3 8EJ