

Welcome

to our latest edition of Soil Matters magazine, which we are delighted is back as an annual print publication, following feedback from our members. The publication will be sent annually at the start of each year and will include some of the highlights from the previous year, alongside future activities to look forward to.

This year, we launch our new mission and vision. Developed by our Board, and sent to members in the autumn for consultation, these documents help us to understand the direction in which we are heading and how we will know if we are making a difference. Aligned to this is our 2024 strategy which sets out our key deliverables for the year ahead, and the activities we will deliver to help us move closer to our vision.

As we head into 2024, we are delighted that Andrew Morris will be joining us in February as our new Executive Director to lead us in achieving this vision. Andrew is currently the Business Development Director at The B2W Group, and previously worked for the Landscape Institute. He will join our existing office team Natalie, Dom and Christine and we hope you will join us in welcoming him to the team!

Andrew succeeds Sarah Garry, who left the Society in mid-November after three and a half years in post. Sarah took the Society from strength to strength: increasing membership numbers by over 30% during her time with us, delivering a successful World Congress of Soil Science and securing UNFCCC Non-Governmental Organization status for the Society, to allow us to share the importance of soil with international climate change negotiators.

I am incredibly proud of what we achieved during 2023, with presenting to



governmental negotiators at both COP 28 in Dubai and SB58 in Bonn, (page 5) and hearing from UK soils policy makers during our Annual Conference, a real highlight (page 2).

As we look to the final year of my Presidency, I am excited for what it holds. Aligned to our new mission and vision, there is lots more for us to do in raising awareness of soils' importance to those outside the sector. Our future guidance and science notes, opportunities to engage with UK and international policymakers, and our soil science loan boxes (page 7), will all give us the opportunity to do this.

As always, our success as a Society is down to the support we receive from our members, and particularly those who volunteer for us. Whether as a committee member or volunteer at the events we attend throughout the year, a huge thank you.

We hope that if you haven't already, you will take the opportunity to renew your membership into 2024 and to engage with the Society in a way that suits you. For more information about the Society or becoming a volunteer, please get in touch via admin@soils.org.uk.

All the best for a happy and healthy new year.

Jack Hannam,
President, 2023 - 2024

MISSION & VISION

Our **mission** is to support and promote the discovery of new knowledge of soils and their role in global sustainability.

Our **vision** is to ensure sustainable soils for people and planet.

We will achieve our mission and vision by:

- promoting scientific study and discovery of new knowledge about soil and ensuring it is accessible to a wide audience
- influencing policy and legislation through evidence-based advocacy
- supporting our members to develop and continue professional and academic excellence.

THE CHALLENGE WE FACE

To achieve our mission and vision, the Society must address key challenges including:

- ensuring a sufficient skills base and engagement to deliver sustainable soil management
- driving research, evidence collection and professional excellence whilst experiencing the impacts of changes to academic publishing, income and attitudes to work
- promoting soil health in the face of geo-political uncertainty, a growing population and changing social attitudes in a world of technological innovation.

2024 STRATEGY

Our 2024 strategy includes:

- delivering additional training courses from our popular Working with Soils series
- hosting our Annual Conference in Wales
- registering to be an End Point Assessment Organisation for the Soil Scientist apprenticeship (page 6)
- review of members' voluntary CPD submissions (page 4)
- increasing the number of supporting activities for our Soil Science Loan Boxes (page 7)
- developing new guidance and science notes
- attending external events including Open Farm Sunday, Groundwell and Contamination Expo.

2023 CONFERENCES

Catch up on the success of our Annual and Early Careers' Conferences, which took place in Belfast from 4th to 7th December.

[read more on pages 2 and 3](#)

POLICY

From COP28 in Dubai to SB58 in Bonn, and presenting at the Soil Health Inquiry, it has been a busy year of policy activities.

[read more on page 5](#)

TRAINING

Find out about our Working With Soil courses, Level 7 Soil Science Apprenticeship and Zoom into Soil webinars, and save the dates for 2024!

[read more on page 6](#)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Are you a Full or Fellow member? Hear about the CPD programme for 2025 and how to apply for Chartered Scientist registration.

[read more on page 4](#)

Annual Conference

Our Annual Conference took place on 4th and 5th December 2023 in Belfast, and was a joint event with the Soil Science Society of Ireland (SSSI) with the overall theme: **Soil Management and Monitoring**.

The packed two-day event, set in the historic Assembly Buildings Conference Centre, provided delegates with the opportunity to meet and network as well as hear about the latest research and developments within soil science.

Keynote Speakers and Policy Session

We were delighted to host five main presentations covering the conference theme from experts including Brian Ervine, Rachel Cassidy, Rachel Creamer, John Gilliland and David Wall. Our main keynote session was a policy event where we heard from representatives from all the devolved administrations and Ireland, providing an overview of the key activities being undertaken at a governmental level. This included presentations from Rachel Boulderstone (DEFRA), James Cooke (Welsh Government), Sallie Bailey (Scottish Government), Brian Ervine (DAERA), Jim Hodgson (DECC) and Mary Cleary (DAFM).



Gala Dinner

In the evening, we hosted our Conference Gala Dinner at the spectacular Crumlin Road Gaol. This provided a great opportunity to speak with delegates and present the Society achievement awards. The night was topped off with fabulous entertainment from Ta Da IDC, a professional Irish dancing company, and audience participation in a ceilidh.

Tours

The second day commenced with our scientific and cultural tours. The scientific tour provided delegates with the opportunity to visit sites in County Down, where 132,700 fields were soil sampled in 2022/23 as part of the four year NI Soil Nutrient Health Scheme. Delegates learnt how whole-farm soil sampling, innovative reporting formats and local water quality monitoring are being used to optimise crop nutrient applications and to improve environmental performance. Delegates who went on the city walking tour led by DC Tours, discovered fantastic street art, beautiful architecture, amazing history and the unique stories of Belfast's citizens throughout the centuries.

Oral and Poster Presentations

We heard 23 different abstract presentations and had over 60 posters showcasing research in the conference themes of soil health, soil carbon, water management, nutrient management, and technology and innovation. The book of abstract is available to view here - www.soils.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Abstract-Book-BSSS-SSSI-Annual-Conference-2023.pdf

Thank You

We would like to take the opportunity to thank our sponsors, VisitBelfast, who helped with the delivery of the event; and also to Cranfield University who were exhibiting at the event. Thank you also to everyone who attended or supported the event.

Awarded Grants

The following grants have been awarded in 2023. Case studies from grants given are regularly published on our website. Find out more about the activities we have been supporting at: www.soils.org.uk/education/case-studies/.

75th Joint Anniversary Grant

Marta Gil Martínez, Rodica Pena, Sarah Duddigan, Pablo Homet Gutierrez, Lourdes Morillas - **£2,000**

Brian Chambers Soil Fund

Asa Beeby - **£250**
Chris McCloskey - **£765**
Bethany Norris - **£410**
Amin Shariffar - **£800**
Catherine West - **£250**

David S Jenkinson Fellowship

Carmen Sanchez-Garcia - **£5,000**

Early Career Conference Grant

Nisha Choudhary - **£500**
Mahboobeh Fallah - **£500**
Mollie Frost - **£500**
Sara Martinengo - **£325**
Prudence Mhlophe - **£500**
Gianni Micucci - **£500**
Tanu Priya - **£500**
Megan Purchase - **£300**
Gemma Shaw - **£500**

Field Equipment

Paul Smith - **£981.82**

Innovation

Hannah Lindsay-Kirk - **£410**
Paul Smith - **£466.98**

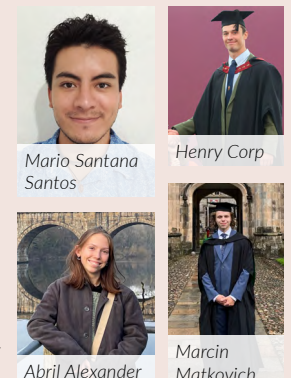


Hold the date for our next annual conference which will be taking place in Wales week commencing 2nd December 2024.

Award Winners

BSSS is proud to sponsor a prize and trophy for a number of awards within academic institutions, which are presented to students based on criteria set with each one. We are delighted to announce the following award winners for 2023 who have each received two years' Society membership as part of their prize.

AWARD WINNER	INSTITUTION	AWARD NAME
Clara Delanau	Cranfield University	Most Promising Soil Scientist
David Thomson	Harper Adams University	Best undergraduate final year dissertation on a soil related subject
Winfred Athembo	Harper Adams University	Best postgraduate final year dissertation on a soil related subject
Abril Alexander	Lancaster University	Undergraduate Award
Henry Corp	Royal Agricultural University	Best Student in Soil Science
Marcin Matkovic	University of Aberdeen	Outstanding performance in a soil science based MSc project
Mario Santana Santos	University of Aberdeen	Outstanding performance in a soil science based Honours or MSci project
Thomas McNeil	University of Reading	MSc Dissertation Award



We will be launching a new award at the University of Nottingham for 2024, which will recognise an *Outstanding Performance in a Soil Science related project*, and we look forward to announcing the winner in Soil Matters next year.

Early Career's Conference



The Early Careers' Conference took place on 6th and 7th December 2023, immediately after the BSSS and SSSI Annual Conference.

The two-day programme allowed a wide range of Early Career members from academia, industry, and policy to come together for a variety of themed sessions, including keynote presentations, oral and poster presentations, three workshops, and a social dinner.

Professor Paul Hallett, BSSS President Elect, and Dr Saoirse Tracy, SSSI Chair, led the way each day with their keynote presentations and offered thoughtful insight into the future opportunities for Early Career Researchers (ECRs).

Workshops

On day one, Dr Daniel Evans, from Cranfield University, led a superb and thought-provoking workshop on grant funding, sharing his experience in finding and securing research funding as an ECR and outlining different types of funding available and effective approaches to writing research proposals.

In the afternoon, Jessica Potts, Jay Ryan and Liv Hoyland, on behalf of Arcadis, delivered a fantastic workshop tailored to provide ECRs with valuable insights and guidance on how to kickstart their journey outside of academia. They explored the diverse array of opportunities available to ECRs,

offered advice on how to translate skills and knowledge, and encourage delegates to have the confidence to make their own mark in the world.

On day two, Natalie Coles from the BSSS Office Team, along with Paul Hallett, gave an overview of ECR membership, the Working with Soil training programme, society grants, the pathway to Full membership and the Society's two journals. Delegates spent time discussing their own membership journey and what their next steps may be, and provided some excellent feedback and ideas around publishing in the journals.

Oral and Poster Presentations

During the two-day conference, delegates heard from 20 oral presenters and viewed over 50 poster presentations, showcasing the excellent research that ECRs had undertaken. Congratulations to **Catriona Willoughby**, winner of the best oral presentation, **Elisabeth Appleton**, winner of the best poster, and **Megha Kaviraj**, winner of the first delegates' choice award for best poster.

The book of abstracts is available via -

www.soils.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Book-of-Abstracts-Early-Careers-Conference-2023.pdf



Catriona Willoughby, winner of best oral presentation



Elisabeth Appleton, winner of best poster



Megha Kaviraj, winner of the first delegates' choice award for best poster

THANK YOU
to our sponsors:



EARLY CAREER MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We are delighted to confirm that an important update has been made to the Early Career (EC) membership category, making it easier for EC members to transition into Full Society membership.

Early Career members who have previously completed a PhD with a high

level of soil science content, will now only be required to gain two further years of professional experience, rather than five years, before applying for Full membership.

This update has been implemented with the backing of the Early Careers Committee, to fully support our Early Career members and recognise the valuable professional soil science experience gained during their PhD.

If you are an Early Career member and think that you may now be eligible for Full membership, please email your CV to admin@soils.org.uk with, if relevant, the soil science content of your PhD clearly demonstrated.

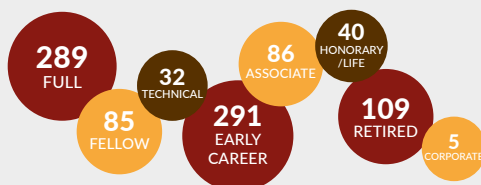
Find out more via www.soils.org.uk/news/important-update-to-early-career-membership/.

Membership News

As of 31 December 2023, the Society represented **937** members:

OUR HIGHEST NUMBER EVER!

This includes 42 Chartered Scientists. This year, we have welcomed **172** new members - a **25% increase from last year!**



Continuing Professional Development

The BSSS Continued Professional Development (CPD) Programme gives members the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to the continuing development of their overall professional competence and to maximise their ability to contribute to society, through application of the skills acquired throughout their professional life.

Full or Fellow members of the Society are required to undertake and record CPD activities on an annual basis, as detailed in the Society's Code of Conduct, but we have not previously requested a record or submission of these activities. **From 1st January to 31st March 2024**, we will be encouraging Full or Fellow members of the Society to voluntarily submit a record of their 2023 CPD activities. **From 1st January 2025**, it will be mandatory for all Full or Fellow members to submit a record of their CPD activities on an annual basis to retain the M.I. Soil Sci or F.I. Soil Sci designation.

Members who are already a registered Chartered Scientist will only be required to complete one form as part of the CPD submission, which will be used for both BSSS membership and CSci registration.

Outstanding Society Contribution Award 2023

The Outstanding Society Contribution Award (our OSCA's!) recognises the valuable work undertaken by all of our volunteers, whilst highlighting the outstanding contribution provided by one or more members.

This year's award was presented during the BSSS Annual Conference to **Xavier Portell** for his significant contribution to support Early Career members and develop new grant ideas.



Xavier Portell

Although Xavi couldn't join us on the day, he sent a video to share with delegates which can be viewed on our website: www.soils.org.uk/grants-awards/award-winners/.

A huge congratulations Xavi!

2023 AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting took place online on Wednesday 5th July. The meeting included approval of the Society's 2022 accounts, approval of new accountants and the announcement of our newest Honorary Member: Bob Jones. Bob joined the AGM to share his thoughts on his career in soil science and his pride in the Society's achievements.



Bob Jones

New Fellow Members

Following review by the Professional Practice & Development Committee, we are delighted to confirm that the following members have been approved for Fellow Membership: **John Boardman, Ian Bull, Eleanor Reed and Balwant Singh**. Congratulations to you all!

Chartered Scientist: How To Apply

The Chartered Scientist designation allows professional scientists to be recognised for their competence, ability and integrity and serving the public interest. Registration is a voluntary means of demonstrating your professionalism and involves being held to account by your peers for your abilities and adherence to ethical standards. Chartered Scientists are committed to keeping their skills and knowledge up to date through continuing professional development (CPD) which is submitted for review on an annual basis. The main aim of CPD for registrants is to maintain, develop and broaden scientific and technical knowledge and acquire professional life skills.

Chartered Scientist (CSci) is open to all Full or Fellow members of BSSS who work in the practice, application, advancement or teaching of science and have the appropriate combination of qualifications and experience. To apply for Chartered Scientist status, please download the application form, criteria and guidance notes on our website. Completed application forms and all supporting documentation should be returned to admin@soils.org.uk.

www.soils.org.uk/education/chartered-scientist/

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The Members' Area of our website is a members-only section for convenient access to all the fantastic benefits Society membership has to offer. From resources to videos and a media toolkit to useful information, make the most of the handy portal!

We are delighted to offer a number of additional benefits that add value to your membership through our Corporate Partners and other key relationships:

- Up to 20% discount on a range of IT products at Dell Technologies UK
- A discounted subscription to over 1,700 reviews of the latest research in sustainable agriculture with Burleigh Dodds
- Discounted rates for medical plans, dental plan, hospital cash plans, travel plan, income protection and vehicle breakdown products with the Hospital and Medical Care Association (HMCA)
- Advice and assistance with Professional Indemnity and Contractors package insurance via Absolute Insurance Brokers
- 50% off the first two years of individual membership at the Royal Society of Biology
- 25% discount on all Wiley publications
- 20% discount on all crop-related books at Burleigh Dodds Science Publishing.

Visit the portal now to find out more - www.soils.org.uk/members-area/.

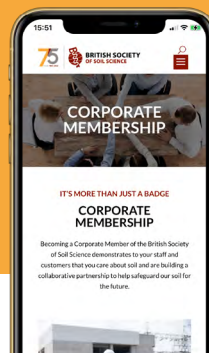
CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Becoming a Corporate Member of BSSS demonstrates to staff and customers that you care about soil and are building a collaborative partnership to help safeguard our soil for the future. There is no better time to raise the profile and underline the integrity of your organisation and support the professional development of your employees.

We are delighted to announce the launch of our updated and enhanced Corporate Membership, with packages starting from **£799 + VAT**. From inclusion in our members' e-newsletter to a guest blog, and discounted training to supported introductions to industry experts, there are plenty of benefits on offer!

We are also pleased to offer five bolt-on options, starting from **£250 + VAT**, and providing the opportunity to support and co-brand a Science Note or host a consultancy session to support research or product development.

To find out more about our Corporate Membership and start your journey today, please visit www.soils.org.uk/corporate-membership-packages/.



CORPORATE MEMBERS

Thank you to our Corporate Members:



Policy and Influencing

Dr Jack Hannam Participates in Parliamentary Inquiry on Soil Health

British Society of Soil Science President, Dr Jack Hannam, joined the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Commons Select Committee on Tuesday 7th March 2023, to discuss Soil Health.

Further to the Society's evidence submission, Jack joined fellow panellists Prof Bridget Emmett, representing UKCEH and having been a special adviser to the 2016 Inquiry, and Martin Ballard with construction and water experience and representing the Society for the Environment. At later evidence submissions, members Pippa Chapman, Professor at the University of Leeds and Eleanor Reed, Principle Soil Specialist at Natural England, also presented.

We followed up our attendance at the inquiry with a letter to the English, Scottish and Welsh governments, highlighting the need for effective soil monitoring and management.



Read the letters:

ENGLAND: <https://soils.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/20230417-ThereseCoffey.pdf>

SCOTLAND: <https://soils.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/20230417-MairiMcAllan.pdf>

WALES: <https://soils.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/20230417-JulieJames.pdf>

Highlighting Soil Health to Policy Makers

During the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June, we were delighted to co-host a policy dialogue session with the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH) and the International "4 per 1000" initiative.



According to CA4SH, the widescale adoption of sustainable soil management practices will lead to the mitigation of upwards of 1.8 Gt of carbon per year from 2030, comparable to the mitigation amount from wind energy, and sustainable soil management practices, alongside other interventions, will also prevent some of the 24 billion tonnes of topsoil lost each year. Human intervention has also led to the desertification of soils in some areas of the world and we have all seen the impact which political instability and conflict has had on our ability to farm in nutrient-rich soils. Our session

focused on the need for urgent intervention at a global scale, to prevent further degradation of our soils, allow us to support the ever-growing human population and to meet our climate change targets.

Our session highlighted case studies from **Aapresid** (Argentine No Till Farmers Association), the Welsh Government and Australian Government on how local approaches could help us achieve change on a global scale.

BSSS President, Jack Hannam, highlighted that there is no overarching strategy for soils in the UK and this needs to be addressed. Peatlands in the UK store 3.2 billion tonnes carbon, however, only 20% of peatlands are in a natural state in the UK. This means the majority of peatlands in the UK are no longer a sink, but a source of carbon emissions. They release 23 million tonnes of Co2 equivalent each year. To address this, peatland action plans have been produced in the UK in 2021 (England), 2020 (Wales), 2015 (Scotland), with Scotland committing to ensuring all peatlands are in a good condition by 2030. Ultimately a co-production of policy is needed between researchers, environmental NGOs and farmers in order to break down silos.

The movement for global soil health is building momentum and we have the opportunity to integrate both soil health and climate change monitoring and reporting, to meet dual aims. However to action real, systemic change, we need accountability.

Read more: www.soils.org.uk/blog/bsss-co-host-policy-session-at-sb58-bonn-climate-change-conference/



COP28UAE
UNITE. ACT. DELIVER.

Engaging with Policymakers

BSSS President, Dr Jack Hannam, attended COP28 in Dubai back in December, to engage with policymakers and speak at several sessions, highlighting the importance of soil in helping to address climate change. This was the third year that the Society attended the COP climate summit under our official non-governmental organisation (NGO) observer status. As an NGO at COP, our role is to hold leaders to account to ensure they are delivering against their climate pledges. This year was particularly relevant as King Charles, who provided the opening address to our World Congress of Soil Science in Glasgow in 2022, delivered the opening address to delegates in Dubai.

This year marked a step change in our

engagement at the event as we hosted our own formal side event during the programme.

This event took place on 10th December with the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH) and The Climate Center Center titled 'Natural carbon sequestration: leveraging soils for mitigation, storage and biodiversity'. The session explored the use of soils in achieving net zero by enhancing knowledge of storage potential, biodiversity benefits, and policy options to scale practices. We also took part in another side event titled 'Strengthening NDCs for soil health - learning from practical experience'. This session explored how to incentivize farmers to invest in soil health and protect our planet.

To further demonstrate the positive impact of investing in our soil, we launched a new series of case studies on World Soil Day. Invest in Soil is an opportunity for us to share the best, most impactful case studies on the value of soil.

To ensure governments commit to implementing policy and the financing to do so, our case studies highlight how investing in soil has positive economic and knock-on

impacts. Find out more at www.soils.org.uk/investinsoil/

We hope that by taking part in these sessions at COP28 and from the conversations that take place as a result, in addition to our Invest in Soil case studies, we hope to make a difference and keep soil high on the agenda.

Dr Jack Hannam speaks at COP28



Training

This year our training courses have been more popular than ever! Highlighting the ever-growing need for practical soils training. In total, over 79 people attended our four courses held between April and October. Of the attendees, 75% rated the course content as good or excellent.



Zoom into Soil

Our Zoom into Soil lunchtime webinars have continued to deliver training on a range of soil related topics to members and non-members.

During 2023, we delivered seven webinars to just under 800 attendees, with 91% across all sessions stating that the course content was good or excellent and 73% that they would use the information in their future practice. The webinars have been viewed collectively almost 5,000 times online!

Topics this year included sustainable remediation of construction site soil, soil biodiversity and microplastics.

▶ If you've missed any of our webinars, join the thousands of people who have viewed them on demand at: www.youtube.com/britishsocietyofsoil

Soil Scientist Apprenticeship

A huge thank you to the Employer Group which has successfully developed a Level 7 Soil Scientist (Masters' Level) apprenticeship! The apprenticeship will allow employers in England to use the Apprenticeship Levy to fund training for their employees.

Over the next few months, Cranfield University and Cornwall College will be working hard to ensure training delivery can begin in June 2024 and April 2025 respectively. They will be supported by the Society which is applying to become an Ofqual registered organisation, and will allow us to be the End Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) and award successful apprentices with their completion certificates.

Further information is available at: www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/soil-scientist

SAVE THE DATE 2024 TRAINING

Save the date for our 2024 training courses:

> APRIL

Practical Introduction to Soils in Great Britain

> SEPTEMBER

Practical Introduction to Soils in Great Britain

> OCTOBER

Introduction to Soil Classification

> NOVEMBER

Introduction to Agricultural Land Classification

Further information is available at: www.soils.org.uk/education/soil-training/

To be added to our waiting list for any of our courses, please contact admin@soils.org.uk.



Regional Group Meetings

This year, our Northern, Midlands and South East Regional Groups held members' meetings locally to showcase local soils and innovations.

The Northern Soils Network delivered their event at the University of Leeds on Thursday 11 May, with a focus on soil health and sustainable agriculture, with talks on several research projects, visits to a range of trials on the UoL farm, and networking with peers in academia and industry.

On Wednesday 24 May, our Midlands group hosted their event at the University of Wolverhampton, which included tours of Springfield Main Building and lab facilities within the

National Brownfield Institute (NBI). In the afternoon, there were various keynote presentations and the AGM of the MSDG.

Our South East Regional Group held their annual meeting at Rothamsted Research in Harpenden on Wednesday 20 September, which included tours of the long-term experiments and the soils archive. In the afternoon, there was a demonstration of various soil sensors used to monitor soil carbon, soil moisture and greenhouse gas fluxes, followed by a discussion on carbon farming, climate-smart agriculture and soil health.

Images top to bottom: Northern Soils Network event, Midlands Group tour at the Springfield lab facilities, South East Regional Group at Rothamsted Research.



Soils in the Community

Soil Science Loan Boxes

Earlier this year, we launched our soil science loan boxes, a scheme to support both members and non-members to educate and inform the wider community about soils.

Since they were launched in April, they have been hired by 8 people, reaching over 500 people starting from as young as five years old! This includes Northern Soils Network Chair, Chris Cantle, who hired a box to support him at an Open Farm Sunday event in June.

Chris Cantle



Chris said: "I used one of the BSSS excellent soil science loan boxes to help explain the importance of soils. I dug a soil pit and hand augered within a semi-natural woodland and arable field to show the contrast in soil properties and help fuel discussion on the challenges of balancing

soil health and food security. This was supplemented with resources from the loan box, including excellent posters illustrating key soil facts/information, jars containing different soil textures and educational leaflets. I only wish I had more time to use more of the fantastic items in the loan box!"

The outreach boxes are available to loan from the BSSS office for presentations, projects and activities. The helpful toolkit of resources, boxed up and delivered to your door, will provide everything you need to share the importance of soil with your peers, colleagues, community, or the next generation! In our Soil Science Loan Boxes, you will find a number of resources to help you carry out educational soil-related activities suitable for both children and adults.

For organisations that would use their box regularly, there is also the opportunity to host your own box. For £500 for the first year and £250 per year thereafter, our helpful toolkit of resources will be refilled by the Society each year with the latest educational resources promoting the importance of soil.

If you are interested in learning more about our loan boxes and would like to hire one, you can find out more at: www.soils.org.uk/education/soil-science-loan-boxes/

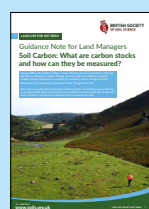


Lorna Dawson



Emilia Urbanek visiting Brownies

Monitoring, Verification and Reporting



We are pleased to be able to share our new Guidance Note for Land Managers - **Soil Carbon: What are carbon stocks and how can they be measured?**

With growing interest from carbon finance schemes in the economic value of soil carbon, this note supports farmers and landowners to understand the financial value that could be placed on soil carbon and what they should consider when reviewing carbon finance schemes.



Groundswell



Contamination Expo

Supporting Farmers and Practitioners

This year, we have continued to support external events Groundswell and Contamination Expo. Both provide us with an opportunity to engage with non-members and encourage them to use our tools and resources.

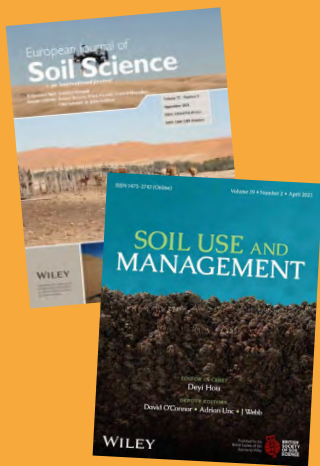
At Groundswell, we launched our Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) note and with corporate partner ADAS, co-hosted the event soil pit. Our executive and team of volunteers including John Hollis, Bob Jones and Dick Thompson were consistently busy over the course of the event: sharing their knowledge on soil monitoring and management, amongst an audience of regenerative agricultural practitioners and the Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP.

Contamination Expo, an event aimed at practitioners in construction remediation sector, was well attended with several new members joining as a result. Member of the Professional Practice and Development Committee (PPDC), Lucy Gilbert supported the Society by delivering a soil hand texturing workshop. Lucy shared best practice with the audience and encouraged them to review our resources and attend our events to find out more!

Dirty Matters: The New Soil Game

Download and play the latest soil board game, Dirty Matters. The game demonstrates the role of soil in meeting the challenges of a sustainable world. It was created by five researchers who were awarded the BSSS Interdisciplinary Grant for Early Career Researchers and Professionals at the 2021 Eurosoil conference.

www.soils.org.uk/dirtymatters



OUR JOURNALS

The European Journal of Soil Science (EJSS) is an international journal that publishes outstanding papers in soil science that advance the theoretical and mechanistic understanding of physical, chemical and biological processes and their interactions in soils acting from molecular to continental scales in natural and managed environments. EJSS has an Impact Factor of 4.2 and ranked 13/37.

Soil Use and Management (SUM) publishes in soil science, earth and environmental science, agricultural science, and engineering fields. The submitted papers should consider the underlying mechanisms governing the natural and anthropogenic processes which affect soil

systems, and should inform policy makers and/or practitioners on the sustainable use and management of soil resources. SUM has an Impact Factor of 3.8 and ranked 18/37.

Congratulations to EJSS and SUM as they celebrate their 75th and 40th anniversary years, respectively.

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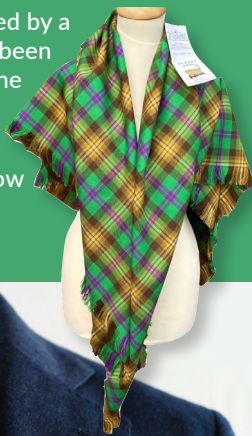
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ISSN NUMBER

Soil Matters (Print) ISSN 2753-1368
Soil Matters (Online) ISSN 2753-1376

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