



# BOURNEMOUTH NATURAL SCIENCE SOCIETY & MUSEUM

*Share our love of science*

## Newsletter Spring 2017



Mary Thornton (centre), one of our four new Trustees, helping out in the museum room.



## Introduction

*by new President – Mark Spencer*

Thanks for accepting me to be your 105th President, I hope that I can be of use to the Society once again?

By the time you are reading this, we will hopefully be entering a warm and pleasant springtime, after what has seemed a long, cold winter to me, although I think, at least, it has been a more natural one.

Let us wish for an increase in numbers of our butterflies and moths in 2017, as many struggled last year, due to an excessively mild winter and a rather cold, miserable spring!

I am pleased to report that our open Tuesdays seem to be drawing in good numbers of visits from the public and especially some very keen University students, to view our collections and chat with our very knowledgeable volunteer members. I hereby thank all those who work so hard to keep the society working and available to everyone who wishes to view and use our wonderful assets.

I am constantly hearing from the public that visit us, that we are an amazing asset to the town, that they didn't know we existed until recently and disbelief that we are short of funding!

Here's looking forward to a glorious summer of wildlife and some great events, do come and have a chat with me – and see you all soon.

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## BNSS gives recognition to 'science inspirers'

Last year the Society initiated awards to those persons who have done much to inspire others to engage with the natural sciences. One award was for a public figure who was nominated by members of the public; another was for a BNSS member who had worked within the society. The first awards were presented by the outgoing President at December's AGM.



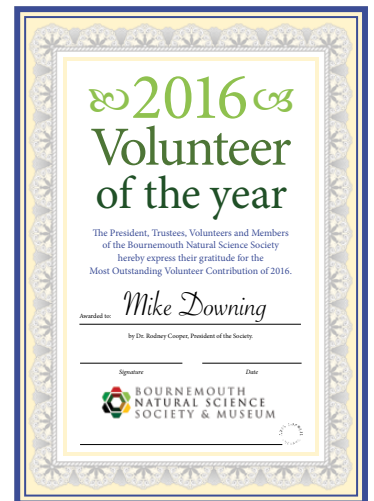
### Richard Hesketh wins the President's Award 2016

The person proposing Richard had worked closely with him as a conservation volunteer at Hengistbury Head. When overseeing tasks he always ensured the volunteers understood the ecological reasons behind the activities. He was an ardent 'birder', but also a good all-rounder when it came to public guided walks across the Head, pointing out but-

terflies, adders, Natterjack toads, etc. He also had a passion for Astronomy, and introduced astronomy nights as well to watch meteor showers and satellite traverses. He brought his telescope out during the transit of Venus to allow the passing public a rare sighting. His charm calmed local hostilities, such as when residents complained about the introduction of a wild flower meadow at Wick. His Monday Morning Meanders attracted a loyal public following. These guided walks introduced the uniquenesses of the various parks and open spaces, and covering all seasons, displayed all aspects of Nature. Generating public appreciation of our marvellous public areas will help ensure the continued survival of these green lungs and their ecological value.

### Mike Downing is voted Volunteer Of The Year 2016

Mike's choice for an 'in-house' recipient of the award was popular. Mike joined the Society in 2003 and threw himself at the vacancy in the Botany Section. He arranged talks and led guided walks throughout the summer, an exercise that provided useful data to local botanical records. He also looks after the Herbarium Room during the various Open Days. For a number of years now, Mike has collated the Programme, gently nudging lax Chairmen of Sections to submit entries for that most important feature of the Society – its talks. This year he is standing down from this onerous role, and the Award is by way of a 'Thank you' on behalf of all the members.



## New donations of specimens

This is a cast of an Ichthyosaur communis from the Jurassic. It was originally purchased from Charmouth so the original possibly came from Lyme Regis or Charmouth from the Blue Lias some 200 million years ago. It now has a new environment – our Geology section!





# 2016 Natural History Photographic Competition Winners

We would like to thank all those people who submitted images for this, our fourth annual photography competition. Mark Spencer and Martin Western thoroughly enjoyed looking at each and every one of them and, as always, had extreme difficulty choosing the winners!

*Anyone is welcome to come along to the slide presentation at 12am Saturday 29th April of entrants' photographs. Afterwards, President Mark Spencer will present the winners with their prizes. Here are the eagerly awaited results of all three categories...*

## PLANTLIFE

**Gold Medal, Keith Beswick** – “Jelly Ear *Auricularia Judae*”

**Silver Medal, Mark Pike** – “Oyster Mushrooms”

**Bronze Medal, Mark Pike** – “Bee Orchid”

*Highly Commended:* Keith Beswick – “Harebell”, Keith Beswick – “Stink Horn-*Phallus Impudicus*”, Jolyon Crane – “Water Lilly”, Mark Pike – “Velvet Shank”



*Jelly Ear *Auricularia Judae**



*Woodland Sunrays*

## LANDSCAPE

**Gold Medal, Alan Loader** – “Woodland Sunrays”

**Silver Medal, Mark Pike** – “The Fisherman”

**Bronze Medal, David Ayrton** – “Waterfall Snowdonia”

*Highly Commended:* David Ayrton – “Carrbridge Scotland”, Rex Bale – “Sunrise Over Isle Of Wight”, Tony Gaffney – “Gold Hill, Shaftesbury”, Sue Newman-Crane – “Knowlton Church”, Keith Beswick – “Bournemouth Beach”.



*Scarce Chaser*

## WILDLIFE

**Gold Medal, Mark Pike** – “Scarce Chaser”

**Silver Medal, Bruce Longstaff** – “Lion's Snarl”

**Bronze Medal, Keith Beswick** – “Kingfisher”

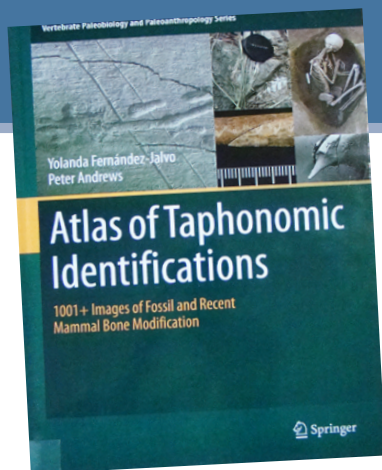
*Highly Commended:* Bruce Longstaff – “Elephant Feeding”, Mark Pike – “Humming Bird Hawkmoth”, Mark Pike – “Crab Spider”, Penny Hawes – “Goose Barnacles”, David Ayrton – “Green Hairstreak”.



## Go on! Show us YOUR snaps!

*Why not share your favourite science photos with us? Send us a .jpg, .tiff or .psd file – anything between 3 and 10 Megabites is ideal – along with a description, and we'll try to include it in our next issue! Make the subject: 'newsletter snaps' and email to: [contact@bnss.org.uk](mailto:contact@bnss.org.uk)*





## Review of books recently added to our Library

As you may, or may not, be aware, the Chairman of each of our Sections is combing through our library in order to determine which books we really must keep and which we might 'let go'. There is a real possibility we will combine both the reference and the

general library, although this has yet to be decided by the Trustees.

As a result, we've put a hold on investing in new books this quarter, but there has been one exception to the rule. Bryan Popple, Chairman of Archaeology pointed out that "*Atlas of Taphonomic Identifications – 1001+ images of fossil and recent mammal bone modification*" by Yolanda Fernandez - Jalvo and Peter Andrews would be a fantastic purchase. Anyone interested in Archaeology, Anthropology and Zoology really must check this out. Bryan says, "The atlas provides images

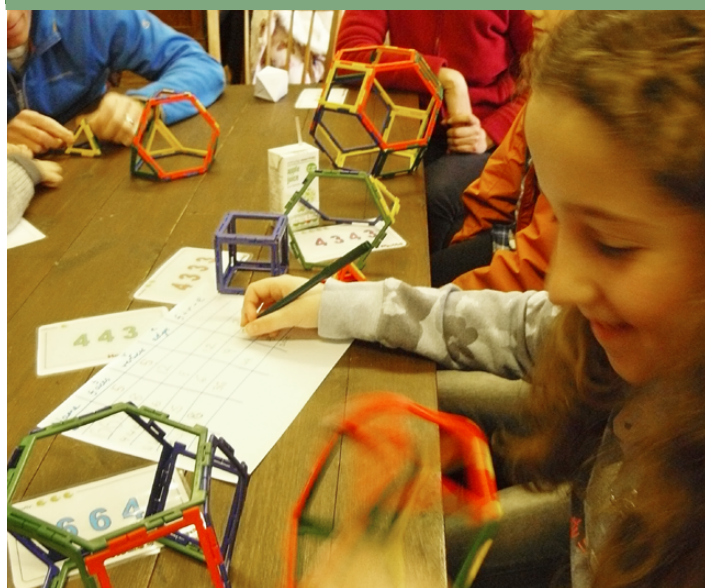
of taphonomic modifications which would be useful as a field guide for identifying modifications in the field, and in the laboratory. I am sure that it will be a really interesting read and useful tool for anyone researching"

That is, of course, if you can manage to prise it from Bryan's grasp!

**Just for fun!** (Thanks to Anna Cuccia for this one!) What is this? Where is it? And can you guess which famous company has a scallop for its logo? (Answers appear at the bottom of the page.)



## Young Explorers goes from strength to strength



11 year old Maia Cuccia gets to grips with a complex equation.

Thirty Young Explorers attended the 'House Of Maths' workshop on 11th February which proved to be a great deal of fun for all the 6 to 13-year-olds who attended. They are pictured making various polyhedra using a special code and investigated Euler's identity linking the number of faces, vertices and edges. A big thank you to everyone who took part, and to our fab team of organisers and helpers.

After the event a parent said, "the children don't know how lucky they are to have such expertise at their finger tips. Steve's teaching background makes him link stuff into the national curriculum and his ability to network gives the kids amazing opportunities to be taught by specialists."

*Our Young Explorers group is for young people between the ages of 7 and 12 and meets on the second Saturday of each month from 10am to 12.30pm. There will be 10 meetings over the year. Each meeting will have 2 sessions of about one hour each. Sessions cost just £4 per Young Explorer, per meeting, with Adults going FREE.*

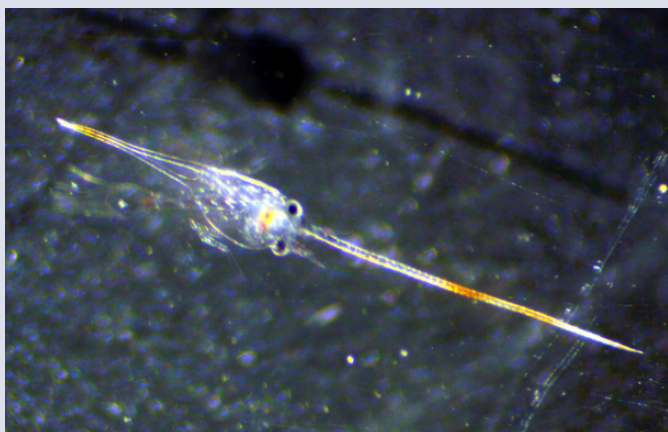
You can find a link to the full programme at:  
<http://bnss.org.uk/events/young-explorers>

**'Just for fun' Answers:** It's a book collated by... the Shell Oil company! It's kept on the bottom shelf on the left as you enter the library, next to about 6 volumes of The Royal Natural History. Amazingly enough, it's called *The Scallop*. Next time you visit, why not pop in and borrow a book about YOUR special interest?



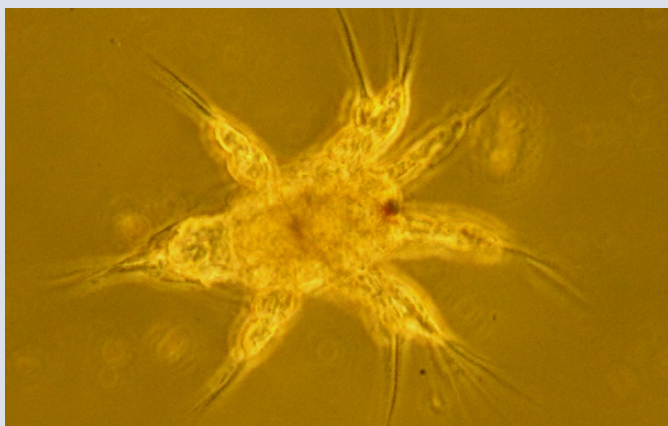
# It's time for another utterly fabulous BNSS Wildlife Garden and Museum Open Day!

There's a full guide to what's happening on Saturday, 8th April on the back page: meanwhile, here's a 'sneak peak' at what two of our Section Chairmen will be up to on the day...



Grenham Ireland is planning to demonstrate under the microscope marine zooplankton from Poole Harbour.

Plankton contains many developmental stages of crustaceans. The picture above shows a porcelain crab zoea larva (1–2mm in length) which has a very long rostral spine which probably makes it harder to eat!



This is a picture which shows a smaller nauplius larva, probably of a barnacle. This image is created from six 'stacked' images to create one 'in focus' image. The larva which has a single red eyespot shows phototaxis – movement towards light – where it finds the phytoplankton (algae) on which it feeds.

*Discover much more with Grenham on the day!*

Bryan Popple, Chairman of our Archaeology and History section, tells us, "We've arranged for a special guest to visit us for the Open Day – Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen who is Finds Liaison Officer, for Dorset, with the Portable Antiquities Scheme. She will bring objects which can be handled."

*She will also identify objects found by visitors in their gardens or whilst out walking. Please bring things along!*



## Come along and share our love of science!



It's all change at the BNSS! Here's your at-a-glance guide to some of those responsible for the successful running of our society & museum – we'll introduce others in our summer issue!



## Rod Cooper – Chairman of Trustees

We're delighted to announce that after two years as President, Dr. Rodney Cooper, former Mayor of Bournemouth, has agreed to step into the role of Chairman of Trustees.



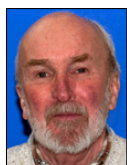
## Gerry Dugan – Hon. Treasurer

By law, the BNSS must have a Treasurer. Gerry's responsibilities include: PAYE, Pensions, Membership Direct Debit reporting, reconciliations, financial reporting, etc.



## Steve Limburn – Trustee/Young Explorers

Steve runs our Young Explorers classes – from mathematical equations to pond-dipping – he's a teacher capable of enthralling schoolchildren, and inspiring future generations of members.



## Ray Chapman – Trustee

In addition to running our Geology department, Ray is responsible for our Museum status. His responsibilities include Secretary to the Society and Chief Museum Curator.



## Anne Jolliffe – Trustee

Anne is responsible for looking after our beautiful Grade II listed, 'Italianate-style' House including: building, maintenance, fire and safety/health and safety regulations, etc.



## Grenham Ireland – Trustee

As a new Trustee this year, Grenham has taken responsibility for editing our website and is looking forward to contributing to other activities – including fund-raising – in future.



## Malcolm Hadley – Trustee

Malcolm has been busy cataloguing our Botany section and is helping out with IT support. His project management skills are sure to be put to good use in the very near future.



## Pam Field – Trustee

Where would we be without someone to manage all our correspondence? It's a busy and important role. First impressions count and Pam is our trusted 'interface' with the outside world.



## Mary Thornton – Trustee

Mary is ultimately responsible for our Programme of events and lectures. She also acts as Volunteer Coordinator, organises hall hire and as if that's not enough, helps sort out our Open Days too!



## Bryan Popple – Archaeology & History

Bryan has been a member of the Society for a few years now and became our Archaeology & History Section Chairman two years ago. He has an interest in research and education.



## James Fradgley – Membership – Astronomy

James has been Astronomy chairman for many years and also has responsibility for membership administration including Direct Debit processing and annual Gift Aid rebates.



## Mike Downing – Botany

Mike was our Volunteer of the year 2016. For the past 10 years he has been responsible for liaising with Section Heads as Programme Coordinator and is still Chairman of our Botany Section.



## Mark Spencer – President – Entomology

Botanist and gardener Mark has been President once before. He looks after our Entomology section and is the link between the Gardeners and our body of Trustees. He breeds butterflies!



## Martin Western – Geography

Martin photographs all of our collections here at the BNSS, organises our annual photography competition, our geography lectures, and edits the library's geography section.



## Ray Chapman – Geology

Ray is passionate about Geology – as is clear from the way he's transformed the Geology Section over the past couple of years. His walks and talks are eagerly anticipated by all.



## Grenham Ireland – Science

Grenham was a biologist involved in teaching and research until retirement. He now organises the 'science strand' and attracts speakers in subjects not covered by the other Section Chairmen.



## Jonathan McGowan – Zoology

Jonathan's a radio personality and really good field naturalist. Big cats are his specialism – he tracks them with movement-sensitive cameras, and collects their spoor, paw prints and hairs!



## Keith Clements – Oology

Keith and Maureen Clements share responsibility for looking after our fantastic collections of birds eggs.



## Brian Tiller – Librarian

Brian is our Librarian and his wife Mary is our Assistant Treasurer. Jointly, they run the sales table on Open Days.



**Could YOU work alongside those above?** We urgently seek a new Treasurer. We also need someone to Chair sections, such as General and Ornithology. Have you got what it takes? Then email us NOW: [contact@bnss.org.uk](mailto:contact@bnss.org.uk)





# 8

## simple ideas to help the BNSS this spring

### 1 Ask us to keep in touch with you by email

We have email addresses for most of our members, and where possible, i.e. when the member agrees to it, we send all programme, newsletter etc. information by email. This saves us on both printing and postage costs, as well as on administrative tasks, e.g. envelope stuffing, printing address labels, etc.

James Fradgley (Membership Secretary) tells us we still have 58 members for whom we don't have an email address. If you're happy to receive information this way, and have not given us your email address, we would be very grateful if you could let us have it.

Please either drop a note off at No 39 addressed to "Membership Secretary" or email it to [contact@bnss.org.uk](mailto:contact@bnss.org.uk) marked for the attention of the membership secretary.

We very much appreciate any help you can give us to continue to reduce costs as much as possible.

### 2 Don't bin this newsletter

(And that includes the electronic version!) Pass this newsletter on to someone who'll read it. Ask for it back. Lend it out again. You could always surreptitiously slide it in amongst the magazines at the doctors or the hairdresser's! Email your whole contacts list and pretend it was an accident! We're sure you'll come up with some great ideas of your own...

### 3 Offer someone a lift

Offer a friend or colleague a lift to the next walk, talk or Open Day you attend. Many of our lectures are under-subscribed: busier lectures have more ambiance and they're a great way to introduce new members to our friendly society.

### 4 Share your 'Eureka! moments' with us.

Please don't be shy! If you have a great idea, don't keep it to yourself. Write it down so you don't forget and pop it in the ideas box next time you visit.

### 5 'Many hands make light work.'

Here at the BNSS we are blessed with many keen and active volunteers, but we still need a few more, we can always do with help with the teas, a couple of people to Chair sections, such as General and Ornithology and very soon a new Treasurer. We know that these are all a big ask, but we cannot expect the few who are already busy, to take on any more; we hope that there are a few of you out there, who can help keep this society progressing and encouraging people to take a keen interest in the natural world. Some of the easiest and fun jobs are still up for grabs – how hard can it be to make a cup of tea?

### 6 Talk about us

If you like what you see here at the BNSS, please help us to spread the word. If each member of the Society introduced just one new member this year this would have an utterly amazing positive effect on our bottom line. And please, if you don't like something, talk to us about it instead!

### 7 Legacies

The generosity of our members never ceases to amaze us. Legacies can be made tax-free and, as in 2016, make a huge difference to the financial well being of the Society.

### 8 and finally...

It's a sad fact that, for various reasons, each year we lose a few members. If you've decided to terminate your membership, please do two things for us:

- a) please tell us why you're leaving, especially if you think we could change things for the better, and
- b) please ask James Fradgley (our Membership Secretary) to cancel your Direct Debit, NOT your bank.

We promise not to use this as an excuse to persuade you not to leave (we don't want you to leave!) but it saves us cash and let's face it, we need it more than your bank or building society does!

## Would YOU like to receive your own FREE quarterly newsletter and programme of lectures & walks?

Email: [contact@bnss.org.uk](mailto:contact@bnss.org.uk) making the subject: 'keep me posted' (Our members will receive theirs automatically!)



# Stick it in your diary and spread the word!

**SATURDAY  
8TH  
APRIL**



## WILDLIFE GARDEN & MUSEUM OPEN DAY!

**LIVE INSECT  
DEMOS!**

**KIDS CRAFT  
ACTIVITIES AND  
POND DIPPING!**

**LIGHT  
REFRESHMENTS  
AVAILABLE**



**FUN FOR ALL  
THE FAMILY!**

**FREE  
GIVE AWAYS!**

**WILDLIFE  
GARDENING  
ADVICE AND  
DISPLAYS**

**SATURDAY 8TH APRIL 2017**

**10AM TIL 4PM. FREE ENTRY.**

**SMALL CHARGE FOR SOME ACTIVITIES AND REFRESHMENTS**

**AT THE**  **BOURNEMOUTH  
NATURAL SCIENCE  
SOCIETY & MUSEUM**

**39 CHRISTCHURCH ROAD BOURNEMOUTH BH1 3NS.**



Part of a  
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