

What do we do?

The Society organises an annual programme of scientific meetings, workshops and forays. Non-members may attend all activities of the Society but there is a surcharge on registration fees for meetings.

The Society publishes a quarterly newsletter to keep members informed and publishes books and some of the major academic journals in the field. It recognises the contributions made to mycology by young scientists and other members with the award of prizes. It is frequently called upon for opinions by Government, and by other national and international bodies.

How is it governed?

The Society has a Council, chaired by the President and made up of elected members and Honorary Officers (General Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary); Council meets four times a year. All members are invited to the Annual General Meeting held in December. The President, who is an eminent mycologist, holds the office for a maximum of two years but sits on Council as both President-Elect and Immediate Past-President to provide continuity. Two Vice-Presidents, elected for one year, assist in promoting the Society and in the dissemination of the activities and opinions of the Society and its members.

How is it funded?

The Society is a registered charity and is dependent on subscriptions, surplus from its publishing activities, investments and a little advertising revenue. Sponsorship may be obtained for selected meetings, as are grants from the Federation of European Microbiological Societies and other bodies.

The categories of membership

Members must be persons of some standing in mycology. Many in this category are involved in research and/or teaching fungal biology, or professional mycologists in some other aspect of the discipline, like plant pathology, medicine, publishing, etc. Equally, there are many 'amateur mycologists', who are expert in some aspect of fungal biology, but do not earn their living from this.

Associates are mainly people who do not want to be involved in Society 'government' but still want to be members of the mycological community. Many, but by no means all, associates are amateurs involved in field mycology.

Postgraduate Student Members must be registered for a higher degree and carrying out some form of research study on fungi.

Undergraduate Student Members, are persons in full- or part-time education on courses leading to a Bachelors degree or equivalent, but not registered for a higher degree.

Life Membership is available (under Bye Law 3) for those who have been in full membership for at least 25 years.

Honorary Members are persons of pre-eminence in mycology. Honorary Members are nominated by Council at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

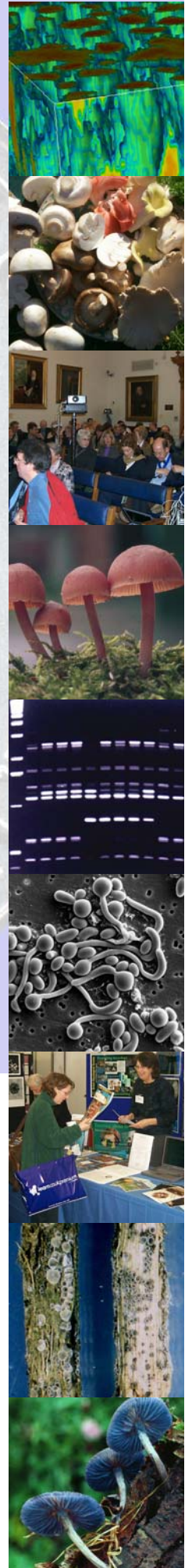
Membership Entitlements

Full members receive *Mycological Research*, *Mycologist* and *MycologistNews*, attend all meetings at standard registration fee and participate fully in government of the Society. **Members exclusive** of *Mycological Research* do not receive that journal but enjoy all other privileges.

Associates receive *Mycologist* and *MycologistNews*, but are not normally exempt from surcharged non-Member registration fees (when these are levied) and do not participate in government of the Society.

Postgraduate Student Members receive *Mycological Research*, *Mycologist* and *MycologistNews*, and have registration fees for attendance at all meetings of the Society waived, but do not participate in government of the Society. This category of membership lasts for a maximum of 4 years.

Undergraduate Student Members receive *Mycologist* and *MycologistNews*, pay no registration fees at meetings of the Society, but do not participate in government of the Society.





How can I join?

Any person interested in mycology is welcome, subject to election to membership. Use the application form included in this leaflet, or download a form from the BMS website (<http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk>), or contact the Membership Secretary of the Society by e-mail (members@britmycolsoc.org.uk) or by post (the Society's office address is shown below). Categories of membership are shown. Membership runs from 1st January annually, and applications received after 31st October will be processed to begin the following year. No payment is required with this initial application.

All applications are considered by the Membership Secretary and two senior BMS Officers chosen from the President, Treasurer and Vice-Presidents who recommend acceptable candidates to the next available meeting of Council or the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

After your application has been ratified, you will be sent the Society's Constitution and Bye Laws, as well as a Subscription Payment Form to complete and return with payment (or Direct Debit authorization, preferred by the Society) to the Subscriptions Assistant at the Society's office address; your Journal(s) will then be dispatched to you.

You will see that the application form for Membership requires the signatures of two existing Members who, by their signature, effectively propose and introduce the applicant to the Society. If you don't know any existing Members, then include with your application form a short *curriculum vitae* together with details of your interests in mycology.

Of course, applications are also welcome from those wanting to apply for Associate membership status, but these do **not** require proposal by existing members.

Applicants in the student categories are also asked to provide additional information. A note must accompany Postgraduate Student Membership applications from the student's research supervisor certifying that the applicant is a registered postgraduate student involved in mycological research (and remember that Postgraduate Student Membership is only allowed for a maximum of four years). Undergraduate Student Membership applications must be accompanied by proof that the applicant is registered for a first degree or equivalent qualification, at a University or equivalent institution.

Send all correspondence about membership matters to **The Membership Secretary: Dr Julian I. Mitchell, Biological Sciences, University of Portsmouth, King Henry Building, King Henry 1 Street, Portsmouth PO1 2DY, United Kingdom.**

Why join?

The main reason you will want to join the community of mycologists will be that you are interested in fungi and want to learn more about them.

Maybe your interest is only in mushrooms and toadstools, perhaps specifically in finding out which are the edible ones and which are to be avoided. Or perhaps it goes deeper and you are fascinated by the diversity, beauty and complexity of fungi or by their biology and relationships to the animals and plants amongst which, with which, or on which, they grow. Whatever your initial level of interest, the first steps may be relatively easy, but the learning curve beyond that may be very steep. The British Mycological Society can help you up that slope!

If you are interested only in finding out which fungi are edible and which are toxic and have little intention of delving more deeply, then becoming a member of a local Fungus Group might fully satisfy your needs. You can get information about these from the Society. You will then be able to meet people of like mind and interests and make a good start up that learning curve. But become an Associate Member of the British Mycological Society to enjoy the many other benefits and join in the many other activities of the Society to really develop your interests!



What is the British Mycological Society?

The British Mycological Society is a scientific learned society and a registered Charity. It was founded in 1896 to promote the scientific study of fungi in all their diversity. Since then it has grown to be one of the major mycological societies in the world. The word 'mycology' should not put you off, because just as astronomy is the study of the stars, mycology is the study of fungi.

The object of the Society is to promote mycology in all its aspects by publications, meetings and other means, such as through the Internet, as are appropriate.

Numerically, the Society's membership (totalling about 2000) is made up principally of professionals, the people who earn their living by being mycologists, and these may be working in Britain or overseas, and are of many different nationalities. These people are mostly full members. They may be investigating industrial applications (biotechnology) of fungi, which can include the search for new substances with a pharmacological activity, or some aspect of the biology of fungi (metabolism, physiology, genetics, mutualistic interactions, etc.), or their systematics, or molecular biology, or their pathogenicity to economic plants or to animals.

Amateurs on the other hand tend to concentrate on fungi as components of natural wildlife, and are mainly concerned with the collection, identification, recording and conservation of fungi. Throughout the 100 years or so of the Society's existence amateurs have played an important, often crucial, role in such activities and there is no doubt that this will continue. Amateurs normally begin by becoming associates, but as their expertise develops, many want to contribute to the mycological community by becoming full members.

And the benefits?

- Journals and magazines - *Mycological Research*, *Mycologist*, *MycologistNews*, *Field Mycology*
- Books and pamphlets - *Symposium Volumes*, books for education ranging from *Fungus Fred goes Foraying* to *Guides for the Amateur Mycologist*, fine art prints, postcards and notecards
- Forays, workshops and meetings
- The Society Library - over 1000 items, the vast majority of which can be borrowed by members
- The Society's photographic slide collection of over 4000 slides can be borrowed
- Awards and Grants to attend meetings or 'promote mycology' in some other way
- BMS Recording Network – supported to give a structure to the efforts of amateurs
- A computerised database of fungal records - over 600,000 records of fungi that help understanding of distribution and promote conservation
- ...and the added enjoyment of sharing all this with other people who have the same interests.



British Mycological Society

promoting fungal science