



British Ecological Society

33rd Annual General Meeting

Agenda

The AGM will be held at 13:15 on Thursday 22 August 2013 in Capital Suite Room 10, The International Conference Centre, Excel London, One Western Gateway, Royal Victoria Dock, London, E16 1XL, United Kingdom.

The agenda for the 33rd Annual General Meeting of the British Ecological Society is as follows:

Review of the past year

1. Acceptance of the minutes of the 32nd AGM held on Wednesday 19 December 2012 in the Great Hall, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, United Kingdom.
2. Centenary celebrations – to receive an update of the position
3. The Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2012 (as published in the August 2013 *Bulletin* and summarized in the Annual Report*).
4. The reports of the Treasurer and the Auditors.
5. The reports of the Council Secretary and the Hon. Chairpersons of the Committees.
6. The reports of the Editors.

Forth coming year

7. To elect Officers of Council of the Society

Present Officers

President: G. Mace
Past President:

Retiring

Date
2013
2012

Council Nominees

W. Sutherland
G. Mace

Vice President:	R. Bardgett	2014	
Vice President:	M. Crawley	2015	
Council Secretary:	D. Hodgson	2013	D. Hodgson
Honorary Treasurer:	D. Purves	2013	D. Purves

<u>Honorary Chairpersons of Committees</u>		<u>Retiring Date</u>	<u>Council Nominees</u>
Meetings:	A. Beckerman	2013	A. Beckerman
Publications:	A. Gray	2013	A. Gray
Public and Policy:	J. Vickery	2013	J. Vickery
Education, Training and Careers:	L. Batty	2015	

8. To elect Ordinary Members of Council

<u>Present Members</u>	<u>Retiring Date</u>	<u>Nominees for election</u>
D. Coombes	2013	D. Gilbert
R. Hails	2013	J. Hill
T. Ezard (Early Career Rep.)	2013	A. Jones (ECR)
E. Goldberg	2014	J. Randall (ECR)
W. Gosling	2014	R. Simpson (ECR)
R. Mitchell	2014	S. Veitch (ECR)
J. Blanchard	2015	
G. Hurst	2015	
P. Raven	2015	
O. Lewis	2016	
M. O'Callaghan	2016	
E. Sayer	2016	

9. The appointment of the Auditors for 2013.

10. Auditor's remuneration.

11. Any other business.

- To be tabled in writing to the Council Secretary at least three weeks before the AGM.

NOMINATIONS FOR ORDINARY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEMBER OF COUNCIL

Diana Gilbert
James Hutton Institute



I am a self-employed upland ecologist and a Research Associate with the James Hutton Institute. My specialism and passion is the ecology of scarce plant communities, particularly treeline woodland and montane scrub, and I develop conservation strategies for the individual species within their environmental niche. A particular interest is the interaction between semi-natural plant communities and land management in order to gain a better understanding of the role of these communities and their value to the productivity of upland areas.

A life time ambition was fulfilled in 2011 when, as a mature student, I completed an ecological PhD, and re-connected with the scientific community. Previously I was employed by Scottish Natural Heritage, Cairngorm National Park and as an ecologist with Highland Birchwoods, whose principal objective was to increase the value of semi-natural woodland. These roles required liaison with and promotion to the lay community. I currently sit on the board of an environmental education charity

and chair the Montane Scrub Action Group. I would bring to BES an ongoing interest in the process of policy development, and my wider experience of the non-scientific community. Greater involvement with BES would allow me to broaden my experience of research further.

ORDINARY MEMBER OF COUNCIL

Jane Hill
University of York



I am a Professor of ecology at the University of York. I graduated from the University of Manchester, and then studied migration of Silver Y moths at Bangor University for my PhD, and have more or less worked on lepidoptera since then. My research is concerned with understanding how species respond and adapt to climate change and habitat loss in temperate and tropical systems. For example, in the UK, my group is examining factors affecting range expansions of species across fragmented landscapes, and whether creation of new habitat to increase connectivity will help species respond to climate change. In the tropics, my group is examining impacts of rainforest disturbance, and methods for reducing biodiversity losses associated with conversion of rainforest to oil palm plantations. I am currently helping to lead a project testing the effectiveness of the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) sustainability criteria (www.searrrp.org/sensor). I am one of the Editors-in-chief of *Ecological Entomology*, an editor of *Ecology Letters* and on the NERC peer review college. I was awarded the ZSL/Marsh Award for Conservation Biology in 2011. I am

involved with the promotion of women in science through my University's Athena SWAN activities, through the BES mentoring programme for women, and through my recent involvement in Soapbox Science (www.soapboxscience.org; kindly sponsored by the BES). I would like to contribute to the BES by bringing a UK and tropical perspective to a desire to help develop more sustainable landscapes, and to translate ecological research into policy.

ORDINARY MEMBER OF COUNCIL (Early Career Representative)

Alan Jones
Aberdeen University



I work on native plant communities to examine the effects of global drivers, such as climate change and elevated atmospheric CO₂, on plant growth and plant-soil interactions. My present postdoctoral role at Aberystwyth University takes place in the Arctic, which is a great setting to do research, not least because this is an instantly engaging topic for public engagement work am involved with, particularly for schools, blogs and social media. I am on my second postdoctoral project, the first of which was in Australia. I completed my PhD at Silwood Park (Imperial College), so I feel from these collective roles I have gained a breadth of experience in different settings as an early career researcher. If selected for this position, I see this as an opportunity to help early career researchers, particularly to ensure they have the knowledge, skills and contact with appropriate mentors that will enable them to progress their careers. One of the difficulties at this stage is securing funding, which is subject to complex criteria, not least an outstanding publication record. It can be difficult to know which way to turn and which career areas to focus on.

One of the great strengths of the BES lies in its special interest groups. These and other resources could be used to generate a network of development mentors for early career scientists.

ORDINARY MEMBER OF COUNCIL (Early Career Representative)

Joanna Randall
Lancaster University



I am a postdoctoral research associate at the Lancaster Environment Centre in Lancaster University. I am interested in the ecology of host-pathogen interactions, and in particular the role of nutrition in determining the outcomes. At the start of my scientific career, I completed an undergraduate degree in Microbiology and became fascinated by the microbes that cause infectious disease and how they interact with their hosts. So, for my PhD, I focussed on the ecology of these interactions, exploring the individual and population-level effects of parasitism in a cockroach-parasite system at Cardiff University. Working with both hosts and pathogens enabled me to expand the scope of my microbial interests, which in

turn has propelled me into a career in disease ecology. The interplay between nutrition, disease and fitness is reflected in my personal interests: I am an avid cook, health-food junkie and marathon runner. As an early-career ecologist, I am keen to become more involved with the BES, and help others like myself to enhance their research profiles, take advantage of any opportunities available for career development, and to increase the communication between young members of the Society within a supportive network.

ORDINARY MEMBER OF COUNCIL (Early Career Representative)

**Rebekah Simpson
Plymouth University**



I am an enthusiastic and motivated early-career scientist, currently completing my first year of a PhD investigating the metabolic plasticity, immunocompetence and evolution of geographical range size in diving beetles. My PhD encompasses a wide range of fields from ecology to biochemistry, enabling me to appreciate the importance of working within interdisciplinary teams. Having written an article in the SEB (March 2013 Issue) about the importance of communicating science, I feel passionately about improving science communication between scientists from different fields, and to the public which I hope to achieve through INNGE, education, membership and publications. I feel confident communicating science having worked with the National Marine Aquarium, Royal Society, Marine Biological Association (MBA), STEM ambassadors and Voice of Young Science to help the public understand the

impact we have on ecological systems and their importance to our well-being. As course representative during my bachelors, chair of the MBA's volunteer group and student representative for the School of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, I have gained valuable experience sitting on committees. I believe I have a lot to offer the BES and would love to join your team to advance ecology and make it count.

ORDINARY MEMBER OF COUNCIL (Early Career Representative)

**Sally Veitch
Manchester Metropolitan University**



I completed my BSc (Hons) in Ecology and Conservation at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU), where I was awarded First Class. Before university, I travelled and worked in both the UK and abroad for four years where I gained a wide range of experience, in both professional and volunteer roles. During these roles, I have created and maintained links with both University of Manchester and Auckland University. I am now undertaking my doctoral research project at MMU. This aims to evaluate the current and potential use of Education for a Sustainable Future (ESF) and outdoor engagement within urban, primary education. I am also an academic support tutor for biological sciences at MMU and I complete freelance work for Manchester Development Education Project (DEP). I have recently joined the Education, Training and Careers Committee at the British Ecological Society. I am ambitious, hardworking and respond to new experiences with enthusiasm. I enjoy stretching myself to meet new challenges. I am committed to working towards a more sustainable future both in my own life and through the education of others.