

Librarian's report 2023

This year the Society's activities, including those of the library, were far less affected by Covid than had been the case over the previous three years. Open days took place as usual, with members' access to the library enabled on such events. Attendance was lower than in pre-pandemic years, no-doubt reluctance to travel had some impact on this. It is hoped that next year things will be more normal in this respect.

As expected, the installation of the new air conditioning system caused considerable disruption and the impact of this as regards shelving locations for some subjects has still to be resolved, but I'm working on it.

A sad duty I undertook during the year was to visit our ex-president Steven Miles' bungalow in Bordon, Hampshire to collect books, journals and other material he bequeathed to the Society. These included many conservation-related publications, including reports etc. for the Heathland Flies project he ran for several years, Diptera books and some nets. I am very grateful to him for this generous gesture, but as I say, it's a sad loss to his family, our Society and entomology generally.

On a happier note I'd like to thank Mark Mitchell, Ian Masters and John Badmin for book donations to the library. Also, despite a busy year due to retirement planning, I have managed to keep the logging in and shelving of new journal parts up-to-date.

Next year I intend to deal with the ongoing impact of the new air conditioning system, the cataloguing of our newly acquired books and commence the next round of journal binding, so it looks like 2024 will be a busy year. I also intend to update the digital library catalogue in the members' area of our web-site, when time allows. I hope members have found this useful as it was made available as part of our 150th anniversary celebrations.

Ian Sims