



GLASGOW NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

August 2017

David Palmar
(Newsletter Editor)

Next Newsletter Deadline
22 October 2017

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

Winter Meetings Programme 2017-18

Roger Downie

Meetings are held in the Boyd Orr Building, Glasgow University, unless stated otherwise, and will normally begin at 7.00 for 7.15pm. Where there are two lectures listed for an evening, each will last about 30 minutes. At the start of most meetings there will be a short time when members can present their recent observations: these can be short talks (about 2 minutes), or interesting specimens, or photographs.

Members' observations

Following discussion at Council, we have decided to change the way members can bring observations and specimens to the attention of others. For many years, we have started the winter programme with a members' night in September where people have brought recently collected specimens. A problem with this approach is that it depends on what is available at that time. Long ago, every evening meeting included a slot for members to report on recent sightings and bring interesting specimens, and at our joint meetings with Paisley and Hamilton NHSSs, we have noted that they maintain this tradition.

For this winter programme, starting in September, we encourage members to report on their recent observations. We are seeking short talks (2 minutes), interesting specimens or photographs. These will all be presented before the main talk of the evening. To allow time for this, we have reduced talks to one 50 minute talk or two 30 minute talks on most evenings, with members' presentations from 7.00pm and talks starting at 7.15pm. It will be helpful if members intending to make such a presentation can let me know in advance.

2017

September

Tuesday 19th

7 for 7.15pm Lecture: Plastics and poo: threats to Scotland's marine life; Tara Proud, Marine Conservation Society.

October

Tuesday 10th

7 for 7.15pm Lecture 1: Spider diversity in plantation forests; Kirsty Godsman
Lecture 2: Access, education and environment – experiences of a wind farm ranger; Rennie Mason.

November

Wednesday 1st – note day and time!

5.00pm Graham Kerr Building Lecture Theatre 1

Blodwen Lloyd Binns Lecture: The global conservation of freshwater fishes; Gordon McGregor Reid.

Tuesday 14th

7 for 7.15pm Lecture: Cool biology – insights into the thermal world of vertebrates; Dominic McCafferty.

Thursday 23rd – note venue, day and time!

7.30pm Bower (Botany) Building

Botanic Gardens Bicentenary Lecture (jointly with Friends of the Glasgow Botanic Gardens and the Glasgow Treelovers' Society): Ancient oaks in the English landscape; Aljos Farjon, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

December

Tuesday 12th

Christmas buffet dinner – see November Newsletter for details and booking form; includes Lecture: A year in the life of Seven Lochs; Scott Ferguson.

Calling all Treelovers

Roger Downie

You will notice that this year's winter programme includes a joint meeting with Friends of Glasgow Botanic Gardens and the Glasgow Treelovers on 23rd November, as a contribution to the Botanic Gardens bicentenary. The speaker is Dr Aljos Farjon, a tree expert from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and he will be talking on ancient oaks. His book, 'Ancient Oaks in the English Landscape', is now available from NHBS or Amazon for £30.

Summer-Autumn Excursion Programme 2017

Alison Moss

August

Two Guided Walks around the Cadzow Oaks at Chatelherault Country Park have been scheduled on Sunday 13th and Thursday 24th August, 10:30am – 12pm each day – not a GNHS excursion, but see article below. Tickets can be booked at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/insects-at-cadzow-oaks-tickets-35788958739

September

Fri 1st, 7.30pm, Glasgow Botanic Gardens, Moth and Bat evening; meet at the Main Gate. Led by Butterfly Conservation and Clyde Bat Group.

Sat 2nd Day event, Glasgow Botanic Gardens. Bioblitz led by RSPB; part of Glasgow Wildfest.

Joint excursions with the Clyde and Argyll Fungus Group

There will be at least two joint excursions in September/October/November. The CAFG programme tends to stay flexible due to weather patterns affecting fungi. Their provisional programme will be ready soon, but it is best for our members to watch for emails regarding excursions nearer the time or contact Alison Moss.

Deadwood supports Life in the Cadzow Oaks, Chatelherault Country Park **Jeanne Robinson**

The ancient and magnificent Cadzow Oaks, within Chatelherault County Park, are a nationally significant remnant of what is probably the most ancient surviving oak woodland in Scotland.

Planted nearly seven centuries ago, when Robert the Bruce was still alive and hunting deer, they are considered a 'national treasure' through their status as part of the Clyde Valley Woodlands National Nature Reserve. And now, the public are being offered the chance to get to know this nationally significant and iconic habitat through a series of events and volunteering opportunities.

The Cadzow Oaks are a fantastic example of ancient wood pasture. As veteran trees lose vitality in older age, they start to become more interesting to other forms of life: a self-renewing deadwood resource playing host to an ever richer and more diverse flora and fauna. Even within one veteran tree, a range of deadwood habitats including dry rot holes, wet rot holes and rotting heartwood will support a different variety of lifeforms.



The Cadzow Oaks (Hunterian Museum)

The reserve at Chatelherault is nationally important for its wealth of rare invertebrate life. Around 40% of woodland wildlife is thought to be dependent on these habitats in the UK which support a breathtaking range of saproxylic (deadwood dependent) species, including fungi, lichens, invertebrates, mosses and birds.

The project, Life in the Cadzow Oaks, focuses on invertebrate species, most notably spiders and beetles such as the nationally notable rove beetle *Biblopectus pusillus* or the cobweb beetle *Ctesias serra*, for the first time since the 1950s and 1960s.

Survey results will be compared to a survey completed over 50 years ago, the results of which are held in the Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow. It is hoped that the survey will confirm the presence and abundance of key species that were recorded in the past and note any changes. Findings will be used to inform management plans, ensuring the appropriate conservation of these unique habitats for the future.

The project is led by the University of Glasgow's Hunterian Museum, with assistance from South Lanarkshire Countryside and Greenspace team and funding from Heritage Lottery Fund and LEADER supported Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership (CAVLP) and Glasgow Natural History Society.

The Hunterian Museum are looking for volunteers to assist in regular fieldwork, including trap checking and general surveying duties at the Cadzow Oaks site from now until March 2018. No experience is necessary, as training will be given. Volunteers will be able to enjoy surveying whilst spending time in a beautiful landscape, some of which is usually inaccessible to the general public. The amount of time that volunteers can contribute to the project is flexible, but they should be available through the day on Thursdays and/or Fridays to fit in with the project schedule. Contact details can be found below.

Two FREE Insects at Cadzow Oaks Guided Walks have been scheduled on Sunday 13 and Thursday 24 August, 10:30am – 12pm each day. People are invited to come along to find out more about the fieldwork that is happening and explore parts of the ancient site not normally accessible to the public. Tickets can be booked at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/insects-at-cadzow-oaks-tickets-35788958739, or by searching 'Insects at Cadzow Oaks' at www.eventbrite.co.uk

Jeanne Robinson, Curator of Entomology at the Hunterian Museum, who is leading the project says, "The sampling will concentrate on the saproxylic fauna throughout the year, using a combination of proved search methods. Up-to-date knowledge of the invertebrate community is of central importance in the conservation of the natural heritage of this area. A remarkable 40% of woodland wildlife is dependent on deadwood and a number of the saproxylic insects that depend on it have now become extremely rare, as a result of loss of habitat. Hopefully the Cadzow oaks are offering a safe haven for many such species."

She continues, "We are looking forward to comparing the new survey results with those of Roy and Betty Crowson's survey from over 50 years ago. Hopefully we will find a thriving saproxylic fauna. The results will facilitate the evaluation and formulation of appropriate management prescriptions and future monitoring of site quality."

Located in the Hamilton High Parks area of Chatelherault Country Park, which is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and part of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the Cadzow Oaks were planted when the area was still a Hunting Forest in the Kingdom of Strathclyde and are silent witnesses to huge changes that have occurred in the landscape over the centuries.

Donna Marshall, CAVLP Programme Manager says, "We hope that people are inspired to volunteer for the Cadzow Oaks Deadwood Invertebrates 50 Years On survey. The Landscape Partnership programme includes a range of large-scale

projects, including the removal of non-native conifers in Chatelherault Country Park, Community Links path maintenance projects and the installation of fish passes on the Avon Water at Millheugh and Ferniegair Weirs. The Deadwood Invertebrates study is an example of what may look like a small-scale intervention, but has vital and lasting impact on the wider landscape.”

People interested in volunteering to help with the Cadzow Oaks Deadwood Invertebrates Survey should contact Jeanne Robinson, Curator of Entomology at the Hunterian Museum at jeanne.robinson@glasgow.ac.uk 0141 330 2303, Monday – Wednesday.

Places on the guided walks are FREE but booking is essential at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/insects-at-cadzow-oaks-tickets-35788958739> or by searching 'Insects at Cadzow Oaks' at www.eventbrite.co.uk

For further information, please contact:

Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership, info@clydeandavonvalley.com, 01555 663430/07432 465903

About Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership

- The Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and LEADER as part of the Scottish Rural Development Programme. LEADER is co-funded by the European Union and supports eligible projects in rural areas
- The aims of the organisation are to conserve, enhance and celebrate the unique landscape and cultural heritage of the Clyde and Avon valleys
- The Partnership consists of ten key partners: South Lanarkshire Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Central Scotland Green Network Trust, Clydesdale Community Initiatives, New Lanark Trust, Northlight Heritage, RSPB Scotland Baron's Haugh, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Wildlife Trust, and The Rural Development Trust

Dedication of a tree in memory of the late Dr Peter Macpherson.

A ceremony held in order to dedicate a memorial oak and plaque to Peter was held on Thursday, 27th April at 6.30pm. The tree is, appropriately, a sessile oak, *Quercus petraea*, and has been planted on the north-facing slope outside the Main Building of Glasgow University, facing University Avenue. Peter's family, led by Elspeth Lindsay, his eldest daughter, attended together with several members of the Society. Roger Downie chaired the proceedings whilst Jim Dickson and Elspeth said a few words.

Jim Dickson pointed out that Peter's interest in natural history was evident from his flower identification skills shown during his early school days. Since his teenage years he was aware of Professor Blodwen Lloyd-Binns (BLB), the great benefactor of the Society, and he himself was for more than 20 years one of the BLB fund administrators. Not only that, but Peter himself was twice president of the Society as well as holding other senior positions. He left a substantial bequest to the Society on his death.

That the flora of West Central Scotland has never been better known than until now is owed in large measure to Peter, especially in his collaboration in the writing of *The Changing Flora of Glasgow* in 2000, *The Flora of Renfrewshire* in 2013 and finally his authorship in 2016 of *The Flora of Lanarkshire*. This last book, his *magnum opus*, was published not long after his death.

For many years he worked as a distinguished radiologist at the Southern General Hospital. For his services to natural history, including having been president of the BSBI, he was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List of 2002.

In its long history the GNHS can have had few if any more devoted and productive members than Peter.

Elsbeth spoke as follows: "The family of Peter Macpherson are honoured to be here this evening to dedicate this tree to his memory. Dad would have been delighted to be recognised in this fashion. On behalf of the extended Macpherson clan I thank the Glasgow Natural History Society and the University of Glasgow for honouring him in this way.



He attended Anderson College Medical School which was situated at the Argyle Street entrance of the University Campus. His three daughters and a grandson studied at Glasgow and Lorna is currently a Professor of Dental Public Health. Dad was a senior clinical lecturer.

He had a lifelong connection with the University and you are

all aware of his many years of involvement with the GNHS. With his quirky sense of humour he would have been very pleased that a sessile oak, specific name *petraea*, has been planted in his memory. I have probably pronounced that as if it is a disease, an affliction often attributed to dad as well.

When we were chatting about this event last weekend my sister Barbara reminded me that as the youngest member of the GNHS she 'planted a tree in 73' for the Society in the south east corner of Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum grounds. Within a short while the area was re-landscaped and the tree uprooted. Following representation from the Society she planted another, 'plant some more in 74'. This cherry tree formed part of an avenue at the front of Kelvingrove. This also succumbed to renovation works...I do hope that a tree planted in '17 will grow tall and green and for many generations will be seen.' Sorry for the very contrived rhyme.

Dad's input to *The Changing Flora of Glasgow* and his *Flora of Lanarkshire* are a lasting tribute to his passion and energetic plant recording. This tree is a further reminder of his contribution to field botany in the Central belt in Scotland. Thank you to the GNHS, especially Bob (Gray), for organising this event and Jim (Dickson) and Roger (Downie) for their kind words. Thanks to everyone for coming along to this ceremony."

PhotoSCENE 2017-18 Natural History Photographic Competition

David Palmar

Win your share of £800 worth of prizes!

This competition is sponsored by Glasgow Natural History Society and the University of Glasgow Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine. Its aims are to promote interest in Natural History and the work of SCENE (Scottish Centre for Ecology and the Natural Environment) at Rowardennan, linkage between the Institute and the Society, and providing pictures for publicity.

During the last 5 years, participation in the competition has increased, and last year there were 117 entries to the competition, with 11 of the 30 entrants winning a prize – compare your chances with that in the National Lottery!

It is hoped that GNHS members, and the staff and students of the Institute will again support the competition. The deadline for submitting entries is the end of October 2017. GNHS members and students and staff of the University of Glasgow Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine are eligible to enter. Prizewinners will be announced at the GNHS photographic night on Tuesday 13th February 2018. Full details are on the GNHS website at <http://www.gnhs.org.uk/photoscene.html>

2017 Excursion Reports

Uplawmoor and Shillford Wood, 30th April 2017

James Milner-White

Fourteen GNHS members went on an excursion to Uplawmoor focusing on mosses and liverworts. From the Uplawmoor Hotel car park we went south-east in the Dunlop direction and examined the variety of comparatively large mosses along the roadside. The preceding dry spell of weather meant that some of the mosses were becoming yellow and a bit straggly compared to their pristine green winter state, although still recognizable.

After lunch the group went in the opposite direction into Shillford Wood to look at woodland mosses. The highlight was a particularly well-rotted log that exhibited the small but characteristic flora found in such situations. This included the liverworts Rustwort (*Nowellia curvifolia*, at a distance looking like rust) and Germanderwort (*Riccardia palmata*), and the moss *Tetraphis pellucida*, characterized by having only four teeth at the apex of the spore capsule.

Geology collection, Glasgow Museums Resources Centre, 13th May 2017

Alison Moss

Five of us had an excellent morning being shown round the Geology collection. Each of us knew bits and pieces of geology from our various backgrounds, but we learned so much more. Curator Ann Ainsworth fed us just the right amount of

information with superb illustrations carefully selected by her from the huge collection at the Centre.

First we were shown the mineral collection from around the world, tray upon tray of specimens. We were rather spell-bound by their quality. The next cases contained mineral specimens from Scotland, demonstrating just how geologically diverse and rich our country is. We then progressed to 'rocks'. These were brought alive by Ann's wealth of information and patience in answering our many questions. Lastly, an amazing collection of carefully curated tiny fossils. How was this done without modern lighting? Then there were sharks' teeth, corals, enormous bird bones, and finally plant fossils.

The morning simply wasn't long enough. If this opportunity arises again, take it!

Loch Ardinning, 28th May 2017

Alison Moss

Twelve of us gathered at this excellent Scottish Wildlife (SWT) site. The Reserve has a huge range of habitats from the loch itself to loch-side with many different margin types as well as marshes, woodland and moors. It was a great help to be sent the SWT species lists for plants, birds and invertebrates. Phil Sansum recorded plants, there being some peculiar gaps in the SWT list of over 150spp. It's not often we feel smug about recording a daisy (*Bellis perennis*)!

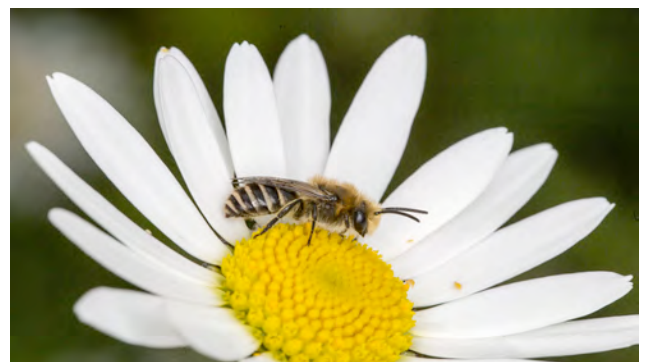
There was a large number of colourful moths and butterflies about. Pat Thomson photographed a few including the silver-ground carpet and a beautiful white moth - the common wave. There were several male orange-tips and a few small heath butterflies, and I was envious that Pat and 2 others also saw a green hairstreak butterfly, and carpets of cranberry plants around the high heath area.

A rather large long-horn beetle (*Rhagium bifasciatum*) caused a bit of a stir with the whole group at the beginning of the day; later on Jaime found a colourful ground-beetle *Elaphrus cupreus*, and Phil found a purple-metallic click-beetle with spectacular antennae - *Ctenicera cuprea*. In all, 14 beetle species, 23 butterflies and moths, 139 plants, and 13 birds were recorded.

I had a visit the week before and the air resonated with the calls of cuckoos and the drilling of woodpeckers. Perhaps the extra people at weekends keeps the birds in a lower profile. However, considering its proximity to the very busy Mugdock Country Park, Loch Ardinning Reserve is very quiet and a superb place to see a great variety of wildlife.

Bees in the Hidden Gardens Suzanne Burgess

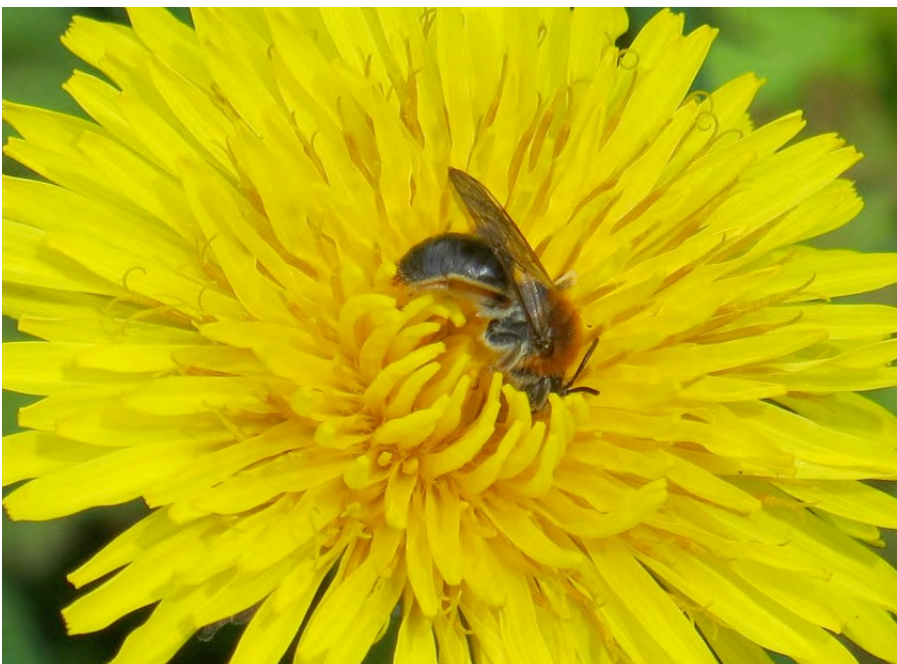
On the afternoon of the 21st of June 2017, Suzanne Burgess (Buglife Scotland Manager) and Richard Weddle visited the Hidden Gardens (NS 58090 63101) in Pollokshields, Glasgow. The Hidden Gardens have a number of volunteers who



Solitary bee (*Colletes daviesanus*) - David Palmar

attend every week to learn about gardening, growing food and their local wildlife. This visit by Buglife, funded by Scottish Natural Heritage, involved training the volunteers on how to survey, identify and record the different species of bee and other pollinators that are found in the gardens.

A number of invertebrate species were recorded during this visit including several common species of bumblebee such as Red tailed (*Bombus lapidarius*) and Common carder bee (*Bombus pascuorum*) and the hoverflies *Scaeva pyrastris* and the Marmalade hoverfly (*Episyrphus balteatus*). Three species of solitary bee were collected by volunteers including a female Patchwork leafcutter bee (*Megachile centuncularis*), a female Hairy yellow-face bee (*Hylaeus hyalinatus*) and a male Fork-tailed flower bee (*Anthophora furcata*). It appears that the *Hylaeus hyalinatus* and *Anthophora furcata* are new records for Glasgow which is great news for the volunteers who help manage the gardens.



Orange-tailed mining bee (*Andrena haemorrhoa*) – Suzanne Burgess

A second visit by Suzanne and Richard to the gardens on the afternoon of the 12th of July 2017 recorded two further species of solitary bee, Davies' colletes (*Colletes daviesanus*) and the Orange-tailed mining bee (*Andrena haemorrhoa*) the second of which is a new species for the Hidden Gardens area.

There is a great mix of plant species within the Hidden Gardens including native wildflowers, herbs as well as more cultivated varieties of plants. This

range of species as well as the variety of habitats available within the gardens are perfect for pollinators and will act as an important stepping-stone for species moving and mixing across Glasgow.

A third visit to the gardens is due to take place in the next couple of months; who knows what we will find?

The Easy Dispatching of Giant Hogweed in Craigton Wood, Milngavie J. H. Dickson and A.E. Birkbeck

In mid June 2017 much to his surprise JHD found a small colony of the notorious Giant Hogweed in Craigton Wood (NS 540753). This came about because JHD was keen to see closely the trunk of one of two Giant Redwoods, planted probably in the late 19th Century. Nearby there was a large rosette of Giant Hogweed. A subsequent visit that month revealed four more plants, two of which were sprouting

inflorescences already 2 m tall. See pages 338-339 of Dickson *et al.* (2000) for a discussion of the dermatological effects.

The Wood has in recent years been a matter of controversy regarding nature conservation versus house building. So, despite its size the Giant Hogweed has seemingly escaped notice till 2017; this has happened because it was very effectively hidden. South of the metalled track that runs the length of the wood, it was growing in the moist little valley surrounded by, but not overtopped by, trees, shrubs such as *Rhododendron ponticum* and other plants.

How Giant Hogweed came to be in Craigton Wood is unknown. It could have been



Giant Hogweed control – Jim Dickson

planted but that is illegal and why would anyone put it in a place where it was hidden, virtually inconspicuous? More likely it is a natural arrival. JHD knows of no other occurrences in and immediately around Milngavie. The nearest occurrence is probably on the banks of the River Kelvin several km away to the southeast.

JHD asked AEB to help and bring gloves and a spade. We struggled down the slope fighting a tangle of brambles, rhododendrons, stinging nettles and tree branches. In a matter of minutes all the Giant Hogweed plants were killed. AEB swung the spade at each plant aiming just below soil level, easy because the soil there is moist and organic. This was hardly very heavy work with one swing often enough to sever a plant.

Though notorious, Giant Hogweed is readily extirpated in that way if the plant is present in small numbers. What is not needed is an army of goggled and masked workers encased in protective clothing and spraying herbicides.

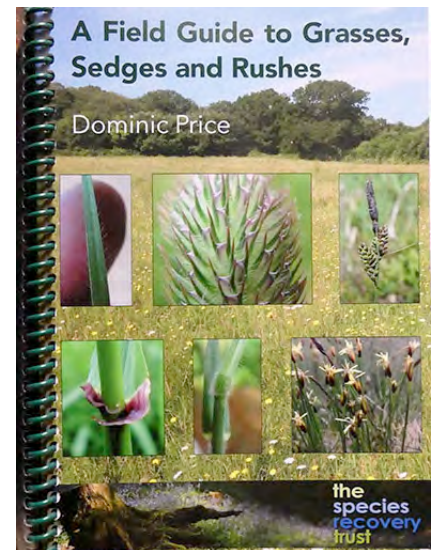
Dickson, J.H., Macpherson, P. and Watson, K. 2000. *The Changing Flora of Glasgow*. Edinburgh University Press.

Books for Review

Tony Payne

The following books have been received for review since the last Newsletter.

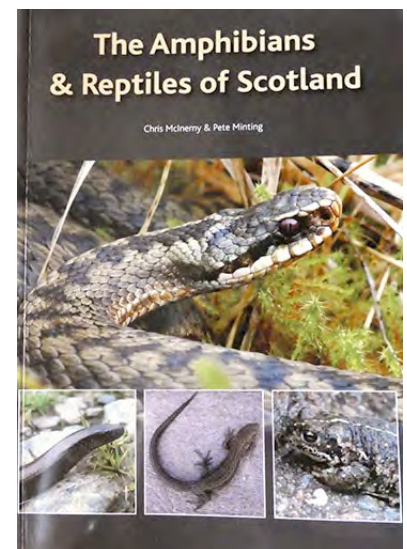
A Field Guide to Grasses, Sedges and Rushes by Dominic Price. The Species Recovery Trust. 73pp pb (price £11.99 from NHBS). This is the latest in a series of ring-bound portable hand-books by the Species Recovery Trust and is aimed at identifying just over 100 regularly encountered species. Each is pictured in colour to show diagnostic features and there are useful keys to the species found in neutral, acidic and calcareous grasslands, wet heaths and woodlands.



Solitary Bees by Ted Benton. Pelagic Publishing. 202pp pb (price £19.99 from NHBS)

The author makes the point that there are ten times more solitary bee species in the UK than bumblebees and honeybees combined. There are chapters on diversity, lifestyles, bees and flowers, conservation, as well as keys to identification of the British species.

The Amphibians & Reptiles of Scotland by Chris McInerny & Pete Minting. Glasgow Natural History Society. 320pp pb (price



£27.50 via chris.mcinerny@glasgow.ac.uk or free PDF to members of GNHS). A copiously illustrated guide to all species found in Scotland, as well as all marine turtle landings. Each species is given a chapter containing sections on identification at all stages, current distribution and frequency, habitat, annual cycle and current threats. There are also interesting sections on gaps in our knowledge and directions for future research. There is a final section on suggested sites for seeing reptiles and amphibians, as well as useful appendices, including legislation, habitat protection and notification of strandings.

Full reviews of these books will appear in a future edition of *The Glasgow Naturalist*.

Blodwen Lloyd Binns Bequest Fund: helping to fund research on natural history, both in Scotland and abroad **Chris McInerny**

The Glasgow Natural History Society is incredibly fortunate to have a generous bequest from a past member, Blodwen Lloyd Binns. This created the Blodwen Lloyd Binns Bequest Fund which, amongst other things, supports research projects to study natural history, either in Scotland or abroad. I have been fortunate to receive two awards from the Fund, and would like to describe my very positive experience, in the hope that this will encourage others with ideas about studying wildlife to

apply to the Fund to support their own research.

Reptile research

My first grant application was to study reptiles on the shores of Loch Lomond. I requested travelling expenses to visit study sites over two years, and to purchase materials to make artificial cover objects to reveal reptiles. The application required filling out a form (downloadable from the [GNHS website](#)) describing the proposed research, and submitting it to the GHNS Secretary for consideration by the Blodwen Lloyd Binns Bequest Committee. Having been a member of GNHS for only a short period, I also had to obtain a supporting letter from an existing member. The process was painless (!), and the form straightforward to complete. The committee sits three times a year following three [deadlines](#), with the decisions about applications announced just a few days after the meetings; so, a rapid turnaround.

I was awarded the money and was able to complete the proposed fieldwork. Reptiles were monitored at two different sites: one a population on the shores of Loch Lomond, and the other at a golf course nearby. The sites were studied to understand population numbers, movements and habitat requirements, all factors important to inform reptile conservation. The latter was particularly relevant as, during the survey period, a hydroelectric scheme was built at the Loch Lomond site.

An important aspect of research, and an expectation of the Trustees of the Blodwen Lloyd Binns Bequest Fund, is output describing the supported work. This can take various forms, such as a note in the GNHS Newsletter, a presentation at a GNHS evening meeting or, ideally, a paper published in the Society journal, *The Glasgow Naturalist*. My field-work resulted in five papers, three in *The Glasgow Naturalist*, and two in *The Herpetological Bulletin* (McInerny 2014a, 2014b, 2016a, 2016b, 2017). All five papers fully acknowledged the financial support of the Blodwen Lloyd Binns Bequest Fund. There is no doubt that without the support given by the Fund my research on Loch Lomond's reptiles would not have been completed.

Honey-buzzard research

I am fascinated by various aspects of the natural world, with a long-term interest in birds. Over the past number of years, along with some fellow ornithologists, I have been studying a population of a rare breeding summer visitor to Scotland, the Honey-buzzard. This culminated in an exceptional breeding population of up to five pairs and 23 birds being observed during 2016, with much social interaction and breeding biology seen; these observations were published in *Scottish Birds* (Shaw *et al.* 2017).

To continue this study in 2017 I applied for a grant from the Blodwen Lloyd Binns Bequest Fund to cover my travel expenses, and it was supported. We will continue to monitor the Honey-buzzard population during this year, hoping to understand more about the biology of this enigmatic, shy and under-recorded species. Again, a prime motivation to this research is to inform its conservation and protection in Scotland. As part of the application I committed to publishing the results from the 2017 work in *The Glasgow Naturalist*.

As I hope this short note has shown, the Blodwen Lloyd Binns Bequest Fund supports research in different areas of natural history; a list of other funded projects can be found [here](#). As can be seen the Fund has supported a very wide

range of research, both in Scotland and abroad.

My experience of applying to and working with the Fund was very positive and I hope that this will encourage others to consider applying for support. Many GNHS members will have ongoing studies of different aspects of natural history. You might consider 'formalizing' your work, so that you could publish your interesting observations in *The Glasgow Naturalist*. Might one or two years more work on the project with Fund support make the difference so that it could be published? I believe that just as important as us enjoying and observing natural history, is recording our observations in a form that are publicly available, to help build the knowledge base for its conservation and protection for the future. Speaking personally, this is a crucial part of what I do, and the Blodwen Lloyd Binns Bequest Fund can help this to happen. I believe that publicly available biological recording used to inform conservation supported by the Fund, will be an important and lasting legacy of the Fund in the future.

If any GNHS members are encouraged by this note to apply for funding, but are unsure how to make an application, perhaps having never completed such a form before, please contact me on Chris.McInerny@glasgow.ac.uk; I'll be very happy to help. Similarly, I'll be happy to help anyone to write up their work for the GNHS Newsletter or *The Glasgow Naturalist*.

McInerny, C.J. (2014a). Observations on a population of adders, slow-worms and common lizards on Loch Lomondside, Scotland. *The Glasgow Naturalist* 26(1): 63-68.

McInerny, C.J. (2014b). Habitat preferences of European adders at Loch Lomond, Scotland. *The Glasgow Naturalist* 26(1): 69-74.

McInerny, C.J. (2016a). Reptile populations persist following the installation of a hydroelectric scheme at Loch Lomond, Scotland. *The Herpetological Bulletin* 135: 11-14.

McInerny, C.J. (2016b). Co-existence of reptiles and humans: observations on a population of northern vipers on a Scottish golf course. *The Herpetological Bulletin* 138: 6-9.

McInerny, C.J. (2017). Observations on co-existing populations of adders, slow-worms and common lizards at Loch Lomond, Scotland: implications for conservation. *The Glasgow Naturalist* 26(3): 15-24.

Shaw K.D., **McInerny C.J.**, Little A., Little K., Nadin J.S. and Goater R. 2017. An exceptional season at a central Scotland Honey-buzzard study area. *Scottish Birds* 37: 3-13.

Allotment produces new Glasgow fly record

Roger Downie

While weeding my plot at Kirklee Allotments on 18th June, another plot-holder asked me to look at some flies which she was worried might be damaging her raspberries. This was an aggregation of maybe 100 tiny black flies, chasing each other about and mating on the raspberry leaves. I caught a few and brought them to Geoff Hancock. He identified them as *Scatopse notata*, the black compost fly, a member of the family *Scatopsidae*, the dung midges. Richard Weddle checked the database and this was the first Glasgow record for this cosmopolitan species. The only other nearby record is from Sandford, near Strathaven. Dung midge larvae feed on rotting vegetation in the soil, and are unlikely to damage plants, unless the

plants are already struggling. This experience shows the value of checking the identity and recording species even if you suspect they might be common.

History of GNHS's logo

Prior to 1990, volumes of *The Glasgow Naturalist* carried the City of Glasgow coat of arms, which includes a tree, fish and thistles. From 1990 onwards, the Society used a logo designed by Dr. Elspeth Lindsay who used the coat of arms but modified it to reflect the Society's diverse interests in plants, animals, fossils and photography.

The Society's Council eventually decided that there was a need for a new logo, partly because the lines on the original become indistinct when reduced. A sub-committee of Council, chaired by Vice-President Laura Allen commissioned a new logo from Paul Jerem, an experienced designer (and zoologist), who produced three options. The sub-committee agreed on one of these, and it came into use, with a range of variants, in Spring 2017.



Three examples of the varied way in which the new logo can be used.

General Correspondence to the General Secretary: Mary Child

Next Newsletter - copy to David Palmar by 22nd October 2017 please.
email: dpalmar2000@yahoo.co.uk

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).**