

## Scottish Vice-County Recorder Vacancies

We are looking for keen, fit and reasonably competent botanists to fill a number of existing and forthcoming Vice-county Recorder vacancies, which will arise when the present recorders retire. Two of the most immediate are advertised below.

Living in or near the vice-county is certainly an advantage, but is not essential - some VCRs live remotely and operate very successfully. But you would have to be able to spend significant time in the Vice-county each year. The principal VCR task is the collection, validation and maintenance of vascular plant records in the Vice-county on behalf of the BSBI. Being a reasonable competent botanist is important, but knowing one's limits is even more important. No one can be an expert in all aspects of a county's flora – especially when just starting out as a recorder and our referees are on hand to support and help on identifications and confirmations. BSBI staff and neighbouring and retiring VCRs will be happy to provide general advice and support. Competency with computers, particularly e-mail, the internet and MapMate, would be highly desirable, although some training can be provided.

### Vice-County Recorder Vacancy in Midlothian, vc83

The present Vice-county Recorder for Midlothian, Douglas McKean, would like to retire as and we would like to thank Douglas for his contribution to botanical recording in the Lothians over the past 30 years.

Although a relatively small vice-county it has a remarkably diverse flora mainly because of its location in the south-east of Scotland and its wide range of habitats from coastal, farmland, urban, woodland to moorland rising to over 600 metres above sea level. Perhaps the most important botanical site is Holyrood Park, including Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags, and Duddingston Loch and marshes. Here a great number of notable species occur such as Forked Spleenwort (*Asplenium septentrionale*), Sticky Catchfly (*Lychnis viscaria*), Spring Sandwort (*Minuartia verna*) and Spring Cinquefoil (*Potentilla tabernaemontani*). Elsewhere in the county, one of the few remaining Marsh Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*) populations in Scotland survives in the Pentland Hills.

### Vice-County Recorder Vacancy in Fife, vc85

The present Vice-county Recorder for Fife, George Ballantyne has given notice that he would like to retire in 2010, after some 40 years as BSBI recorder. However he is not retiring completely. He would like to devote time over the next year or two to completing his flora of Fife, and meanwhile he would like to help a new recorder become established. We are very grateful for George's contribution to the BSBI (and look forward to seeing the flora!)

This is another diverse vice-county which includes extensive coastal habitats and an expansive patchwork of lowland farmland, woodland and forestry. This low ground includes Loch Leven – the largest loch in the Scottish lowlands. The surrounding land culminates in the moorlands of the Lomond Hills and the Ochils. The vice-county includes a number of small islands in the Firths of Forth and Tay, including most notably, the Isle of May.

For further details of what being a BSBI Recorder entails please contact me. If you are interested in any of these vacancies, please send me a note of your interest along with a CV detailing your relevant experience by the **1<sup>st</sup> of March**.

Jim McIntosh, BSBI Scottish Officer  
RBGE, 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR 0131 2482894 [j.mcintosh@rbge.ac.uk](mailto:j.mcintosh@rbge.ac.uk)