



## Changes In The Enquiry Process

From Daniel Marshall

Since the beginning of my employment at BRERC in October 2001, and subsequently in my position as Biodiversity Records Officer from April 2002, I have been heavily involved with performing and managing all aspects of data enquiries.

During this time, it has become clear to me that many of the methods and systems in place for dealing with enquiries were not as efficient as they might be. In most cases they were solid systems which worked well in general but did not make full use of modern technology.

To this end, I have been working steadily since last October to refine and streamline the enquiry process as much as possible. A lot of 'dead wood' has been removed from the system in terms of redesigning

forms and developing a clear and precise process for extracting data from our GIS systems.

There has also been a move towards better presentation of the data we send out. All information in MapInfo browser tables is now transferred into custom designed spreadsheets in Microsoft Excel before being printed, resulting in clearer and more professional presentation.

All of this has resulted in an improved enquiry response. Not only is the data we are sending of good quality visually, but the response time for an enquiry can be two or three days. Although we still aim to turn enquiries around within two weeks, we do have the advantage of being able to work a lot quicker than this if required.

All of this has led to an increased financial viability for our enquiry service. Recently a new charging policy has been produced, and on the whole we find that once commercial enquirers know how good the service is that we provide, there is not a problem complying with our charges.

One of the biggest challenges I have faced over the past year is getting enquirers to ask for data in a 'standard' fashion. Everybody has their own ideas of what data they want to get from the records centre, and so expecting all enquirers to ask the same questions is wishful thinking. What was needed was some guidance, and so the 'Enquiries' section of the BRERC website ([www.brerc.org.uk](http://www.brerc.org.uk)) is now a fully comprehensive guide about how to submit an enquiry, what we can and cannot provide, our charging policy and much more. Any enquirers who have internet access are now encouraged to look at the site before submitting their enquiry.

This presence on the web has also captured new commercial enquirers, who may have been unsure of our role before. I can always tell when these people submit enquiries because they make an effort to include a map, grid reference and everything else that we need! It's fairly obvious that they have been using the points on the website as a guideline to draft their letter or e-mail, and it's nice to see the website has a definite impact.

Although the enquiry process has progressed hugely during the past year, it's important to anticipate what the future will bring and to continue to make the process more efficient – more changes are planned in the New Year!

## **The Lost World Of Kenn Moor**

From Faith and Tony Moulin

Twenty or twenty-five years ago we used to take our ornithologically minded children up to Claverham Drove where, from the comfort of the car, they could watch flocks of Lapwings, Snipe, Teal and other birds, including the occasional Short-eared Owl quartering the fields.

The fields off Claverham Drove are now better drained, ploughed and re-seeded and, as a result, largely devoid of these birds. Instead the sky is dominated by model aeroplanes buzzing above the model aircraft club.



One tree-covered area has been cleared but in the last year we have discovered the last remaining mini woodland on Kenn Moor – Littlewood, a 'Lost World' of biodiversity.

YACWAG is in the process of buying this small wet woodland which lies at the northern edge of the parish of Yatton. One of our aims is to create nature reserves in the two parishes. Our four fields on Congresbury Moor are in Biddle Street SSSI and it seems a natural expansion and symmetry to have a nature reserve in the other local SSSI.

It has all been a learning curve for us, from obtaining the funding to exploring the woodland.

Littlewood is sometimes called 'The Plantation' by local farmers, and that name probably reflects its origins. It can be found on the 1840 tithe map as part of a single area of allotments totalling approximately 45 acres. It is not, however, on an earlier map made in 1821, although most of the boundaries of the fields made under the 1815 Enclosure Act were by then in place. So it seems likely that it was planted as a shelter-belt between 1821 and 1840, and we believe that some of the Alder trees date

from that time – or could they be even older, remnants of the natural wild vegetation of the moor? Although it is only six acres, the wood is almost half a mile long, so you can imagine that it is a narrow strip. In fact in some places you can see from one side to the other. This gives it a light and magical feel with none of the dark foreboding of larger woods.

Cattle have been grazing the wood for the last ten to twenty years, adversely affecting the ground flora, but the grazed clearings are florally rich. We have been delighted to discover locally scarce species like Lesser Spearwort and Common Meadow-rue in the grassy glades. Abundant Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil could well be the source of Common Blue butterflies we have seen around the wood. There appears to be little other suitable habitat in the vicinity and, from what we have seen, Littlewood seems to be an oasis of abundance for insects.

The wood contains plants that enjoy wet, peaty soils and in these we can glimpse a view of what the moor used to be like before agricultural improvements. To my knowledge this is the only place in the parish where you can find Gorse, Alder Buckthorn and Guelder-rose. The veteran Alder trees must be unique in the area too, and at present we can only wonder at what little mouths are making all the holes in their leaves and what weird fungi are erupting from the rotten deadwood. We are eagerly looking forward to the opportunity to spend more time there.

Several years ago someone gave Tony a dead butterfly they had found in this area. It was a White Admiral and Tony wondered where it could have come from. Could it have strayed here from the Mendips? In the end he concluded that it was likely to have been bred in captivity and released into the wild locally. We have now found lots of the larval food-plant in Littlewood (Honeysuckle)



and I wonder... could it just possibly be another sign of the little Lost World?

Only regular surveying and recording will reveal all the secrets that Littlewood conceals. This is a task that we will relish.

Tony and Faith Moulin  
Yatton and Congresbury Wildlife Action group (YACWAG)  
Charity No. 1076362.

Littlewood will be available for field study and educational guided walks next year.

### **Twitching**

From Roger Edmondson

Somebody asked me yesterday what pleasure I get from ticking a bird off in a book after driving a hundred miles to see it. I've been asked this many times and sometimes I've given a spirited defence of twitching and on other occasions I've struggled to defend it. So why do I do it?

The reason behind it is simple. I love the variety in the natural world.

I like to travel around looking at as many different species as possible. I enjoy travelling to the coast to see a rare bird

and when I'm there I look at the plants and grasses and seashells and anything else that's there. I don't have to travel away to see species that interest me but sometimes I like to. I keep a record of what I see in my garden and I keep a record of what I see on my travels.

I, like you, love wildlife and nature. Every moth or plant or bird that you stop and actually look at becomes stranger and more intricate the closer you look and the more you look, the more you want to. When you take the time to separate the various crane's-bills and stork's-bills, the more you start to appreciate them. Can Brown-lipped

and White-lipped Snails really have that many colour combinations? Is that a female Common Blue butterfly or a Brown Argus?

How many of you have walked over chalk downland with people who like walking but don't notice the plants below them? They can stride on for miles. Have you been on chalk downland with a botanist? You spend your time on your hands and knees crawling around and might manage to make a hundred yards in an afternoon. I like to get down with the botanist (cheeky) and look at the eyebrights and thymes and myriad other plants and snails and insects that inhabit the sward. Have you looked through leaf litter for pseudoscorpions and other micro-beasts? Try it. I don't know their names but they're fascinating to study.

I enjoy snorkelling and after emerging from the water, I try to put names to the fish and seaweeds that I've seen. This year I've seen loads of the giant jellyfish *Rhizostoma octopus* which is a mighty beast to come across underwater and I've snorkelled up to within a yard of a Little Stint and two Knot on some rocks, in Cornwall. Brilliant views but they must have thought I was a seal which gives you an idea of what I look like in a wetsuit.

When I'm out in the field, I usually have one or two field guides to help me out in identifying things. When I get home, I have a whole library of tomes that I look through which highlight other peoples' insights into identification and behaviour and habitat and help me to understand a little of what is going on out there.

I, like a lot, if not most of you, keep a diary or notebook of what I've seen. Some people take photographs of the species they've seen. Others do drawings. I don't. I keep a diary and my diary has a place for putting ticks against birds. So I do. And I like it.

BRERC's website:

[www.brerc.org.uk](http://www.brerc.org.uk)

BRERC, Ashton Court Visitor Centre,  
Ashton Court Estate, Long Ashton, Bristol  
BS41 9JN

Tel: 0117 9532140

Fax: 0117 9532143

Email: [brerc@btconnect.com](mailto:brerc@btconnect.com)

### **Now You Sea It**

From Daniel Marshall

We are all familiar with the coastline of the former Avon region, starting from the shore of Weston-super-Mare and harbouring all kinds of life right up the estuary, as well as revealing all kinds of interesting geology. In the geology are the clues that things haven't always been the way they are now. The coastline that's so familiar to us hasn't always been lapping at the same point on the shore.

About 21,000 years ago, things were very different. Sea levels were at least 20 m lower than they are today, and this meant that the shoreline we know now was actually quite a way inland! This would have made the geography of our region look dramatically different; but then, this was the beginning of the end of the last ice age, so many things were probably unfamiliar!

Of course there was a lot that would be identifiable to many of us too. If one cares to take a spade to the beach at Borth, near Aberystwyth in Wales, you can dig up the blackened stumps of rotted coniferous trees, indicating that a forest once stood where the sea is now. There are lots of ancient remnants and clues in the Avon area too – it's good detective work tracking them down and fitting them all into a sensible picture.

What many do not realise in this era of debate over global warming is that all this has happened many times before. Complex variations in the Earth's orbit (known as

Milankovich cycles) cause the Earth's climate to vary hugely over millions of years, with ice ages and warm periods happening one after another. Our current climate is an interglacial stage, meaning we are between ice ages; if the patterns seen over the past million years hold true, it will only be a few thousand years before the earth starts getting very cold again! Of course, no one disputes that the human input to Global Warming is significant; the big argument is over how much Global Warming would be happening anyhow.

But lets take a step back in time. From 21,000 years ago to 12,000 years ago, the Earth started one of its warming cycles and atmospheric carbon dioxide levels rose by 50 parts per million. This was a kind of natural global warming, with the Earth receiving more warming sunlight due to changes in its orbit.

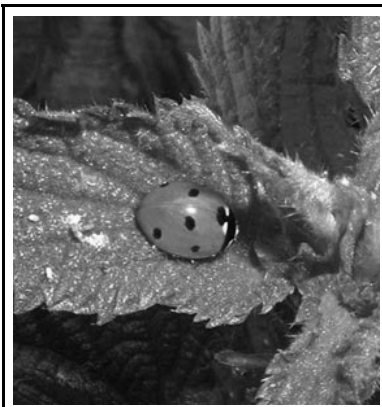
Many people think of these changes as gradual; they envisage sea levels rising a millimetre in 50 years, carbon dioxide levels rising by a couple of parts per million resulting in a long term change. On the whole, that's the way things progress. But there have been plenty of events in the Earth's history that have been catastrophic.

About 14200 years ago, part of the Antarctic ice sheet melted and collapsed. This raised global sea levels something like 20 m in just 50 years. Imagine the effects of this – beaches would have been obliterated, huge tracts of lowland would have been flooded, whole generation of species would have been wiped out, with no time for retreat. Plant communities would have been erased in some cases by maritime flooding, and where they survived would have to adapt to whole new conditions. Climate would have been affected, as a 20 m rise amounts to a lot of water, storing heat and circulating in new ways. It must have been an extremely turbulent time.

Well, it couldn't happen now, surely?

In the past 150 years since the Industrial Revolution, atmospheric carbon dioxide levels have risen by 85 parts per million. While conditions now are very different from 14200 years ago, it is nonetheless worrying – could part of the Antarctic ice sheet collapse again? How much land would it put underwater? And what would the long-term implications be?

Scientists think there is a one in twenty chance that the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS) will collapse in the next 200 years. While these odds are fairly long, they are not to be taken lightly! The costs to our



government could run into billions of pounds if there was a dramatic rise in sea level. Imagine the disruption to road and rail networks, the lost money from business and the cost of getting everything working again. Where are most of our power stations? By the sea! One in twenty seems enough of a chance for us to want to at least prepare for the possibility.

BRERC's recent acquisition of the 3 dimensional Vertical Mapper programme allows us to work out what a new coastline for the former Avon area would look like. From a 5 m to a 100 m change, we could see what would be underwater and actually show a rough map of the 'new' coastline. Quite apart from seeing if your house was underwater or if you would have to find a new way to get to work (!), we could predict what wildlife would be wiped out, what species could become totally isolated and how distributions would be affected.

While BRERC is concerned entirely with the wildlife of this region, I suppose the message here is to not take everything you see around you for granted. You never know when things might change! Also, the whole debate about global warming doesn't just apply to losing some small islands in the South Pacific Ocean. It potentially applies to anybody or anything that lives within 15 m of

sea level. That's an awful lot of people – and an awful lot of wildlife too.

### **How I Use BRERC In My Work**

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From Pauline Homer

I am the Ecologist for North Somerset Council and I use BRERC in my job in two main ways:

- Firstly, I often request information on habitats and species for specific sites as planning applications arise. I am therefore able to make more informed comments and request full new surveys if necessary before the planning application is determined.
- Secondly, this summer we have used surveyors employed by BRERC to survey some sites that are already listed as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) in the existing local plan. In the revised North Somerset local plan, which should be published as a first Deposit Draft in the autumn of 2002, these will be renamed Regional Wildlife Sites. I suspect there will also be a new abbreviation – RWS.

I would therefore like to reiterate the importance of new species and habitat records being passed to BRERC so that we are sufficiently informed and can then hope to enhance the biodiversity of North Somerset through the planning process.

### **Hello**

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From Abigail Pedlow

I'm Abigail Pedlow, the new(ish) Assistant Manager at BRERC.

I began at BRERC in June, after five or so years at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, primarily working as a wetland ecologist for their consultancy arm (or wing!). There I worked on projects all over the UK and occasionally internationally, which was always interesting but could be frustrating as links and knowledge gained in

County Cork aren't a lot of use in, say, Nottinghamshire. One aspect of my new job I'm really looking forward to is building up local knowledge about the BRERC area.

Originally, I'm a Shropshire lass from the limestone hills in the north-west corner so I have a soft spot for limestone grassland, old quarries and ancient woodland as well as my beloved wetlands. Other than plants; dragonflies and butterflies are my favourite things – and I did pick up quite a lot of bird knowledge in my previous job, it would have been very hard not to!

Ashton Court is a great place to work - Purple Hairstreaks and Migrant Hawks have been the stars of recent lunchtime strolls – and driving to and from work along the Avon Gorge is fantastic. Most importantly, I am thoroughly enjoying working at BRERC with a very knowledgeable and friendly team.

### **Request For Data**

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From Tim Corner

At the moment, we have a special interest in collecting Water Vole, Mink and Otter records. Because of this, we would be very grateful if anyone has any records they wish to contribute to us. This can either be done through email or post. Thank-you.



### **On The Waterfront**

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From Mary Wood

Bristol City docks are not the first place many of us would think of when we want to find (and record!) wildlife. But AWT have just researched the docks' wildlife possibilities (thank you to all the readers of this newsletter who contributed their knowledge) and the results are astonishing.

Did you know that Kingfishers over-winter in the docks? Obviously because it's a sheltered region, but presumably also because of the good fish populations found there these days - Roach, Bream, Perch, Pike and Eel, seldom seen of course except when disappearing down the bills of the many fishing Cormorants, who later stand in heraldic pose as they expose their bellies to the sun's warmth as a natural anti-indigestion trick.

Grey Wagtails nest in holes in the old dock walls and Starlings, though not the hundreds that there used to be, can still be seen in the winter dusk, gathering around St Nicholas Church spire, merging into flocks with wheels and swirls before making a vertical descent under an arch of Bristol Bridge. And seagulls, yes, plenty of seagulls, but not all the same type - the 900 nesting pairs of Lesser Black-backed (with their yellow legs) fly off to Portugal via the Bay of Biscay sardine industry in the autumn (though an increasing number are now staying on) and are replaced for the winter by around 500 Black-headed Gulls (red legs) returning from their breeding grounds. About 300 pairs of Herring Gulls (with pink legs) stay all year, and very occasionally the huge charcoal-backed Great Black-backed turn up. Look out for some rarities too - in 1999 an American Laughing Gull (don't know what it found so funny) turned up at Bristol Bridge and this year a Kittiwake was spotted near the Arnolfini.

Everyone knows there are swans in the docks, also arriving for winter refuge. There have been swans here for centuries, but nowadays they are supported by the Friends of Bristol Swans on Welsh Back. Breeding success can be judged by the number of cygnets, and the record count of all the birds so far seems to be 145 in Dec 1999 (can anyone beat this?) In winter, if the reservoirs freeze, Dabchicks, Pochard,



Tufted Ducks and Grebes may appear, and of course there are some strange escapees too, such as Sylvester the Chinese Goose and the very splendid male Carolina Wood Duck.

Speaking of exotics, it is evocative to think that Bristol's history of foreign trade may have been responsible for the introduction of many a strange fruit, fragment or seed, several of which have become established; Buddleia from the Himalayas, Pellitory-of-the-wall from the middle east, Ivy-leaved Toadflax from southern Europe, Guernsey Fleabane (from South America!), Sweet-flag from Asia and North America (amazingly Banded Demoiselle and Blue-tailed Damselflies were found in a small patch by Castle Green this year), Hairy Finger-grass from the Mediterranean and, perhaps the most striking of all, Beggarticks from the Americas, with its coppery stems and orange flowers (but don't get its seed on you - very itchy!). It is thought that the warm waters from Bristol Brewery encouraged the two fine Figs to sprout in the wall by Castle Green (or was it a discarded fruit from a stall when the Green was a bustling area of houses, shops and markets?).

Many of our native plants can be found around the docks too, Skullcap, normally a plant of damp meadows, grows just outside the industrial museum; Sea Aster and English Scurvygrass appear down by the lock gates at Cumberland Basin; Gypsywort and Great Willowherb are all over the place and Hemlock Water-dropwort occurs on the

grassy river banks. The walls are excellent fern habitat, especially when viewed from a ferry boat, as Maidenhair Spleenwort, drought-resistant Wall-rue (the most frequent), mortared-limestone loving Rustyback fern and Common Polypody are all revealed.

It seems likely that there are many more discoveries yet to be made in what might at first seem a keen wildlife recorder's desert.

(City Centre Nature Trail leaflets are available from Avon Wildlife Trust).



### **The BRERC Website**

From Daniel Marshall

Most of you will have at least heard of the BRERC website at [www.brerc.org.uk](http://www.brerc.org.uk), even if you have not actually seen it. We mention it fairly regularly, because we not only believe it is important to develop an awareness of our presence on the internet, but also because there is much information on the website that is useful to a variety of the people who are involved with BRERC.

Many people think websites are fairly useless things. Sure, they may have lots of pretty pictures and look great in general, but what can they actually do? People who look at websites sometimes find that they can't get anything useful out of them, while the company or organisation whose website it is are gaining very little but the presence of their name on the world wide web. There

are many examples of this to be found all over the internet.

But it doesn't have to be this way! All of these websites are useless solely because of poor design ideas and a lack of clear content. Our primary aim with the BRERC website is to KEEP IT SIMPLE. I know there are better, more flashy websites to be found, but ours is easy on the eye and easy on the brain – those of you with any experience of web browsing should hopefully find it very easy to get around the site.

More of a problem (and it's a problem for most people, companies and organisations) is the content. Not only do you have to find enough data, articles and purposes for your website in the first place (and this is hard enough), but you then have to organise it in a clear, easy to view fashion.

For example, if we decided to make all the snail records we hold available on our website, it would be of no use just to use a big list on one page – nobody would be able to find what they were looking for. We would have to break down the snails into different categories – either by taxa or alphabetically – and have a separate smaller list on each page.

As you can see, there's a lot of thought that has to go into web design, and keeping things simple sometimes leads to very complicated designs! Despite all this, after roughly a year in the public domain, the BRERC website has achieved some considerable successes, and there are ambitious plans for the future too.

Achievements include:-

- A fully documented account of the enquiry process, with sections on what data we can provide, what to provide us with and our charging policy. We can now refer most new enquirers to our website where they can find all they need to know about submitting an enquiry.

- A form to submit records via the website. This is great for incidental records and we receive a good number of valuable records this way.
- Dedicated group pages for all of our recording groups, that can be updated or added to as and when required.
- Pages for articles and events that provide access to the newsletter articles on the internet and also allow us to make more information available than we would otherwise be able to.

#### Plans for the future:-

- Integration of 'Meta-data' onto our website – this consists of listings of our data holdings and will allow enquirers to browse through what we hold at BRERC and request specific pieces of information or documentation.
- A 'How to get to BRERC' guide, complete with pictures! Our offices are sometimes not the easiest for visitors to find, so a well worded guide on our website would be very useful.
- Compliance with all the latest disability standards for website design. We are already ahead of other organisations in that we design our site so that text can be displayed in varying sizes, but there are many more standards we could meet with.
- Make more data available on our website. This is a VERY complicated procedure, and may involve linking databases to our site and working with advanced web technologies. While we don't pretend to be web-professionals at BRERC, everyone has the potential to learn web design and it's fairly simple given the right tools. Integration of data onto our website will be a large step, but one that should keep BRERC fully up to speed both with current internet technologies and developments in the field of conservation.

#### Challenges for the future:-

- More articles! Our website is there to be used not just by us, but by anybody involved with BRERC. If you have anything related to your involvement in BRERC that you'd like to see on the website, whether it is articles, events or pictures, we'd be more than grateful to make them available. This is ESPECIALLY the case for the group pages.
- Keeping everything up-to-date. We only have so much time, and with so little material coming in and out of the site, then it's difficult to find time to read through the whole site and remove 'dead' information. We'd like feedback from anybody who uses the site as to how effective they think it is, but also pointing out any mistakes! We aim to implement a good system for making sure the website stays up to date and relevant in the coming year.

I know some of you will still not be convinced by the internet in general or how useful a website can be. Well that's fine, because different people like to do things in different ways. All I can say is that our website continues to provide useful information for a great deal of people in an easy to use fashion, saving us time and effort. If it wasn't just a bunch of computer files, I'd say it was worth its weight in gold!



## A Fungal Foray

From Daisy Bickley

The forecast was for rain: showers and heavier outbursts. So any outdoor expedition would involve wellingtons or boots and waterproofs. Folly Farm on the outskirts of Bishop Sutton on a wet October Tuesday may sound like an excuse to stay at home, but in fact the Fungal Foray was a most enjoyable day – despite an afternoon spent working in an unheated room with flagstone floors.

Our tutor was Justin Smith from Avon Wildlife Trust, an enthusiastic mycologist who effortlessly shared his knowledge with us. After a brief introduction to the study of AGARICS (previously we'd have said "Mushrooms, toadstools or fungi") we were each given a basket and collecting pots – recycled containers such as print film holders and slide film boxes are ideal for small specimens. Then it was out into the drizzle and across the long wet grass to the woods.

The dry spell in August and September meant that some species weren't visible (the mushroom is after all an ephemeral fruiting body, the main part staying underground), but it was surprising how many different kinds we found. There were glistening clumps of golden honey fungus whose secretions attracted a swarm of small flies, there were peculiar little black spikes with white tips and as for picking up the jelly fungus!

Back inside we ate our packed lunches while Justin continued to entertain us with anecdotes and facts. Identifying fungi is a peculiar business because you can't really start until you know the spore colour, by which time your duplicate specimen has dried out, changed colour and generally lost most of its characteristics. So the first lesson we learned was that physical features such as colour and smell, habitat

and growth pattern must be noted down on picking. Cap shape, size, stem and gill structures can be determined at the workbench and then the stem cut off and the cap placed gill-side down onto white (or black) paper overnight to determine the spore colour.

Well, we weren't staying overnight, so our teacher started us off by telling each group the spore colour of their specimen. Then it was a question of working through the keys in a reference book and seeing how well our listed features matched the options. Sometimes that wasn't enough and the microscope was needed to study gill structure or spore shape. A colour chart, showing dozens of shades of white, cream, yellow and brown made us realise the difficulty of describing colours accurately.

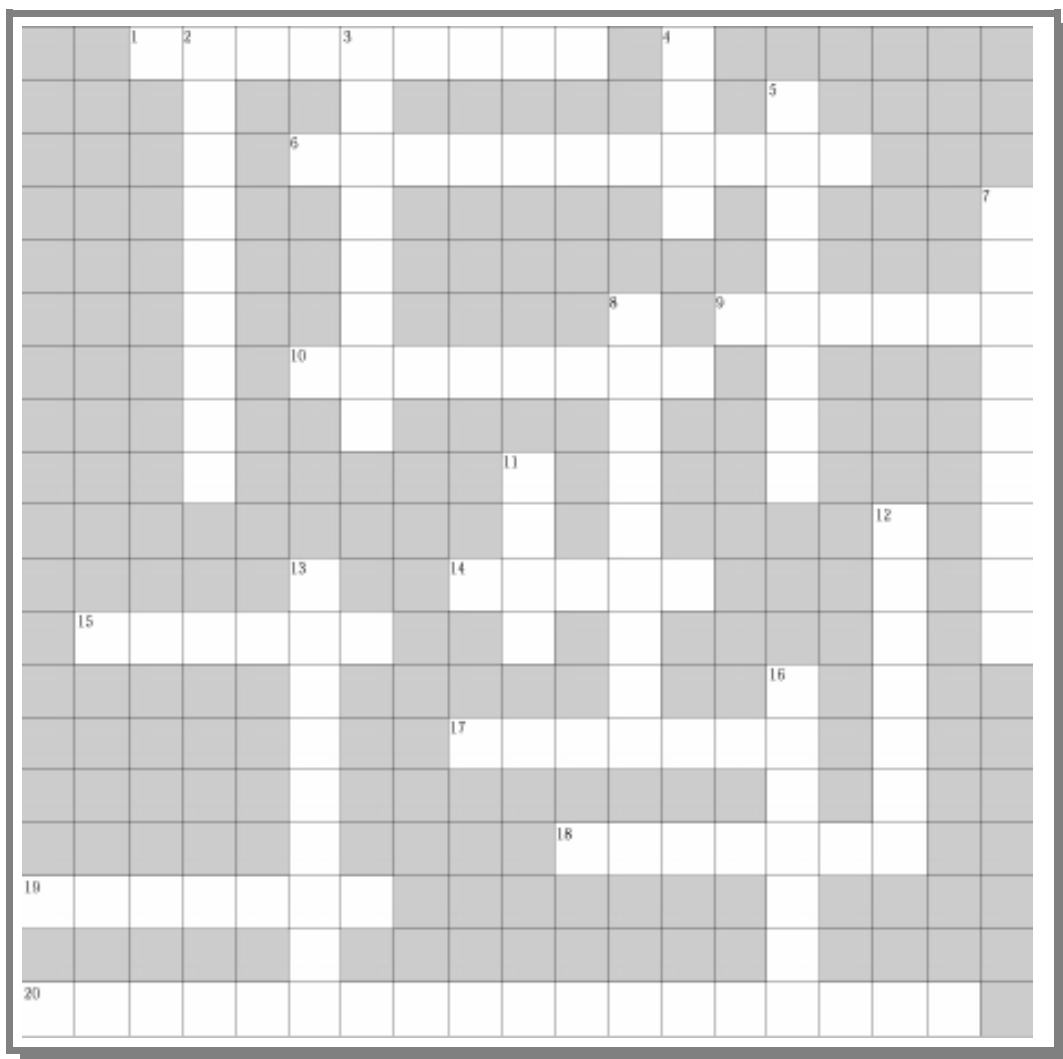


Some of the useful information we picked up was that a species described by one author as 'rare' might mean that it wasn't common in his part of the country; that 'common' species as described in general surveys were often the highly visible species and that the really common fungi are often overlooked by amateurs. Our vocabulary also gained several new words and we got used to describing the pileus (cap) and whether the hymenium (spore-producing structure) had gills that were decurrent or adnate.

I'm now encouraged to try and identify the fungi in my own garden, or at least determine what family they belong to and making spore prints is fun! Something else I learned: waterproof trousers are essential when it comes to kneeling on wet ground trying to take out a complete specimen.

# Autumn Antics!

From Vicky Hale



## Across

1. Lovely roasted or in stuffing (9),
6. The big sleep (11),
9. Fruit of the Horse Chestnut tree (6),
10. Also known as Urchin (8),
14. Seasonal songbird (5),
15. Mushroom or Toadstool (6),
17. Winter flowering (7),
18. BRERC has lots of these! (7),
19. A member of the squash family (7),
20. Seasonal hairstyle (plant) (6, 5-7).

## Down

2. The eve of All Hallows (9),
3. Bird watcher (8),
4. Squirrels bury these (4),
5. Sleepy rodent (8),
7. Goes with a bang (9),
8. Scientific Autumn Crocus (9),
11. Gin at 3 mph (4),
12. Three kittens lost these (7),
13. Bird holidays (9),
16. Winter bird food (7).

Some clues can be found in the newsletter.  
Answers will be posted on our website in the new year:  
[www.brerc.org.uk](http://www.brerc.org.uk)

## **New Website**

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From Martin Evans

Over the last few years the internet has become increasingly important as a source of environmental and biological information. Unfortunately, this is very variable in quality and the sites are often very inconsistent in design. With this in mind the writer has constructed a new site over the last year, that not only has high quality pictures, but also contains identification information with them.

The site is at **WildguideUK.com** and at this stage has a section covering all of the grasshoppers, crickets and ground hoppers known from the BRERC recording area, a small section on bee-flies in the genus *Bombylius* and micro-moths in the genus *Caloptilia* (all of which have been photographed in the Bristol region).

The aim of the site is to illustrate as many different groups as possible, complete with life-cycle information and

identification features. The emphasis will be on the groups that are less available in other popular literature and, as it has been created locally, it will be particularly relevant to the BRERC area, although there will also be species from all over Britain.

*BRERC fully supports this website, but would like to point out that it is an independent venture by the author of this article.*

## **Thank-you**

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From Vicky Hale

I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who contributed articles to this edition of the newsletter. Also to Tim Corner and Daniel Marshall, who both contributed photographs.

This edition of the newsletter was compiled and edited by Vicky Hale.

## **The BRERC Team**

Current staff working at BRERC are: Manager: Tim Corner, Assistant Manager: Abigail Pedlow, Biodiversity Records Officer: Daniel Marshall.

Part time call-out staff: Martin Evans, Vicky Hale, Roger Edmondson, Beryl Peters, Duncan Parker, Jennifer LeBlanc and Tessa Ivison.

Regular volunteers are: Ralph Stabb, Jenny Dowell, Andrew Round, Daisy Bickley, Nancy Thompson, Caroline Hope, Marie-France Riboulet and Alison Wride.

***BRERC would not function without the professional and dedicated assistance of our volunteers and staff.***

**BRERC receives funding and support from North Somerset, Bath & North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Bristol City Councils, Avon Wildlife Trust, English Nature and the Environment Agency.**