



GLASGOW NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

August 2014

David Palmar
(Newsletter Editor)

Next Newsletter Deadline
22 October 2014

GNHS is a Registered
Scottish Charity
www.gnhs.org.uk/

Winter Programme 2014-15

All meetings in the Boyd Orr Building, Glasgow University, unless stated otherwise.

2014

September

Tuesday 16th 7.30pm Zoology Museum. Exhibition meeting:

Wine and nibbles. Members' natural history exhibits. Let Maggie Reilly know your table or board requirements (0141 330 4772)

Sun 28th Plant Heritage All Scotland Meeting - Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh
"Finders - Keepers" - Plant Hunters, Past and Present and some of the more
Unusual Ways of Conserving Plant Material

Not a GNHS meeting, but organised by the Grampian and Tayside branch of Plant Heritage, this conference promises to be of particular interest to members of GNHS. We have two fine speakers in Julia Corden of the Explorer's Garden in Pitlochry, and Alan Elliot of RBGE, both of whom will speak about their recent expeditions.

There is also the opportunity during the afternoon to enjoy a guided visit to the Herbarium at RBGE which houses some very special conservation items in its collection of nearly three million specimens representing half to two-thirds of the world's flora, as well as a behind the scenes look at some of the activities undertaken at the RBGE research nursery as part of their conservation brief.

The £16 cost for the day includes teas, coffees and lunch. For the programme and an application form please email GNHS member Junella McKay (Secretary of the Strathclyde Branch of Plant Heritage)

October

Tuesday 14th 6.30pm Tutorial: The Kelvingrove Bioblitz; Sarah-Jayne Forster

7.30pm **Lecture:** Black-eyed susan and the frilly lettuce – an exploration of the Celtic rainforest and Caledonian pinewoods; Davie Black

Wednesday 22nd 5pm Graham Kerr Building Lecture Theatre 1 Blodwen

Lloyd Binns Lecture: Telling species apart with DNA; Pete Hollingsworth

November

Tuesday 11th 6.30pm Tutorial: Froglife's Scottish Dragonfinder and Green Pathways projects; James Stead and Lauren Lochrie

7.30pm **Lecture:** Voices in the reeds: passive acoustic monitoring of water rail; Anna McGregor

December

Tuesday 9th Zoology Museum: Christmas buffet dinner – details and booking form in November Newsletter; including **Lecture:** Bravo Charlie Lemur; Tony Payne

Summer Excursion Programme 2014 - Additional Information
From Morag Mackinnon (reprinted from previous Newsletter with additions)

August

Saturday 9th Lockerbie area - Butterflies. Joint meeting with Butterfly Conservation – Scott Donaldson. Contact George Paterson for details.

Sat 16th on Arran Marine reserve and general. Blown out last year - we plan to get a boat or Lamlash ferry to Holy Isle. Numbers limited so names needed early. 8.34 train at Central Station to Ardrossan or meet at Ardrossan Ferry Terminal for 9.45 ferry to Brodick. Arrive Arran 10.40 and get bus to Lamlash for boat trip. Return ferry 16.40 or 19.20. Arrive Glasgow by train at latest 21.25. Bring packed lunch and warm and waterproof clothing. Contact Morag Mackinnon

Saturday 30th 11am Argyll – Moine Mhòr raised Bog between Kilmartin and Crinan. Lichens and other flora fauna. Meet at car park at Moine Mhòr North Moss 3m south of Kilmartin – turn off the Lochgilphead/Oban road A816 on to the B8025 back road to Crinan, Leader James Milner-White.

September

Wednesday 3rd - 10.30am at Hogganfield park car park (not a GNHS event)
Friends of Glasgow's Local Nature Reserves **Jim Coyle / David Palmar**
A guided walk from Hogganfield Park LNR to Frankfield Loch proposed LNR. Keep an eye on the 'Friends of Glasgow's Local Nature Reserves' web site - friendsofglasgowlnrs.wordpress.com - for details of events at Dawsholm Park LNR and other LNRs in the City.

Sunday 28th 11.00-15.00 Loch Libo. Plant galls, birds, insects, plants, fungi. Meet at layby on the A736 beside Loch Libo, NE end of Loch (NS437557). Leader James Milner-White 07967 115 211. Public transport: Stagecoach X44 Glasgow to Ardrossan goes along the A736. The excursion will return to the cars. Terrain: Paths around the north end and down the far side of the loch. The paths are not made up and may well be muddy in places but are not difficult to walk on. Lunch in Uplawmoor Hotel or bring your own. Waterproof footwear, clothing etc. Leader James Milner-White.

October

Saturday 25th Meet 11am Bellahouston Park. Fungi. Joint meeting with Clyde and Argyll Fungus Group – leader Dick Peebles. Morag Mackinnon.

Excursion Reports

Reptiles of East Loch Lomondside, 6th April 2014

George Paterson

An early start on a gloomy day didn't deter 18 members turning out, hopefully to see some of the area's reptiles. The rain started to become heavy shortly after we arrived, giving Chris McInerny the chance to brief us on the circular route we would be taking through the beautiful woodland and where to look for adders. All members were delighted to see at least one adder each especially given the conditions. Four individuals were identified in total. Unfortunately no slow worms or lizards were found, but everyone was happy to have seen an adder. All along the path, every few metres in fact, badger droppings could be seen, as well as pine marten and fox scats.

Many thanks go to our host Chris for sharing his passion and knowledge as well as his particularly keen eyesight. I'd also like to reiterate the importance of keeping the location of these reptiles amongst GNHS members.

Vipera berus **adder**: 4 individuals

Meles meles **badger**: droppings (many)

Martes martes **pine marten**: scat

Vulpes vulpes **red fox**: scat

Lunderston Bay shore walk, 26th April 2014

Morag Mackinnon

Six members enjoyed a very leisurely, warm and sunny afternoon – being amazed at the numerous sand mason worms, green globes of jelly attached to sea bed *Eulalia viridis* at 1 cm and various other unidentified blobs of egg mass. Bootlace worms were at least 1 m. The low tide of 0.2 m was at 4.30pm and this gave us good time to survey the sandy beach and the isolated rocks with exposed tide pools on the rocky shelves at the east end. We also explored the more extensive boulder area at the western end where Alison Moss turned up big flat rocks to reveal our most excellent find of the day – Male pipefish with eggs attached to his body.

Seaweeds	Various – still to be identified
<i>Actina equine</i>	Beadlet Anemone both red and green forms.
<i>Lineus longissimus</i>	Bootlace Worm (Phylum Nemertina)
<i>Eulalia viridis</i>	Green Leaf Worm – Eggs only – green pearshaped jelly
<i>Lanice conchilega</i>	Sand Mason (Family Terebellidae)
<i>Pomatoceros triqueter</i>	Triangular shape encrusting stones and shells (Family Serpulidae)
Molluscs	<i>Lepidopleurus asellus</i> Coat of Mail Chiton
	<i>Patella vulgate</i> – Common Limpet
	<i>Nucella lapillus</i> - Dogwhelk and evidence of their egg cases
	<i>Buccinum undatum</i> – Common Whelk - and egg cases
	Razor clam, Cockle, Queen Scallop, Mussel,
<i>Balanus</i> sp.	Barnacles - Nearly all stones/rocks covered in spat.
Amphipods	unidentified
<i>Carcinus maenas</i>	Common Shore Crab two mating – female with soft carapace
<i>Asterias rubens</i>	Common Starfish
<i>Ophiothrix fragilis</i>	Common Brittlestar
<i>Echinus esculentus</i>	Edible Sea Urchin
<i>Pholis gunnelis</i>	Butterfish
<i>Syngnathus phlegon</i>	Pipefish - one male with eggs attached to abdomen.

Botanic Gardens, Glasgow, 4th May 2014. Dick Peebles led the CAFG group. Two members of GNHS were there and enjoyed seeing some unusual fungi, Hairy marasmus for one.

Hamilton Claypits, 17th May 2014

Richard Weddle

Six members attended the excursion, led by Shiona MacPhail as a follow-up to her talk the previous Tuesday. Part of this area is to be designated a Local Nature Reserve later this year – the most centrally-situated in the city.

The weather was dull, though not wet. A number of trees and birds were noted, though insects such as bees were scarce, and no butterflies were to be seen. We noted the following in the Claypits area itself: Willow Warblers (everywhere) and a singing Garden Warbler; Whitethroats were seen and heard; also Robin, Blackbird, Magpie, Crow, Blue Tit, Great Tit, and two Mute Swans on the canal. There were no Starlings or House Sparrows in evidence.

Much of the area is wooded; regenerating birch is of course frequent, as are hawthorn and various willows. Bob Gray noted "various interesting *Sorbus*: planted *S. aria* '*Lutescens*', '*Majestica*' and *S. intermedia* (Swedish whitebeam), and a lovely intermingling of barely distinguishable creamy white flower heads of planted rowan (*S. aucuparia*) and Bastard service (*S. thuringiaca* '*Fastigiata*') [a variant of a cross between common rowan and common whitebeam]. Oaks are flushing well before ash this year – an oak adjacent to the British Waterways buildings was well into leaf. Plenty of interesting willows and poplars but aspen (*Populus tremula*) absent."

On the 2012 excursion to the Claypits we had observed a good variety of higher plants; on this occasion we added Water Plantain, and at the other side of the canal, by the ruins of the Old Basin Tavern, Dove's-foot Cranesbill – we wondered at first if this might be Small-flowered Cranesbill which had been recorded some years ago, close by at Firhill, but a photograph showing the anthers proved it was *Geranium molle*.

We then took a look at the community garden and art centre in the grounds of the former Rockville School (now demolished apart from the outside toilet-block, which may be used to house beehives), and lastly the Concrete Garden in Balmore Road – this is another community garden with raised beds and other containers – and a single Broad-leaved Helleborine of which the garden-users are inordinately proud. We finished the day with tea and scones in the adjacent hall belonging to the church of St Matthew.

As the weather was much brighter on the Monday following, I paid a return visit alone, and noted the following insects, many of which hadn't been recorded there before -

Bees: the Early Bumblebee; Common Carder Bee; a solitary bee (*Halictus rubicundus*); and sawflies: *Dolerus* (sp.) and *Pristiphora appendiculata*.
Four **butterfly** species: Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Orange-tip and Green-veined White; and five **moths**: Pale Brindled Beauty, Streak, Early Longhorn (*Adela cuprella*), Nettle-tap, and White Sallow Bell (*Epinotia subocellana*).
Several **beetles**: Raspberry Beetle (*Byturus tomentosus*); 7-spot Ladybird (*Coccinella septempunctata*); a click-beetle (*Athous haemorrhoidalis*); a sage-green

'false blister beetle' (*Oedemera virescens*), which is one of those species that seems to be becoming more common in western Central Scotland in recent years, though classified as 'Vulnerable' in England; and several **weevils** not yet identified. Lastly, there were three **hoverfly** species: *Leucozona lucorum*, *Melanostome scalare* and *Xylota segnis*; and a number of **bugs** (Hemiptera) of which only a Mirid (*Liocoris tripustulatus*) has been identified, though there were abundant leaf-hoppers and ground-hoppers. Hoverflies had been well-recorded on several previous visits, so no great effort was made on this occasion.

I have a copy of a Habitat Management Report prepared last year by consultants which gives a lot more detail, of what is there and how the "site could form part of a truly stunning, inner-city conservation and recreation project for the benefit of local communities and the wider city"; I can forward a copy (PDF) to anyone who is interested. Also a full species list for the Claypits area will shortly be available in the Biodiversity section of GNHS website:

www.glasgownaturalhistory.org.uk/bio_sites.html

Carrick Golf Course Nature Reserve, 18th May 2014

Alison Moss

Eight members braved heavy showers at the Carrick Golf Course nature reserve. In the absence of the Warden, Pam Murdoch led the group, this being in her BSBI recording area. We found most typical woodland plants. A nice surprise was a clump of water figwort (*Scrophularia aquatica*). Wood speedwell (*Veronica montana*) was abundant and water plantain *Alisma plantago aquatica* occurred at the lochside. A central area of the reserve had been soil-scraped resulting in some poor-soil species and ephemerals being removed. I hope they appoint a new warden soon! Insects were laid low by the rain. However, we did find the little orange egg of an orange-tip butterfly on the stem of Lady's smock.

The layout of the golf course with its lochans coupled with flooded gravel pits and Loch Lomond inlets is all excellent for a wide range of birds, including migratory species. We were treated to families of Canada and Greylag geese with as many as 9 chicks per pair on the course and reserve. Two pairs of Oyster catchers were seen and one pair of Lapwings. Tufted ducks were the main species on the loch. Perhaps in better weather we would have seen Dippers, Kingfishers and Sand martins making use of the River Fruin which runs through the reserve.

The reserve is open to the public and connected with footpaths and a cycle track. Well worth a visit in all seasons.

Linn Park, 22nd May 2014 - seven attended.

Summer Social at Rowardennan, 3rd June 2014 preceded by a guided tour of the new building. 19 members enjoyed the lovely buffet supper. 6 of us had a good look inside the nests of a Pied flycatcher and a Redstart thanks to Ross Macleod took us for a walk in the woods beforehand.

Sunart weekend, 13-15th June 2014

Friday evening: Strontian Community policy woodland

Saturday am: Garbh Eilean hide on Loch Sunart – Common seals and Herons.

Saturday pm: Ariundle oaks, and Brimstone and Chequered skipper butterflies.

Sunday: Bells Grove - Strontian quarries

Glen Hurich conifer plantations and Loch Shiel Viewpoint

Return via Loch Doilet Viewpoint

A thoroughly enjoyable weekend - 16 attended. Thanks to Bob Gray for his organisation and to Peter Madden (Forestry Commission Ranger) and Eilidh-Ann Phillips (Highland Council Lochaber, Senior Ranger) who very kindly gave us the benefit of their knowledge of the area.

Some photos from the Ariundle Oak Wood on the Sunart weekend:

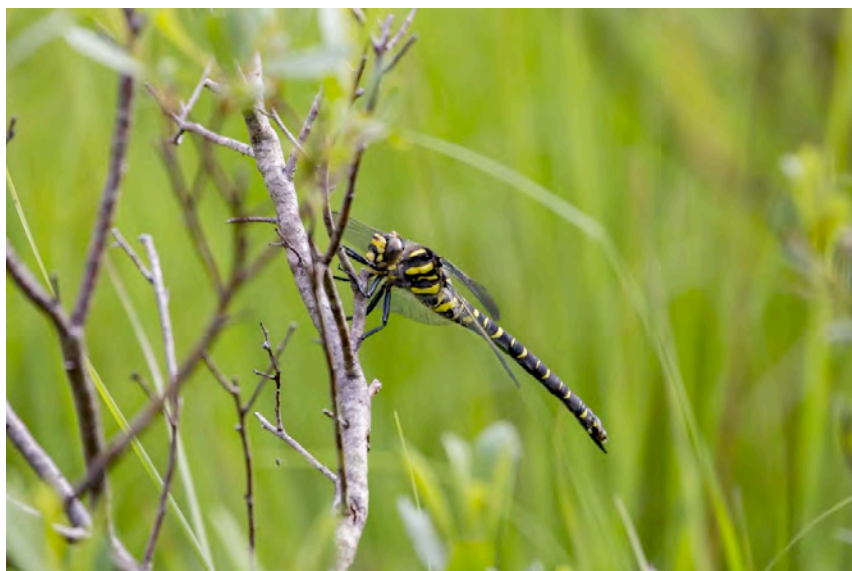
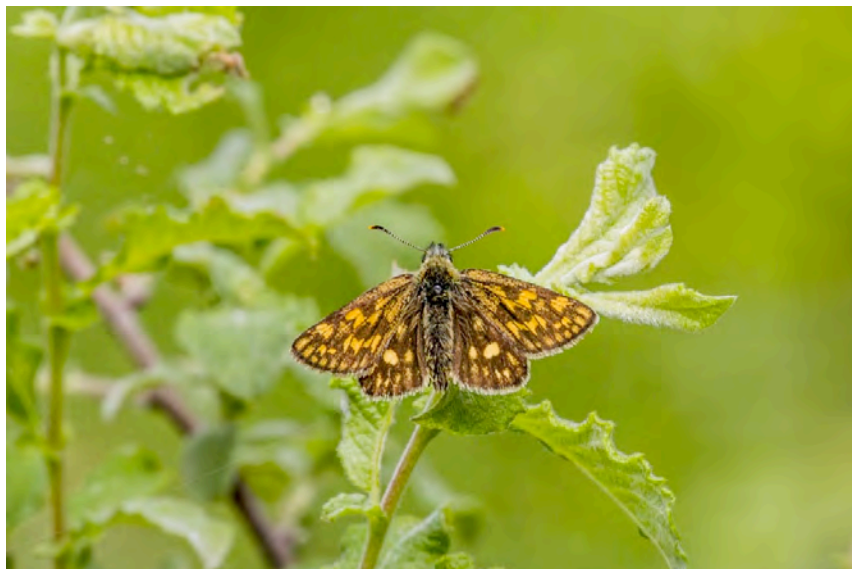


A Chequered skipper butterfly lands on Anne's binoculars.
Photo Bob Gray

Chequered skipper
Carterocephalus palaemon
Photo David Palmar
www.photoscot.co.uk



GNHS members hunting flora
Photo David Palmar
www.photoscot.co.uk



Golden ringed dragonfly
Cordulegaster boltonii, probably a female
Photo David Palmar
www.photoscot.co.uk

Uddingston, 17th June 2014 John Lyth led six members on an interesting walk with many species noted.

Locherwood Community woodland and Ladymoor Reserve, 22nd June 2014

At Locher Community Woodlands the sun shone on Morag, Gill and Alison. The wildlife mix did not disappoint. Just over 200 species of flowering plants and ferns were recorded. Highlights were Common and Heath spotted orchids (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and *D. maculata*), Northern marsh (*D. pupurella*) and Greater butterfly orchids (*Plantathera chlorantha*). Spignel (*Meum athamanticum*), a local speciality, was in full bloom and abundant in places. Lunch by the reservoir was enlivened by the company of hundreds of tiny frogs and the desperate calls of a plover whose chick was photographed by Gill and Morag as it scuttled for better cover.

Govan Graving Docks, 16th July 2014 On a lovely evening, 10 members were led by Peter Macpherson and his daughter Elspeth on a very interesting botanical survey when over 100 species were noted. Ruth Olden will talk about this subject on 14 April.

PhotoSCENE 2014-15 – win part of £800 worth of prizes!

The deadline for submitting entries to this year's photographic competition featuring (but not restricted to) the Kelvin Biodiversity Network is the end of October 2014. GNHS members and students and staff of the University of Glasgow Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine are eligible to enter. Full details are on the GNHS website at <http://www.gnhs.org.uk/news.html> including links to last year's winning entries.

Kelvin Biodiversity Network

Lyn Dunachie

The Kelvin Biodiversity Network was named in December 2013 at a meeting of representatives of GNHS, Friends of the River Kelvin and the Clyde River Foundation. Since April 2014, Paul Gunn, RSPB Community Greenspace Officer, has become one of the core group.

A brainstorming session resulted in an extensive list of organisations that might be interested in exploring the natural and social history of the Kelvin from the City boundary near the Vet Hospital to its mouth at the Clyde.

Over 30 organisations have now been contacted. Those who have replied saying they want to receive further information and become part of the network have been included in a database. Richard Weddle will distribute (but not write) e-mail messages within the network.

GNHS has agreed to focus some future excursions, tutorials and lectures on the Kelvin and its biodiversity. These could be designated as joint meetings with FORK. It is hoped that by sharing their knowledge with other groups more people will be encouraged to report plants and animals observed thus bringing records up to date. We hope the Network will also be able to initiate new activities, possibly including:

- Canoe trip down the Kelvin (organised by Wild by Nature). This will form part of the Community Greenspace Festival in September 2014.
- DACE courses on relevant topics, including a future symposium.
- Student Projects
- GNHS/ Glasgow University photo competition will have a section for this
- CRIMP, FORK and RSPB are already involved with some of the schools in the area.

The distribution and vocal behaviour of Water rail *Rallus aquaticus* in the greater Glasgow area has been the subject of a summer research experience study by Natalie Sinclair, a third-year undergraduate at the University of Glasgow. She has also documented the presence of Spotted crane *Porzana porzana* on two separate occasions this summer at RSPB Loch Lomond, 21st May and 4th June, through passively recording their calls (Figure 1). Working with her project supervisor Dr Anna McGregor, Natalie has been testing the use of passive acoustic monitoring to detect cryptic water birds in three RSPB sites around Glasgow: Baron's Haugh, Lochwinnoch, and Loch Lomond. These spotted crane records are particularly interesting because they have occurred during one of the non-survey years of the 5-year monitoring protocol currently in practice, highlighting the potential for the use of passive acoustics to complement other available techniques for species that are difficult to detect by visual survey methods.

Although the spotted crane record is a highlight during her study, Natalie's work has focused on acoustic communication in water rail. She is comparing the calls of different individual birds to investigate whether abundance estimates are possible from acoustic recordings. The second objective of her work is to relate calling rates to habitat availability, as larger habitat areas may present greater need for individuals to communicate over longer distances. The data collection for this study is just finishing, with full analysis to be completed by late September 2014. Since early May, Natalie has been collecting sound recordings from dawn and dusk periods as well as hourly 15 minute intervals through the day and night, allowing for complete 24-hour sampling (Figure 2). Other interesting sounds recorded from Loch Lomond in particular include sedge and grasshopper warbler song, roe deer barks and pheasant contact calls.

This project would not have been possible without the very helpful assistance of the RSPB and its staff, particularly Paula Baker, Robert Coleman (RSPB Loch Lomond), Zul Bhatia, Tabitha Lamont (RSPB Lochwinnoch), and Stephen Owen (RSPB Baron's Haugh). We are also very grateful for travel and equipment support from GNHS and a vacation scholarship from the Carnegie Trust. Outside advice was provided by Dr Ross McGregor.

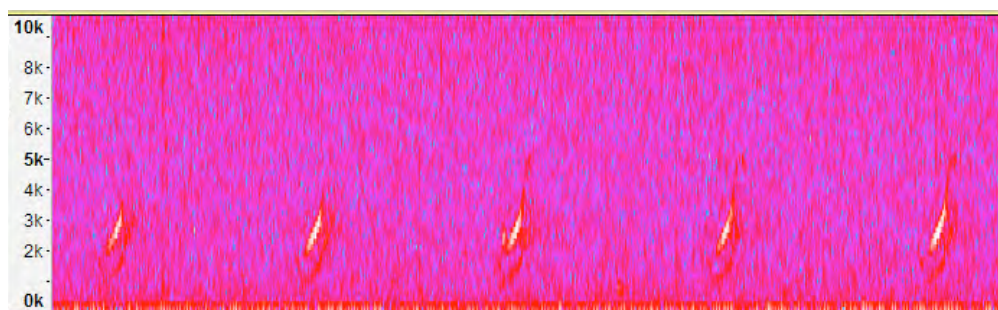


Figure 1. Visual representation of five spotted crane calls recorded at RSPB Loch Lomond on 04 June 2014, showing changes in frequency (kHz) over time (s). Loudness is shown by the brightness in colour, with white/yellow indicating the loudest part of the sound. These calls, each 0.11 s in duration, were extracted from a total of 144 hours of recordings collected from the three sites in a 3 month period from May to August 2014.



Editor's note:
 Anna McGregor will be talking about Voices in the reeds at the GNHS meeting on 11th November 2014.

Figure 2. Natalie deploying the passive acoustic recorder at RSPB Loch Lomond (SM2+, Wildlife Acoustics). The recorder is strapped to a branch or stake in a relatively open area overlooking the marsh habitat favoured by water rail.

Early Marsh Orchids at two sites near Milngavie

Bill Parkes



D. incarnata ssp. *pulchella* at second Drumclog site, 12th June 2014

In *The Changing Flora of Glasgow* (Dickson *et al.* 2000), the species *Dactylorhiza incarnata* is recorded as very uncommon in the Glasgow area, known only in base rich flushes at Drumclog, just north of Milngavie. I have been monitoring this species here continuously for some 25 years and have maintained data on the annual numbers counted in the period late June to early July. Plants in flower are relatively easy to find even in moderately long vegetation because of their strikingly bright colour. There are actually two marsh sites either side of the Allander Water in which dark magenta form of the species, *D. incarnata* ssp. *pulchella* regularly occurs.

The first is on the west side of the river, immediately south of the Milngavie Golf Club House, where the *pulchella* subspecies of the early marsh orchid invariably appears in quite small numbers among *Sphagnum* moss and grasses. Records have been kept from 1989 onwards, revealing a highly variable quantity in flower from

year to year. The counts have ranged from only one in 1992, two in 2014 to as many as 40 flowering in 2001. Normally their numbers lie between 5 and 20 with a mean of 11 over the last 26 years.

The second site is a considerably larger marsh which slopes down from the West Highland Way towards the Allander, the upper part of which is dominated by bracken in the drier parts, grading into rushes in the middle. However towards the bottom of the slope the ground becomes wetter and the early marsh orchids are found in this area, again generally among mosses and grassy vegetation. Between 1992 and 2009 the numbers of *D. incarnata* ssp. *pulchella* which were recorded in flower varied between zero and seven, but they have increased more recently, with as many as 25 counted flowering this year (example in first photograph).

Of particular interest at the latter site is the occasionally occurring flesh pink form of the early marsh, *D. incarnata* ssp. *incarnata*. I have recorded its appearance in only five years, in 1992 (2 plants), 1996 (3), 1998 (2), 2006 (1) and 2014 (1). There seems to be some controversy among botanists that light coloured specimens of the magenta *pulchella* have been mistaken for the pink *D. incarnata* ssp. *incarnata*, but my own impression is that the light flesh pink colour of the latter is unmistakable, as shown in the second photograph depicting the specimen that grew this year at the site. Subspecies *pulchella* at these sites always has the same deep magenta hue and I have never found any examples of gradation between the two forms. Both subspecies are recorded by the National Biodiversity Network Gateway to grow together at the Brig o' Turk Mires site, some 20 miles to the north of Milngavie.



D. incarnata ssp. *incarnata*
at second Drumclog site,
12th June 2014

Dickson J.H., Macpherson P. and Watson K., *The Changing Flora of Glasgow*.
Edinburgh University Press 2000.

Letter from the Goldenland 8 Jim Dickson and Geneviève Lécrivain Bluebell not Wild Hyacinth (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

In the letter from the Goldenland on woodlands (no 6) we mentioned Bluebells in passing and now we return to this subject. We realise that unintentionally the impression may have been given that Bluebells are little known in France. Certainly for the region of Franche-Comté that is true; there are a mere two places in the Department of Haute-Saône and at the one that we know the number of plants is very low, barely double figures. This spring we were surprised to see a Bluebell wood in another part of France where we had gone to investigate Scottish royal thistles in the medieval buildings there. The photos show a great mass of Bluebells in what can readily be called a Bluebell wood, just like those around Glasgow and elsewhere in Britain, the stronghold of the species. There are thousands upon thousands of plants. The woodland is close to Chateau La Verrerie south of Aubigny-sur-Nère, Department of Cher (north central France); inside the chapel of this chateau, built by the Franco-Scottish military family the Stuarts of Aubigny

about 1500, there are many paintings of thistles and fleurs de lys—more of that, perhaps, in another publication.



It would never occur to me to say “Wild Hyacinth wood”. Yet repeatedly one reads in books on British plants that the Scots use the name Wild Hyacinth and not Bluebell. I have in front of me a book I warmly recommended to students, *The Wild Flower Key* by Francis Rose, a well-known English field botanist. However, it states “Bluebell (Hyacinth in Scot)”. Starting

seriously searching for plants in and around Glasgow at the age of 14, I am now 77 and have botanised all over Scotland (and in many other countries too) and I have never heard any Scot say the likes of “Yesterday I went to the Wild Hyacinth wood”. It’s always Bluebell.

What is the origin of this widespread misinformation about the vernacular name? Which botanical author started it? Dare I suggest probably an English one? I have long wanted to find out but have never spared the time. Does anyone know? In *Flora Britannia* Richard Mabey states that Robert Burns “uses wild hyacinth and bluebell synonymously”. Really? I have not followed this intriguing claim up, as yet anyway.



A closer view of part of the great mass of Bluebells

Now back to la belle France. You can see a map of Bluebell in *Atlas of the Flora of France* (online). It occurs mostly in the north, west and centre of the country but very sparsely in the east and south.

If you are wondering what the common name of Bluebell in France is, it is Jacinthe des Bois according to Gaston Bonnier’s *Flore complete portative de la France, de la Suisse et de Belge*, published many, many moons ago, and according to the

Conservatoire Botanique du Centre (online) it is Jacinthe des Bois (Hyacinth of the Woods) or Jacinthe Sauvage (Wild Hyacinth).

Here is a wild speculation about Wild Hyacinth. Could Wild Hyacinth, rather than Bluebell, be a consequence of the Auld Alliance? Long ago did some French medieval knight say to a genteel lady resident of Edinburgh "In France we call it Jacinthe Sauvage" and somehow it stuck becoming Wild Hyacinth north of the border, if perhaps only in the east. To adapt the catch-phrase made famous by a recent former Rector of the University of Glasgow "We don't believe it!"

Membership of BRISC

Richard Weddle

At the last Council meeting we agreed that GNHS would become a 'corporate member' of BRISC. This means that GNHS members can attend BRISC events at reduced rates, also our Library will receive a copy of the BRISC quarterly Newsletter 'BRISC Recorder' – and members with internet access will be able to read it online or download it.

The next event which may be of interest is the Annual Conference, which this year has the theme of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, and will take place in the Park Gateway Centre in Balloch on October 4th 2014; it will consist of short talks and a choice of brief field excursions to nearby locations.

'BRISC' stands for Biological Recording in Scotland, and its core concerns have always been encouraging and supporting individuals who are interested in recording wildlife and to address issues to do with local Biological Record Centres in Scotland. Most notably in this connection it was instrumental in submitting a petition to the Scottish Government which resulted in the setting up a Steering Group with the aim of establishing a Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum which will oversee the whole system of biodiversity information, such as:

- encouraging existing and new recorders
- how biological records are verified
- coordinating data-flow to local, regional and national organisations who use such information in their work
- making the information generally available through the NBN Gateway.

See www.brisec.org.uk and www.sbif.org.uk for more information.

BRISC and GNHS Bursaries

In the past, recipients of GNHS bursaries towards attendance at courses in taxonomic identification have had accounts about their interest published in both the GNHS and BRISC Newsletters.

Now that GNHS members have access to the BRISC Newsletter – which also contains accounts from recipients of the BRISC bursaries – we will normally no longer replicate the accounts in the GNHS Newsletter.

Garden Festival in Glasgow

Paul Gunn

Across Glasgow, local people have been working together to protect, enhance and enjoy the green spaces around them and these community groups are at the heart of RPSB's 'Giving Nature a Home in Glasgow' project. Together we are sharing expertise, man power, tools and enthusiasm to link up all the groups across Glasgow and create a city that is a haven for wildlife.

As part of this fantastic project, we will be running a Garden Festival from the 9th till the 30th of September. Bringing together and showcasing the great work being carried out by our city's community organisations. From Kelvingrove to Maryhill, Shettleston to the Gorbals; the citywide scope of this festival will provide a wide array of fascinating greenspaces and plenty of fun activities for all!

For more information regarding the festival, please visit www.glasgowgardenfestival.org (webpage will be up and running from August) or check out the Giving Nature a Home blog at www.rspb.org.uk/gnahglasgow

The Scottish Naturalist and The Western Naturalist **– free online access**

Alan Knox

Over the years *The Scottish Naturalist* and *The Western Naturalist* have published a great many important papers, as well as notes and obituaries documenting the history and development of Scottish natural history. Latterly in particular, the journals had limited circulation and access has been difficult for anyone who did not receive their own printed copies or have a set of the journal(s) in a nearby library.

We would like to make access to the full run of the journals available through the Biodiversity Heritage Library. The BHL www.biodiversitylibrary.org, whose main partners in the UK are the Natural History Museum and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, has become the world's main free archive of digitised natural history literature, and has established itself as a leading online research library. If you don't already know it, you should have a look – it offers free access to a vast amount of historical books and journals, including the *Scottish Naturalist* and the *Annals of Scottish Natural History* through to 1922, the *Proceedings of the Glasgow Natural History Society*, rare books by Pennant, Harvie-Brown, MacGillivray and much more. By adding the rest of the *Scottish Naturalist* (after 1922) and the short run of the *Western Naturalist* to the BHL we hope this will allow more people around the world to find and read these journals and appreciate their contribution to natural history. It will bring these journals to many new audiences.

The heirs of Dr Jack Gibson, as well as Aberdeen University Press and the current owners of Oilver & Boyd as publishers of the journal have either given their consent, or raised no objections to this plan. Authors, photographers and artists originally submitted their articles and other material to the *Scottish Naturalist* and the *Western Naturalist* for print publication, mostly before the idea of digital access came along. It is now impracticable or impossible to trace all the individual contributors or their legal representatives, but we believe that most or all would be happy to see their work now reaching new and wider audiences to the overall benefit of Scottish natural history. If any copyright holder does not wish to have their material included in free digital access, they are asked to contact mail@the-

soc.org.uk to discuss this with us as soon as possible, preferably before 1 December 2014. Arrangements are in place to have material excluded from web access where necessary.

Some more photos from the Sunart weekend:

Eilidh-Ann Phillips
(Highland Council
Lochaber, Senior
Ranger) points out
landscape features to
GNHS members at
Strontian Community
Woodland

Photo David Palmar
www.photoscot.co.uk



Peter Madden
(Forestry Commission
Ranger) explains the
workings of a fish
hatchery to GNHS
members near
Strontian
Photo David Palmar
www.photoscot.co.uk

General Correspondence to the General Secretary

**Next Newsletter - copy to David Palmar by 22nd October 2014 please.
email:**

Contributions by members – long or short - are particularly welcomed. Please send contributions by email, preferably as .rtf, .doc or .docx (Word 2007) format. If you have time, please italicise taxonomic names, and use **Verdana** font, size **12 points**.

Photos are welcome – Please send any to David for the Newsletter, especially if it illustrates an aspect of the work of GNHS, e.g. if it was taken on one of our excursions. If sending photos, please send separate jpgs under 100Kb each (**not** embedded in a Word file please).