

25th Anniversary Annual Meeting 2019

National Museum Cardiff

Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NP

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th November 2019



It has been a while since we were at Cardiff but we have always been welcomed to this splendid museum. There's a good line-up of speakers for Saturday. On Sunday we will have a no formal workshop but a clinic session when we hope to be able to put names to those specimens that have been sitting waiting for a determination label. The museum's collection will also be open for viewing, and it's a large one so worth taking a look at.

The usual prize for the best exhibit will be on offer, so do please bring something along; this can be anything from specimens, photos or displays of work you have undertaken.

Dipterists Supper is still being organised and will be at an Italian restaurant very close to the museum. I am making a block booking and the restaurant needs to know how many are coming. If you'd like to come, could you email me in plenty of time. Last year we got in a real muddle and it cost us rather more than expected as not all who said they'd come turned up.

Our speakers include three locals. Liam Olds is the ecologist for the Colliery Spoil Biodiversity Initiative and has been researching and campaigning for the protection of colliery-spoil habitats in South Wales for several years. His article in *British Wildlife* 30 gives a preview of what's in store for us. Abigail Lowe is studying pollinators, including hoverflies, using DNA barcoding to identify pollen loads for her PhD at the National Botanic Garden of Wales. She will present the results for her first year of sampling which includes data on 23 species of hoverflies. The third local is David Clements but he is talking at a more national or even global scale about conopids, and will no doubt include information from his long-running conopid recording scheme. Stuart Ball is well known for his excellent photography and honed computing skills, and his talk combines these as he discusses one approach to short-cutting the time-consuming task of identifying hoverflies from photos submitted to the recording scheme. Some light relief will be offered by Pete Boardman who will regale us with anecdotes from his recent overseas trips to study crane flies as funded by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. Finally, 2019 is the 25th anniversary of the Dipterists Forum so there will be a short, but as yet unplanned, item on this subject.

As far as we know, there are no big sports matches on this weekend but don't leave booking your B&B too late, just in case. The central train station is nearly one mile away.

Here is the draft programme.

Saturday

- 10.00 Meet – there's the museum café or DIY coffee
- 10.30 **Mike Wilson**, Collections Manager
– *Introduction & welcome to the museum*
- 10.40 **Liam Olds** – *Spoilt for choice: Diptera of colliery spoil tips*
- 11.05 **Stuart Ball** – *Using AI to identify hoverflies from photographs*
- 11.30 Break for refreshments
- 12.00 **Abigail Lowe** – *Using DNA metabarcoding to understand hoverfly foraging at the National Botanic Garden of Wales*
- 12.25 **David Clements** – *Progress in the Conopidae - Britain, Europe and the World*
- 12.50 Lunch – bring your own, use the museum café or forage in town
- 2.15 AGM
- 2.45 Prize for best exhibit
- 2.55 **Pete Boardman** - *Live at the Fly Olympics*

Martin Drake

Annual General Meeting

National Museum Cardiff

Saturday 9th November 2019

The Chairman will open the AGM at 14:15

Agenda

1. **Apologies**
2. **Approval of the Minutes of the last AGM and matters arising**
(See this Autumn 2019 Bulletin for the Minutes of the 2018 AGM)
3. **Chairman's Report**
4. **Treasurer's Report**
5. **Dipterists Digest Editor's Report**
6. **A.O.B.**
7. **Vote of Thanks to retiring committee members**
8. **Election of Officers and ordinary members to committee**

The Chairman is elected biennially. The Secretary, Treasurer and other Elected Officers with specific responsibilities (detailed below) require annual election. The constitution currently requires nominations 30 days in advance of the AGM. Ordinary elected committee members serve for two years.

The Officers and Ordinary Members proposed for re-election or election this year, 2019, are as follows:

Officers

Already elected (elected 2018)

Chairman Robert Wolton

For re-election/election

Vice Chairman	Vacancy
Secretary	Jane Hewitt
Treasurer	Phil Brighton
Membership Secretary	John Showers
Indoor Meetings Secretary	Zoë Adams (new committee member)
Bulletin Editor	Darwyn Sumner
Assistant Bulletin Editor	Judy Webb

Digest Editor	Peter Chandler
Publicity Officer	Erica McAlister
Website Manager	Martin Harvey
Conservation Officer	Vacancy
Training Coordinator (new post)	Matt Harrow
[Dipterists Digest distributor	Vacancy

Ordinary Members

For re-election (elected 2017)

Martin Harvey	Tony Irwin
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For election

Marc Taylor (new committee member)

Already elected (elected 2018)

Stuart Ball	Peter Boardman	Victoria Burton
Chris Raper	Malcolm Smart	

9. Chairman's thanks to hosts and formal closing of the Annual General Meeting.

2020

Diptera Workshops 2020

Picture-wing flies (advanced) and Hoverflies (beginners)

Preston Montford Field Studies Centre, near Shrewsbury

Friday 14th - Sunday 16th February 2020

Tutored by:

David Clements and John Showers (picture-wings) and Roger Morris and Stuart Ball (hoverflies)

Details on Field Studies Council website: from mid October (search in Courses, then Individuals & Families, then Natural History)



Herina nigrina (=germinationis) [Uliidae] Photo Alan Outen

The master class is on picture-wing acalyptate flies, and includes several families. The largest is Tephritidae with 77 species, and smaller closely related families included in the course are the Pallopteridae (13 species), Platystomatidae (2) and Uliidae (20); rather more distantly related is the Opomyzidae (16). All but the last family fall into two recording schemes so, apart from being attractive flies to study, any records will find a good home. They are relatively straight-forward to identify, helped by their conspicuous

wing patterns, but inevitably a few genera need closer attention. Most have herbivorous larvae although they show a wide range of ecologies within this apparently mundane life-style. A few are saprovores under decaying bark or in leaf sheaths, and even predators. But it is the adults' courtship behaviour that brings many of these flies to our attention as they use wing-waving and pheromones to signal their intentions. The tutors are David Clements, whose long-running recording scheme includes several of the families, and John Showers who has many years of experience as county recorder for Northamptonshire.



Eyed Hawkweed Fly *Noeeta pupillata* (Tephritidae) Photo Malcolm Storey

This year we welcome back the beginners' hoverfly course, which is probably the earliest Dipterists Forum course held at Preston Montford. As the title implies, this is for those wishing to become familiar with hoverflies. Indeed this popular group is the starting point for most people who take up flies more seriously, being attractive, large and well served with identification guides. Their ecology is better understood than that of many other fly families, as expounded in *The Natural History of Hoverflies* (Rotheray & Gilbert 2011). They have been long recognised as useful as aphid predators but recent research shows them to compete with bees as important pollinators. Less flashy lifestyles include feeding on decaying vegetable matter and living in rot-holes. The national recording scheme has produced a wealth of data on distributions, phenologies and statuses. Two very experienced tutors, Roger Morris and Stuart Ball, will make them seem so easy that you'll be submitting records to their national recording scheme in no time.

Handouts will include keys and a summary of ecology.

Dipterists Forum offers up to two bursaries for this course. Each bursary covers half the total cost including accommodation costs. If you would like to apply please see the separate advert about these bursaries in this Bulletin and on the Dipterists Forum website.

If you would like to attend, check the FSC website or contact Preston Montford directly. Bookings usually open in October. The cost of the course will be £295 for a single room, £270 for a shared room and £215 for non-residents. Dipterists Forum members get a £95 discount on these prices (which are then respectively £200, £175 and £120). If you do not bring your own microscope, one can be provided by the field centre but do please book with Preston Montford if you need one. Arrive on Friday evening in time for dinner (usually 6pm), and leave on Sunday afternoon. More precise information will be put on the website.

Martin Drake (Indoor Meetings Organiser)

Summer 2020 Field Meeting

Falmouth, Cornwall

27th June to 4th July 2020

It is many decades since we held a field meeting in West Cornwall, based at St. Agnes in a converted pigsty if I recall correctly. This time, we are going up market to be at Falmouth, at the Exeter University Penryn campus.

West Cornwall has the advantage of not just one coast but two. Both are very scenic, with rocky coasts interrupted by beaches and dunes. The north coast is especially flowery, and with some climbing dunes reaching cliff tops, and preferred by bumblebees. The south coast is preferred by the hornet and has the large drowned valley with Falmouth at its edge. I am sure East Cornwall will be on the agenda as well. We still have some recording to do before we understand the biogeographic differences for flies.

Large outcrops of granite include the ones at Land's End and Bodmin Moor, the intervening land largely comprising Devonian slate sediments, local metamorphosed or with granite decay material. The dunes by contrast tend to be calcareous. Far more base rich, the Lizard peninsula is renowned for its major outcrop of serpentine (uniquely with Cornish Heath *Erica vagans*; as well as one of the few locations for Dorset Heath *Erica ciliaris*) and significant outcrops of gabbro; there are some important ponds on the peninsula.

A notable feature is the number of small valleys reaching the coast, often with streams extending out onto the beach, promising habitat for special flies. The cliff tops should have the hoverfly *Eumerus sabulonum*. The rocky coasts are the place for various flies, including the doli genus *Aphrosylus* on barnacle covered rocks (it would be nice to sort out habitat preferences for the species) and we shall be looking out for cliff seepages. The coast can be especially rich in solitary bees and wasps, a potential for the parasitic shadow flies (various sarcophagid genera). Locally the cliffs have saw-wort, the foodplant of the tephritids *Urophora spoliata* and *Terellia vectensis*.

Inland offers many opportunities, including flowery sunken lanes. There are some important mires and wet heaths. Some of these sites have good representation of tormentil; we will need to keep a look-out for the hoverfly *Sphaerophoria potentillae*, as yet only know from a few sites in NW Devon, at tormentil flowers on the Culm Measures (Devonian rocks).

And, as far as I am aware, they still sell ice cream in Cornwall. A meeting too good to miss.

Alan Stubbs

Dipterists Forum Core Events

See our websites for many more

More from the Stirling Field Meeting



Lake of Menteith: Peter Chandler, Andrew Halstead, Rob Wolton, Chris Spilling & Malcolm Smart. Photo Jane Hewitt and two invisible one-legged people (Ed)



Flanders Moss NNR. Photo Rob Wolton



Lunch at Blackwater Marsh: Nigel Jones, Imogen Burt, Andrew Halstead & Kenneth Watt. Photo Jane Hewitt