

# British Lichen Society

## Field Meetings & Workshops Programme 2021



### Field Meetings Secretary:

Steve Price, Woodlands, Combs Road, Combs, High Peak, Derbyshire SK23 9UP  
email [fieldmeetings@britishlichensociety.org.uk](mailto:fieldmeetings@britishlichensociety.org.uk)

*note: Most BLS meetings and workshops are open to all members and prospective members, regardless of level of experience. All that is required is enthusiasm about lichens! Occasionally a meeting is targeted to a particular, more specialised group, but that will be made clear in the information provided for that event.*

**COVID19 – The safety and well-being of our members and their communities is our utmost priority. All face-to-face meetings, including Council, Committee and Field Meetings and excursions are temporarily suspended.**

**The re-instatement of meetings will be dependent upon: Government Advice; the willingness of the accommodation to accept groups; and the ability and willingness of leaders to organise field sites and to attend meetings.**

**Planning ahead for meetings in 2021 is difficult. Dates in 2021 have been pencilled in for the 2020 meetings that were cancelled. The latest information will be posted on the BLS website.**

### **POSTPONED - BLS AUTUMN MEETING 2020 – Dingestow Court, Monmouthshire**

**Friday 9 to Monday 12 October 2020**

*COVID-19: This meeting has been postponed until Autumn 2021(see below)*

### **POSTPONED - BLS WINTER WORKSHOP 2021 – Cloughton, Scarborough** ***Lichenicolous fungi* Workshop leader: Paul Diederich**

**Monday 1 to Sunday 9 March 2021**

*COVID-19: This meeting has been postponed until Feb / March 2022 (see below)*

### **BLS EARLY SPRING MEETING 2021 – North Harris, Outer Hebrides**

**Saturday 17 to Saturday 24 April 2021**

*COVID-19: This is the meeting originally planned for May 2020*

**Local contact:** Tristan ap Rheinallt

The spring 2021 meeting will be on North Harris. Lichen-wise this is a much under-recorded area of Scotland. This is the first BLS meeting on the Outer Hebrides.

#### **Meeting base**

The meeting base is The Scaladale Centre, Ardvourlie, Isle of Harris, HS3 3AB. The Centre lies 15 miles (half an hours drive) south of Stornoway, Lewis and 11 miles north of Tarbert, Harris.

Website: <https://www.scaladale-centre.co.uk/>

### ***Accommodation and costs***

The BLS has booked the whole of the Centre on a self-catering basis. There are 6 bedrooms of varying sizes, which are being utilised to provide up to 18 bed spaces. Because of the limited number of rooms single accommodation will not be available.

The cost for the week in 2020 was £179 per person. Sheets / duvets / towels are provided. (*note*: costs for 2021 are to be confirmed).

For a map of the area have a look at:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/idld.srf?X=118725&Y=910631&A=Y&Z=115&lm=1>

### ***Booking***

Attendees should book with the Field Meetings Secretary, Steve Price, email: [fieldmeetings@britishlichensociety.org.uk](mailto:fieldmeetings@britishlichensociety.org.uk) or by post to Woodlands, Combs Road, Combs, High Peak SK23 9UP and send him a £35 deposit, cheques payable to 'The British Lichen Society' (not 'BLS' please). If members prefer to pay by bank transfer please request details from the Field Meetings Secretary.

### ***Timetable***

The meeting will run from Saturday 17th when we will gather after dinner for an introductory meeting. We vacate the accommodation in the morning of Saturday 24th.

Further details of the field programme will be sent out to attendees nearer the time of the meeting.

### ***Transport to the meeting***

Caledonian MacBrayne operate ferries from Ullapool to Stornoway and Uig to Tarbert.

The bus service W10 (Stornoway – Leverburgh) connects Scaladale with both Stornoway and Tarbert.

### ***Maps***

These OS 1:25000 maps cover the field sites currently under consideration:

Explorer 456 - North Harris & Loch Seaforth (the meeting base is on this map)

Explorer 455 - South Harris

Explorer 457 - South East Lewis

Explorer 459 - Central Lewis & Stornoway

## **JUBILEE SPRING MEETING 2021 Dutch Bryological and Lichenological Society**

**The Netherlands, Leersum**

**29th April to 3rd May 2021**

### ***Event Description***

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dutch Bryological & Lichenological Society (BLWG) will be commemorated with a special Jubilee Spring Meeting in the Netherlands that will be a conjoined BLWG and BLS (British Lichen Society) event.

For this festive event members of bryological and lichenological societies from the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany, Denmark and Belgium will be invited.

It will be a great opportunity to experience the best hotspots in the central part of the Netherlands, but also to meet foreign bryologists and lichenologists and tighten our international bonds.

Our meeting base will be in the heart of a wide, easily reached region with lots of mosses and lichen-habitats that are particular to the Netherlands Every day, groups will be split up to focus on either lichens or mosses.

### ***Meeting base***

The meeting base is Molecaten Park Landgoed Ginkelduin, Scherpenzeelseweg 53, 3956 KD Leersum.

Leersum is located some 12 miles east of the city of Utrecht, close to highway A 12 (Utrecht-Arnhem), on the edge of the vast forests of the Veluwe,

Ginkelduin is a very spacious holiday park in the midst of a beautiful forest with lots of amenities (like a supermarket, restaurants and even a heated indoor swimming pool!) The setting is very attractive and the grounds itself will certainly yield some nice species.

website: <https://www.molecaten.nl/landgoed-ginkelduin>:

### ***Accommodation and costs***

The BLWG has booked a spacious vacation home ('Landhuis') with 2 bedrooms and a shared bathroom and a separate apartment building close to the vacation home with 14 bedrooms (with 2 beds) with ensuite bathrooms.. We are booked on a self catering basis. For dinner, there is a large restaurant next to the apartment building. The cost for four nights will be around 155 euro per person with full occupancy. Single occupancy of a multiple bed-room is possible (cost will then be around 270 euro). This is with breakfast included. There will be no limit to the number of attendees. If needed, more accommodation can be booked.

### ***What the Landhuis has to offer***

In the Landhuis you will find a spacious kitchen, bar area, lounge, dining room, entertainment room, and two cosy sitting rooms to snug with your fellow enthusiasts. In the dining room some space will be created to accommodate people wanting to use a microscope. Weather permitting, there is also a spacious outdoor terrace to enjoy. Parking facilities are right next to the Landhuis, with more nearby.

For attendees wishing to stay in a tent or caravan, there is a large camping site very close to the vacation home. These attendees should contact the vacation park to make their own booking.

### ***Booking***

Details on methods of booking and paying are being decided and will be circulated when known.

### ***Timetable***

The meeting will run from Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 3d May 2021.

On the evening of Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>, you are all invited for a complimentary Indonesian kitchen style-dinner (the famous 'Rijsttafel') in the dining room of the vacation home.

After dinner, there will be an introductory meeting.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday will be reserved for a full day field programme.

We have to vacate the accommodation after breakfast on the morning of Monday 3d May.

Further details of the field programme will be sent out to attendees nearer the time of the meeting.

## **BLS SUMMER MEETING 2021 – Aberdare, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Wales**

***COVID-19: This is the meeting originally planned for July 2020***

**Saturday 3 to Saturday 10 July 2021**

***Local contact:*** Ray Woods

This is an opportunity to visit one of the most extraordinary parts of Britain that to date has been little explored for lichens. The northern part of the South Wales coalfield merges in a series of spectacularly wooded valleys with immense waterfalls into the high moorland, cliffs and screes of the Brecon Beacons. They sit cheek by jowl with the densely populated coalfield valleys and the now often lichen-rich tips and sites of the former iron and coal industry. We will visit the site of possibly the only strip-mined site in Britain, abandoned unrestored at the end of the Second World war. Celtic rain-forest and limestone and gritstone pavements are within easy reach. The transformation from a lichen desert to one of great richness is rapidly underway. *Sticta* spp. have returned to nearby woods and even *Teloschistes chrysophthalmus* turned up in the park where we will be based!

### **Meeting base**

The meeting base is Dare Valley Country Park Hotel, Aberdare CF44 7RG. Website: <http://www.darevalley.com/>

For a map of the area have a look at:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/idld.srf?X=298258&Y=202665&A=Y&Z=120&lm=1>

### **Accommodation and costs**

The BLS has booked the 15 bedrooms, each of which can be for single or twin occupancy. We are booked on a full-board basis.

The cost for the week in 2020 was £374.50 + VAT per person with a £10 + VAT supplement per night for single occupancy. With VAT at 20% the costs are £449.40 per person sharing and £533.40 single occupancy.

(*note*: costs for 2021 are to be confirmed).

### **Booking**

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### **Timetable**

The meeting will run from Saturday 3rd when we will gather after dinner for an introductory meeting. We vacate the accommodation after breakfast on the morning of Saturday 10th.

Further details of the field programme will be sent out to attendees nearer the time of the meeting.

### **Maps and reading**

OS 1:25000 Maps

Explorer - 166 - Rhondda & Merthyr Tydfil

Explorer Leisure - OL12 - Brecon Beacons National Park West

The article 'Colliery-spoil biodiversity of the South Wales Valleys' by Liam Olds and Richard Wistow in *British Wildlife*, December 2018, presents a fascinating overview of the richness and importance of this habitat.

## **BLS AUTUMN MEETING 2021 – Dingestow Court, Monmouthshire**

*COVID-19: This is the meeting originally planned for October 2020*

### **Dates: to be finalised**

Sam Bosanquet has invited the BLS to spend time at Dingestow Court (Old Lands) in central Monmouthshire (Grid ref. SO450097). There is parkland that needs studying and the house and grounds should keep masonry lichenologists happy. Sam has also offered to lead groups to some other areas such as the Blorenge limestone and gritstone screes.

For information the Dingestow Court website is <https://old-lands.co.uk/>

There is no one central base for the meeting. Accommodation in the area can be found through various websites including <https://www.visitmonmouthshire.com/accommodation-in-monmouthshire>

At the time of writing the self-catering cottages at Dingestow are all booked-up for the weekend.

For a map of the area have a look at:

<http://streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=345079&Y=209747&A=Y&Z=115>

The main purpose of this meeting is to record lichens at under-recorded sites in the area.

If interested in attending please inform the Field Meetings Secretary, Steve Price,

email: fieldmeetings@britishlichensociety.org.uk  
or by post to: Woodlands, Combs Road, Combs, High Peak SK23 9UP.

Further details of the meeting and a field programme will, when known, be sent out to those expressing an interest.

## **BLS WINTER WORKSHOP 2022 – Cloughton, Scarborough** *Lichenicolous fungi*

**Monday 28 February to Sunday 6 March 2022**

***COVID-19: This is the workshop originally planned for March 2021***

***Workshop leader:*** Paul Diederich

The arrangements so far made, for this longer than usual winter workshop, are that we have a provisional group booking for accommodation and meeting facilities at Cober Hill and that Paul Diederich from Luxemborg has kindly agreed to lead the workshop.

If interested in attending the workshop please inform the Field Meetings Secretary, Steve Price,  
email: fieldmeetings@britishlichensociety.org.uk  
or by post to: Woodlands, Combs Road, Combs, High Peak SK23 9UP.

More details will be sent out as soon as they are known.

*Although it is extremely rare for anything to go wrong with the arrangements for our field meetings and workshops, it has happened. In 2015 the hotel we had booked for accommodation cancelled without warning and at short notice. The BLS is not liable for such actions, and will not reimburse participants for losses out of the Society's control. Attendees on our meetings are advised to at least consider holiday insurance (note that for insurance purposes our meetings are best classified as themed holidays). The Society does not arrange such cover although it does of course have Public Liability Insurance.  
In the unfortunate event of an unforeseen cancellation, participants should be diligent in keeping receipts of all expenditure they incur as a result of such action. The case for re-imbusement may depend on the production of receipts.*

Steve Price, BLS Field Meetings Secretary, 21 August 2020