

Statements by Candidates for election to BSS Council on May 15th, 2025

Tobias Cullen (Standing as student representative)

My name is Tobias (Toby) Cullen and I am a Plant Science undergraduate at the University of Edinburgh. I have been obsessed with biology for as long as I can remember and would eventually love to work in botanical or mycological research in some capacity. My favourite plant has to be the ghaif tree, which is the national tree of the country I grew up in. I would like to run for council as a student representative because the BSS has really inspired me as to what is out there in the botanic community, and I believe getting more involved in the society will help me learn and develop as a future scientist.

Chris Jeffree

I am a retired botanist, graduate of Aberdeen University (BSc Hons Botany 1969, PhD 1974). I worked at Edinburgh University from 1975 until 2011. I have been a member of BSS for fifty years since 1975, have served on BSS Council as Treasurer (1981-83), Local Secretary (1993-96), Programme secretary (1997-2001), Vice President (2006-2008, and 2011 to 2016), President (2008-2010). I was awarded Honorary Fellowship in December 2023. Following a brief break from Council Membership, I would like to return to Council to support my role as photo editor for BSS News.

Fiona Maguire

I have been a member of BSS since 2021. I am not a 'real' botanist but I have found the BSS community is as happily immersed in spreading plant knowledge to all, as it is in pursuing it. The diversity of the year's programme, from lectures to field excursions tickle thoughts of mycorrhizal networks. If elected, I look forward to helping with the Society admin, as Membership Secretary. I am a Garden Guide at RBGE (since 2019) and I am involved in the citizen science for RBGE's Chilean Phenology Project.