



**British
Phycological
Society**
Understanding and using algae



University
of
St Andrews



Marine Alliance for
Science and Technology for Scotland
a marine partnership for Scotland

SEAWEED FIELD MEETING - AUGUST 2020

ST. ANDREWS, SCOTLAND

The British Phycological Society, in conjunction with the University of St. Andrews, is holding a field meeting to investigate seaweeds from rocky shores in Fife on the North Sea coast of Scotland

Dates: Wednesday 19th to Saturday 22nd August 2020 inclusive

Place: St. Andrews in Fife on the east coast of Scotland. We will be using a laboratory in the Scottish Oceans Institute which has just been built for the University of St. Andrews.

What do we do? Each day we visit a local rocky seashore to make a collection of intertidal seaweeds. At St. Andrews low water of spring tides is in the morning so we go out to collect first thing and then have the rest of the day for intensive lab work-up of what we have collected. The aim is to make as full a collection as possible so that it is possible to examine how the richness of the area might have changed. It is not a formal training course. There will be several participants who are very experienced with a detailed knowledge of the British seaweed flora. Although it is not a training course in seaweed identification, we regularly welcome some participants with lesser experience on these field meetings. The friendly and co-operative atmosphere in the lab means that the less experienced readily learn from those with more experience.

Past Records: This is a rich area for seaweeds which were catalogued by Helen Blackler, one of the founders of the British Phycological Society who worked at St. Andrews University from 1947 until retirement in 1968 and continued her seaweed studies there in the famous Gatty Marine Laboratory after retirement. She collated the records from the area in:

Laverack, M.S. & Blackler, M. (eds.) 1974. *Fauna and Flora of St. Andrews Bay*. Scottish Academic Press, Edinburgh. 310 pp. All the seaweed records in this work will be available as a spreadsheet at the meeting.

One of Scotland's greatest 19th century seaweed workers, George William Traill, worked locally publishing a landmark study of the seaweeds of the nearby town of Elie in the outer part of the Firth of Forth:

Traill, G.W. 1888. The marine algae of Elie. *Transactions and Proceedings of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh*, **17**, 156-173.

This was updated by a detailed survey four decades ago:

Wilkinson, M. & Tittley, I. 1979. The marine algae of Elie, Scotland: a reassessment. *Botanica Marina*, **22**, 249-256.

Residential Accommodation: This can be booked in residences of the University of St. Andrews, shown on the map below in relation to the laboratory. It is the responsibility of participants to do this for themselves. It is recommended that participants arrive on Tuesday and stay Tuesday night so that they can work the morning tide on the Wednesday.

The accommodation below has availability, and participants can book online using promo code CONF10 which gives a 10% discount on the published rates.

Agnes Blackadder Hall - <https://ace.st-andrews.ac.uk/accommodation/agnes-blackadder-hall/>

David Russell Apartments - <https://ace.st-andrews.ac.uk/accommodation/david-russell-apartments/>

McIntosh Hall - <https://ace.st-andrews.ac.uk/accommodation/mcintosh-hall/>

The rates per night shown below are before the 10% discount.

The accommodation rates for **Agnes Blackadder Hall** in 2020 are:

- Double bed en suite single occupancy bed and breakfast – **£59**
- Double bed en suite double occupancy bed and breakfast – **£79**
- Twin or family room en suite bed and breakfast – **£109**

The accommodation rates for **David Russell Apartments** in 2020 are:

- Double bed en suite single occupancy bed and breakfast – **£59**
- Double bed en suite single occupancy dinner, bed and breakfast – **£72**
- Double bed en suite double occupancy bed and breakfast – **£79**
- Double bed en suite double occupancy dinner, bed and breakfast – **£104**

The accommodation rates for **McIntosh Hall** in 2020 are:

- Single room shared facilities bed and breakfast – **£52**
- Twin room shared facilities bed and breakfast – **£72**



Travel to fieldwork sites. A great advantage of St Andrews is that rich rocky shores can be accessed on foot from the lab. Normally participants with cars, who have suitable insurance, have carried those without cars. We expect to need this on only two days when we hope to visit Elie and possibly Fife Ness. We can sort this nearer the date when we know who is coming and bringing cars. Otherwise we shall be covering shores in St. Andrews which can be reached by walking from the lab.

Travel to St. Andrews. Using public transport the nearest rail station is Leuchars from which a bus taking just 10 minutes runs to St. Andrews up to every 7-8 minutes. Leuchars is served by inter-city trains from London Kings Cross, York, Newcastle and other towns along the East Coast Line and by Cross-Country trains from Leeds, Sheffield, Birmingham and the west country. There are also two trains an hour from Edinburgh and Dundee. The overnight sleeper service from London Euston to Aberdeen calls at Leuchars.

Registration. There is no registration fee because St. Andrews University has very kindly supported us by giving use of the laboratory. There may be a small charge at the meeting to cover janitorial services for out of hours access. Although there is no fee we still need people to register so that we know who is coming, what they want get out of the meeting, and so that we do not accept more bookings than the lab can accommodate. If you wish to attend please send the information asked for at the end of this circular. Participants are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements. It is recommended that you book accommodation as soon as possible since St. Andrews is a popular tourist resort.

Laboratory and microscopes. The laboratory we shall use is a new, well-designed one with wet and dry benches, seawater on tap and cold storage facilities. It has a new set of good teaching microscopes, both dissecting and compound. Participants who wish may bring their own microscopes but there is no obligation to do so.

Contact details

For any more information about the meeting or to register interest please contact Martin Wilkinson at martin.wilkinson8@btopenworld.com or m.wilkinson@hw.ac.uk

If you are thinking of coming it would be helpful if you could let Martin know as soon as possible and include the following details:

Your name(s) and your affiliation

Your contact details – postal address, phone number and e-mail address

Your level of expertise and anything you would like to get out of the meeting.

Anything we might need to know that could affect you, e.g. mobility difficulties

The meeting has been organised by Martin Wilkinson and Clare Scanlan on behalf of the Biodiversity & Conservation Committee of the British Phycological Society with the help of Emma Defew and Dave Patterson of the University of St. Andrews and the Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS),