



BOURNEMOUTH NATURAL SCIENCE SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Share our love of science

AUTUMN 2019

£1



Victorian Heritage Day

**Saturday 12 October 10am-4pm
& Museum Open Day**
Sunday 13 October 10am-4pm

Celebrating Bournemouth's growth during the 1800s
as a destination for health, leisure, the arts & sciences

On Saturday explore the rich legacy of the Victorians, from architecture, health & the sciences to literature, music and art. Enjoy learning about Victorian notables - scientists, architects, artists, writers and musicians... even smugglers & poachers.





Saturday's exhibits include

Period costumes, images & models of local architecture, maritime history & models, ceramic tiles, Bournemouth as a Victorian health resort, history of Dorset boundaries, the Victorian view of ancient Rome, children's games & crafts.

On Sunday come and talk to our museum collections experts, the Dorset Boundary Survey, our ancient Rome expert John Smith, & Gordon Bartlett with his Victorian music boxes



Admission:
£3 adults
£2 children 5-16
Refreshments available



bnss.org.uk
39 Christchurch Road
Bournemouth BH1 3NS
Registered Charity No. 1165951



BOURNEMOUTH
NATURAL SCIENCE
SOCIETY & MUSEUM



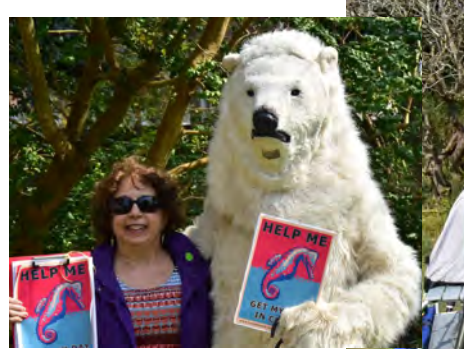


Plate 1: a QR code which links

- 1) Alfred Russel Wallace
- 2) Alfred Wallace Old Orchard Plaque
- 3) Wallace's Golden Birdwing Butterfly
- 4) Sumatran Rhinoceros molar
- 5) Osprey
- 6) Passenger Pigeon
- 7) Grooved Brain Coral
- 8) Tahemaa blog
- 9) Coco der Mer Nut
- 10) Rosetta Stone
- 11) Kimmeridge Coal Money
- 12) Iguanodon
- 13) Iguanodon Trackway

These are the QR subjects, so far. Download the APP then see if you can find them all. Prize of a biscuit.

Please fill in the QR questionnaires



Autumn in Bournemouth

Autumn is always a busy time for wildlife, preparing for the winter to come. Many mammals mate in the autumn time, so deer, some bats and many insects mate, or egg-lay in this season.

This autumn may see a bumper array of fungi. Different species can be found not just on the surrounding heathlands and woodlands but on our own doorsteps and gardens within



the built-up areas. In Bournemouth we have many parks, avenues, large trees and even on roadside verges, where we may find many unusual, common, rare or edible species.



Social wasps, such as Common Wasps and Hornets, are winding up around the end of October and November. The race is on to produce fit, healthy queens that are fed on protein, mainly in the way of insects and fruit. The mated queens will hibernate through winter and re-emerge in springtime to found new annual colonies. Wasps never live more than the summer season, and nests fall apart, and are never re-used as the whole colony dies off with the first cold weather. Wasps, just like all life forms on earth have a place and reason to survive and are crucial within the ecosystem.



Spiders become very obvious in the autumn time, especially the larger orb web weaving species, such as the Araneus, the Garden Spider. The female grows large with eggs, which will survive the winter to hatch in late springtime. The Four-spotted Orb Weaver, Araneus Quadratus, matches the autumn colours. The Wasp Spider, Argiope Bruenichi, is common and survives in

warm dry summers. It is a grasshopper specialist and webs are just above ground level with a stablementum, the ziz-zag vertical line of coloured uv reflective silk to warn others territorially.



These species are harmless to man although all spiders have venom. The false widow spiders can be dangerous if they bite people (but this is rare) as they have much more toxic poison. the females are more obvious in the autumn although these species live for up to five years.



Jonathan McGowan

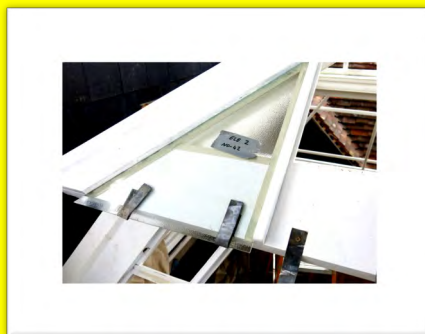
Lantern Update

The dismantled, and now repaired, parts of the lantern have at last been brought back from the contractor's workshop and reassembled on the base. The glass that was removed from the lantern prior its restoration is currently being all the glass was having been earlier restorations. In addition some glass was lost during the current removal process. The contractor is currently trying to source glass that best matches the original to finish off the job.



The roof tiling has been completed with the exception of the ridge tiles. These will be finished once the metal stays for the bird netting have been attached to the ridge.

A new large capacity connect the rain water the downpipe at the are almost there. My impressive even though so good to be in a scaffold that currently envelopes the building!



drain pipe is being made to gutter around the lantern to front of the building. So we opinion is that it looks very not fully completed. It will be position to finally remove the

Colin Lord

VIDEOS **Hey Dude, Bro, What's up** - if you are into YouTubes with blaring music, zany titles, zany presenters, then these will be no good. Apologies. If you like clarity, a video to be short and to the point, informative, amusing, clear, witty, and just good, then please look at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhbFLt7tGWc&t=338s> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mGnHlo9Sh8&t=10s>

Not just because they are BNSS, but these are professional. Thanks to Bethany for organising these, and 'Objectivity', and let's have a load more. Oh, and they are free for us.

OBITUARY

Justin Bernard Delair 9th November 1932 – 12th April 2019



Justin was born in Southall Middlesex, he was educated at Gunnesbury Catholic School and studied cartography at Ealing Technical College. Employed by Geographia of London who produced maps for the Oxford University Press.

He was married to Ursula in February 1963 in Ealing, and in future years they were to win many certificates and awards for ballroom dancing.

He worked in Glasgow for a Geological Survey Company from 1964 to 1968, before residing in Oxford. Continued with his geological work and writing many books and papers either alone, or with colleagues. He worked in the Oxford University Natural History Museum as Curator of Reptiles, and continued living in Oxford until 2002 when he and Ursula moved to New Milton, Hampshire.

Justin Joined the BNSS in 1991 and started working with Vera Copp on reorganising the Geology section, clearing two basement rooms of rubbish, and taking the geological specimens from around 39 Christchurch Road, cataloguing them, and placing them in cabinets or on walls. This work continued faster when he moved to New Milton and included the mounting of pictures and information boards..

Justin passed away in April 2019 at the Ashley Lodge Nursing Home; he leaves his wife Ursula and a sister living in Salisbury.

His work at the BNSS was invaluable.

Ray Chapman



Calshot Botany Field Trip

Hard botanising

1st August

Picture by Gerry Duggan

YE Our Young Explorer group continues to be increasingly popular. We have had some fantastic sessions recently. We had an excellent session on



skeletons in July, and children got to assemble one! It was a good refresher for parents too. We found out about different types of skeletons and what we can learn from them.



The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about reptiles and amphibians in August. It was a look at our native species including rare ones. They found out how to protect them and the habitats in which they live.

Parents and children alike enjoy the break time, and our wonderful member, Jacquie's dinosaur biscuits are ever the hit.

We have a regular core of children who come every month and places get booked quickly. Please go to youngexplorers@bnss.org.uk and email or, through our Facebook page, send a private message to book your place. Places cost £5 per child. The morning starts at 10 o'clock and finishes at 12:30. We ask that all children are accompanied by an adult. People new to Young Explorers will be asked to fill in a registration form on arrival, so please allow an extra few minutes.



The money that Young Explorers generates is invaluable to the museum and its future. We greatly appreciate it. If people book a space and can no longer come, please let us know so we can offer that space to another child as there is often a waiting list, and it also means that we do not lose valuable funds.

Anna Cuccia

BNSS Garden - Autumn 2019

As I write in the second half of August, strong winds and heavy showers are making it seem like autumn already. The mix of extremes we have experienced this summer season has been hard on the flowers and difficult for the gardeners, but green growth has been luxuriant.

On sunny days, when we have been open to the public, the lawn has been much enjoyed by visiting families with their picnics. We could do with some more benches to replace broken ones that had to be removed last winter. Perhaps you might consider donating one in memory of a loved one or as perhaps a Centenary gift?



When autumn arrives in earnest, look out for the golden pillar of the ginkgo to the left of the exit gateway. Another highlight will be the cotinus as its dark green leaves turn a vivid red outside the museum room window. Look out for the red acers too as their colours intensify.

The big old sweet chestnut may produce some nuts for the squirrels if they ripen sufficiently

in their spiky fruit. There may be hazel nuts to nibble too, though the vivid pink berries and orange seeds of the spindle are best avoided as they are poisonous. We should have scarlet holly and cotoneaster berries for the birds or the black ones of viburnum tinus and bramble. The arbutus unedo or strawberry tree produces fruit that is said to be edible but not very palatable – interesting though.



With a bit more light now reaching the ground, it is an opportunity to plant woodland bulbs and corms for next spring. September is the time to get these in. Once the scaffolding is finally down and we have access to the beds near the house again there will be much work to be done there.

The ponds have given much interest as the otherwise practically invisible invertebrates have been revealed to members and visitors under the light of a microscope when a small container of water is taken indoors.

As always the garden will be worth visiting for the small things as well as the spectacular.

Jill Abbot



COACH TRIP - 2019



COMING SOON - 2020

The BNSS WILL BE CELEBRATING ITS CENTENARY

Well that's not true for a start. The BNSS began in 1903.



*But - the Society did move to its present home in February 1920, so will be celebrating with a look-back over the last 100 years with various talks, possibly projects. Much more about this in following newsletters, but now a chance for members to start thinking of ways to celebrate **100 years 'At Home'**.*

Microscope Day at the BNSS:

Joint Meeting with Quekett Microscopical Club at 39 Christchurch Road

Saturday 6th July 2019

Article & Pictures by Grenham Ireland - Organiser of the event.

The Quekett Microscopical Club (QMC) is the 2nd oldest microscopical society in the world being formed in 1865. It takes its name from Professor John Quekett, a skilled Victorian slide maker and histologist at the Royal College of Surgeons, London. QMC runs a programme of events throughout the year at the Natural History Museum, London and at other venues around the country. This was the first event held in Bournemouth and BNSS, as a corporate member of QMC, was pleased to host it. The exhibition was set out on tables in the lecture theatre and this inaugural meeting was attended by matched teams of microscopists from QMC and BNSS.



From QMC, Jeremy Poole provided a stunning exhibition of Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) images of spiders, especially their genitalia, which are useful in the identification of different species. Pam Hamer was demonstrating how some rocks could be sufficiently ground and polished to allow microscopic examination. Brian Darnton had brought his homemade Light Emitting Diode illuminators and Foraminifera material. In particular, he was showing slides made from rare material collected in soundings from HMS Porcupine SSW of

Rockall in 1869 - part of the 'Norman bequest' to QMC. Alan Wood was demonstrating use of 'dark field illumination' on a stereo microscope which he was refining with plastic food containers, paper and foam board. Joan Bingley was showing different sands from Iceland as well as 'manning' the QMC shop.

From BNSS, Ray Chapman was showing his Open University slide set of professional thin rock sections illustrating many different types of rock viewed using a polarising microscope which allowed identification of some of the mineral crystals. Jacque Bainbridge was showing a variety of samples using hand lenses and stereo microscopes especially amber. Some pieces showed insects and some she told us were fake amber! Steve Limburn



showed a large collection of antique microscopes, equipment, slides, books and chemicals. The oldest

book he showed dated from the 18th century. Ray Gibbs had brought some of his *Paramecium* cultures which he had isolated from a pond sample and maintained as well as flatworms (*Dugesia lugubris*). They were being shown on his computer



screen using a USB camera. Grenham

Ireland had

obtained a marine plankton sample from Poole Harbour, mostly consisting of copepods, shown on a large TV via a Chinese 'inspection microscope' which uses a zoom lens and small chip camera. Marine polychaete worm larvae had also been separated out and shown under a stereomicroscope.



There was good interaction between the participants and Pam was able to give Steve information about



Pritchard one of the makers of some of his rare slides. The Museum was open to the public on the day and we had a range of visitors including some BNSS members. It was a pity that there weren't more children visiting but, due to the sunny weather, we were competing with an ideal day for the beach!

The exhibition was concluded at 2pm in order to prepare for our afternoon talk entitled "Microscopy in the Biomedical Imaging Unit – 2D & 3D imaging" by Dr. Anton Page from the University of Southampton and NHS Foundation Trust. Joan Bingley, President of QMC, presented a book giving an account of the history of the QMC to the speaker and two books to BNSS for hosting the event.

Worbarrow Bay Geology Field Trip

15th August Gerry Duggan



Volunteers or suggestions for our Heritage days, please email contact@bnss.org.uk

Another fully booked annual coach trip, this year enjoying the usual blue skies and usual blazing Dorset sun, around the historic town of Sherborne. The trip confirmed Dorset as being the best county anywhere – for everything really.

Clive Farrell has made his private 100-acre garden into a fantasia of monuments, hothouses, wild flora and butterfly haven. We could have done with a longer stay – say a week or two, but it was onwards to Sherborne Town.

Here we enjoyed the pie shops, the Abbey with the heaviest peel of bells in the kingdom, the famous school, the beautiful green and buildings. Then onto the castle – built for Sir Walter Raleigh in 1594, the gardens and lake built by Capability Brown – who else. No point in saying more, it's all on the internet, but do visit.

Last stop, cream tea at our local, the WI at Bere Regis. This year was considered even superior than normal, but we are always puzzled as to why tea and cakes taste so much better here.

Well done Jolyon, rated the best trip to date, and yes, we will kindly let you organise it all again next year.

The QR is now up and running. Well done Grenham for supervising it all, Kate for the original idea, but mainly Keri for doing the donkey-work and the research, although she does reassure us that she enjoyed doing so. 13 subjects so far, but Grenham emphasises this could increase, but only if feedback is received, *so requests that we all fill in questionnaires.*

Thanks also to Keri who will be assisting with future newsletters. Look out for new designs.

If at any time you wish to edit the newsletter, just let us know. Hard copies are available at the BNSS. Please keep submitting articles, however short, or pictures, on any subject you wish, even if salacious or critical. Keep sending to

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