

## HUGH ALBERT PUGH INGRAM (1937–2017)

**H**ugh Ingram died suddenly on 18th March 2017 in his 80th year. Hugh was born in Rugby on 29th April 1937; his father, A.W.K. Ingram, was a teacher and the author of physics textbooks. Both his parents left Rugby during the Second World War and he spent much of his childhood on his grandfather's farm in Abergele, returning to Rugby when he was nine. He then went on to study botany at Cambridge University, where he graduated in 1960 in spite of the loss of a leg through illness. He completed a Ph.D. at Durham, working on *Trichophorum cespitosum sens. lat.* (Deergrass), with David Valentine as his supervisor. He also met his future wife, Ruth Hunter, in Durham; they married in 1962.

After spells of teaching botany, initially at the University of North Wales and then at Bristol as an extramural tutor, he moved to Dundee with Ruth in 1966. Here, Hugh was Lecturer and then Senior Lecturer in Plant Ecology for the rest of his working life. He developed an interest in mire ecosystems and did much research on the hydrology of peatlands and raised bogs. This resulted in many publications and he organised an international conference on peatlands at Dundee in 1989. He also gave advice in the UK and overseas.

Hugh was a botanist of the old school, now so rare in our universities. He was a popular teacher and research supervisor at the university, leading many field outings where he climbed mountains vigorously in spite of his artificial leg. I first met him at botanical lectures organised by the Botanical Society of Scotland in the Dundee Department of Biological Sciences. I remember an inspiring visit to an Angus raised bog with a group from the Scottish Wildlife Trust, and his remarkable agility.

Hugh joined the BSBI in his student days in 1957 and regularly attended the Scottish Annual Meetings. In his early years in Dundee, he owed much to friendship and tutelage from Ursula Duncan, with whom he took part in field recording work, which was later used for the *New Atlas*. He made a major contribution to the *Flora of Angus* (1981) by Ruth Ingram and Henry Noltie, writing the introductory chapters on physical background and ecological history. He also helped to secure funding for the publication.

In a wider field of activity, Hugh was Botanical Editor for the *Journal of Applied Ecology* for six years. He was also a member of the Scottish Museums and Galleries Commission and then, for seven years, a Trustee of

the National Museum of Scotland. He was also deeply involved with the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) for many years and was chairman of the Trust from 1996 to 1999. He presided over the Trust at a time of change and I remember him skilfully steering the council through some tricky decision-making, on one occasion using his casting vote in a particularly difficult matter.

Hugh played a part in setting up the Angus and Dundee Branch of the SWT, and, during my time as chairman, I valued his wise contributions. He helped to secure the important Balgavies SWT reserve in Angus and was chairman of its management committee for many years. He also played a part in the setting up of some other SWT reserves, including Montrose Basin, Loch of the Lowes and Loch of Lintrathen. In 2001, he was awarded the Christopher Cadbury medal for outstanding services to nature conservation by the Royal Society of Nature Conservation.

Hugh was also involved in setting up the University of Dundee Botanic Garden and later, the establishment of the Friends of the University of Dundee Botanic Garden, an organisation which has played a key role in promoting the importance of the Garden in the wider community. His role became particularly important when



Hugh Ingram with his son Alasdair.

the existence of the Garden appeared to be under threat. Hugh was a skilled and dedicated campaigner. He was instrumental in promoting the formation of a Garden Endowment Trust which was set up as a means of securing its future. He will be greatly missed both locally and further afield.

Hugh is survived by his wife Ruth, his son Alasdair and daughter Gwyneth. I am very grateful to Ruth and others for help with this account.

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**Brian Ballinger**