

I think most members would agree that our first ever online BLS AGM was a roaring success – so much so that we are **now exploring using online meetings as part of our future planning** for our next AGM.

By popular demand, the conference recordings are now available via the shiny new [BLS Youtube channel](#). **Do please subscribe**, as this will help us access better tools on YouTube - not least a better url. Please share and promote the content we have, and we look forward to bringing you more in the months to come.

A big thank you to all the speakers and behind-the-scenes people who worked so hard to bring it all to you in person, and on YouTube. Ester Gaya, Raymond Griffiths, Nathan Phinney, Heleen Plaisier, Klara Scharnagl, Gothamie Weerakoon, April Windle, and Pat Wolseley deserve special mention for pulling it off!

Education and Promotions Committee

The EPC has new leadership in the co-chairs: Raymond Griffiths, a recent graduate of the Welsh lichen apprentices, and April Windle, who interned at the Natural History Museum with Holger Thüs and Pat Wolseley, and is now doing lichen contract work. Welcome both – we are lucky to have you!

If you are involved in lichen education or promotions, have project ideas or would like to volunteer then please contact April and Raymond at education-promotion@britishlichensociety.org.uk .

Online workshops

The Zoom Lichen Chat and Improvement Groups set up by Judith Allinson have been growing in numbers - and even propagating themselves. In addition to the original Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning sessions usually attended by 20-28 people, a series of smaller workshops for absolute beginners have been launched by members Sue Knight, Pete Martin, Graham Pyatt and Mark Stephens inspired by the original meetings – well done all of you! There are now six beginners sub groups/ mini-tutorials with 4 to 8 people.

All members are welcome, as beginners or as a more supporting role, please see the [events calendar](#) on the BLS website for more information and how to join. These online discussions are a chance to meet people, ask questions, confirm your identifications and learn tips and tricks from those in a similar stage of lichen knowledge.

Online BLS Learning Trial Module

In yet another first, the EPC built and launched a trial run of our first ever online learning module. The first set of ‘guinea pigs’ are nearly through the module and feedback has been really positive. Fay Newbery was instrumental in launching the programme, and the EPC will continue to drive this initiative forward.

Resources on Lichenicolous fungi

Fay Newbery has spearheaded an effort to assemble some really useful resources on lichenicolous fungi - now available on the BLS website at [this link](#), found in the dropdown list under the Resources tab. This includes the guide to 'Lichenicolous fungi occurring on *Xanthoria parietina* in the UK' which was released last autumn, keys to LFs on *Xanthoria* and *Ophioparma* and some descriptions of some *Arthonia* species that live as lichenicolous fungi.

Data Committee

The data committee oversees our database (containing 1.8 million records at last count), mapping, and projects requiring access to the database. Between them, Brian Coppins and Janet Simkin added another 90K records this year – wow! If you want to get involved, please contact enquiries@britishlichensociety.org.uk and mention the data committee in your email. Look out for a **new recording spreadsheet** and **updated distribution maps** expected this spring.

Revisions of British and Irish Lichens

Revisions of British and Irish Lichens is a free-to-access serial publication, under the auspices of the British Lichen Society, which charts changes in our understanding of the lichens and lichenicolous fungi of Great Britain and Ireland. Each volume will be devoted to a particular family (or group of families), and will include descriptions, keys, habitat and distribution data for all the species included.

There are now [twelve volumes](#) published, with the Acarosporaceae being the most recent: in alphabetical order: Acarosporaceae, Arthoniaceae, Ramalinaceae, Coenogoniaceae, Porinaceae, Protothelenellaceae, Thelenellaceae, Collemataceae, Pannariaceae, Ochrolechiaceae, Pertusariaceae, and Vezdeaceae.

Bulletins

Last year, the BLS scanned a run of all the Bulletin numbers, going back to when they were printed on thin paper and unbound, right up to the time when pdfs and word documents became part of our common lexicon. These are now listed and freely available on the [website](#), up to a five year window from the current issue.

Despite the poor quality of some of the early issues, the optical character recognition software now available means they are still searchable as pdfs individually, and as they get used more and more, the search engines will 'find' them, too.

Opportunities

Below are a few opportunities to get involved with discrete tasks on behalf of the BLS. If you are interested, please email enquiries@britishlichensociety.org.uk

- **Treasurer** – we are exploring paying for the banking to be done for us by the Royal Society of Biology, so this role could be more of a normal council position until we find someone who is comfortable with the full role.
- **Social Media** leads (Twitter and Facebook) – for this, you don't need to be a lichen expert, but a lichen enthusiast!
- **Digitising** lichen records – inputting from record cards, lists and publications into recording spreadsheets, and preparing spreadsheets for import to the BLS database.
- Managing and editing **videos** from the zoom groups for posting on BLS YouTube.
- **Reviewers** for species accounts - we have dozens of wonderful species accounts written, and we need intermediate and advanced reviewers to check content before publishing.

Field Trip Planning

Spring and summer field trips have had to be postponed once again, but our new field meetings Secretary, Graham Boswell, has been busy making plans. Graham is an expert in planning adventures, so be sure to keep your eye on the Events page on the BLS website.