

# Dundee Naturalists' Society

Instituted 1874



## Bulletin No14 1989-90

**INCOME****BROUGHT FORWARD:**

Current A/c 6021419	3.72	
Deposit A/c 5404632	521.13	
Deposit A/c 0121632 Closed		
Cash in hand	<u>2.98</u>	
	527.83	527.83

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

Session 1988/89	4.00	
Session 1989/90	692.00	
Session 1990/91	<u>12.00</u>	
	708.00	708.00

**INTEREST:**

War bonds	1.74	
Deposit A/c	<u>29.23</u>	
	30.97	30.97

**DONATIONS:**

Dr Berry	4.00	
Mrs Marr	<u>1.00</u>	
	5.00	5.00

**FUND RAISING:**

AGM '89-Tea/Coffee	27.37	
Xmas sale of Jasmine	2.00	
Car Stickers	1.00	
Xmas '89-Tea/Coffee	<u>21.15</u>	
	51.52	51.52

**TOTAL INCOME**1323.32**EXPENDITURE****BULLETIN AND SYLLABUS:**

Printing Bulletin	83.49	
Print Syllabus/Enc.	104.49	
Postage	19.54	
Stationery	<u>16.71</u>	
	224.23	224.23

**OFFICE BEARERS' EXPENSES:**

Secretary	17.56	
Treasurer	<u>16.20</u>	
	33.76	33.76

**LECTURE ROOM RENTAL:**

Room T9 to Mar 89	150.00	
Chaplaincy centre	<u>20.00</u>	
	170.00	170.00

**LECTURERS' FEES ETC.:**

Fees + Expenses	97.00	
Fees Donated CGM	<u>10.00</u>	
	107.00	107.00

**INSURANCE:**

Public Liability		65.00
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**MISC. EXPENSES:**

Photo Comp. Prizes	25.00	
Photo Comp. Cards	1.00	
Get Well Fruit	7.00	
Coffee Cup Holders	<u>23.00</u>	
	56.00	56.00

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

Rights of Way Soc.	12.00	
FFWAG	10.00	
Habitat	7.50	
S.W.T.	<u>20.00</u>	
	49.50	49.50

**CASH IN BANK/HAND:**

Current A/c 6021419	6.32	
Deposit A/c 5404632	608.21	
Cash in Hand - Secretary	2.83	
Cash in Hand - Treasurer	<u>0.47</u>	

**TOTAL:**1323.32**CARSEGOWNIEMUIR ACCOUNT**

Balance at Feb 1989	226.71	
Donations	20.00	
Interest	<u>12.17</u>	
Total Income:	258.88	
Expenditure:	-14.68	
Balance at 15th Feb '90	244.20	

**OUTINGS ACCOUNT**

c/f from Feb 1989	23.45	
Income	<u>1086.98</u>	
Sub total	1110.43	
Expenditure	-1101.90	
Balance at 15th Feb '90	8.53	

**WEEKEND ACCOUNT - Aberdeen**

Income	1770.14	
Expenditure	-1757.80	
Net Profit	12.34	
Balance from Feb 88	<u>64.75</u>	
Balance at Aug '89 c/f	77.09	

**WEEKEND ACCOUNT - Bamburg**

Brought forward	77.09	
Deposits received	350.00	
Bank Interest	<u>1.66</u>	
Sub Total	428.75	
Paid to Hotel	-350.00	
Balance at 15th Feb '90	78.75	

DUNDEE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY  
ANNUAL BULLETIN No. 14  
1989-90

Hon. President : Dr. John Berry

Hon. Vice Presidents : Mr. James D. Boyd  
Dr. D. A. Robertson

President : Miss. Eileen Kidney

Vice Presidents : Mr. Richard K. Brinklow  
Mr. James K. Cook

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The Bulletin Cover illustration is the Society's emblem the Dwarf Cornel.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

This year's A.G.M. marks the end of my three years as your President - three years which I have thoroughly enjoyed.

We have just completed an excellent series of winter meetings with good attendances even on some very wild nights. Elsewhere in the Bulletin (edited by Mary Galloway) you will find accounts of the summer outings, ably organised by Leonore Fullerton, of the very enjoyable weekend, based on Aberdeen, and led by Jim Cook and Marjory Tennant, and of a visit to Crete arranged by Brian Allan.

The meetings and outings would not be so successful without the enthusiastic support and hard work of Council and of many other members, leaders of outings, providers of baking, makers of coffee and tea, auditors etc. - even givers of votes of thanks - I have hardly ever had to twist anyone's arm.

Work continues at Carsegowniemuir Quarry under the able leadership of Margaret Duncan and her committee.

A survey of Barry Mill for the National Trust was organised by Jim Cook. His report was much appreciated by the Trust.

I cannot close without recording my thanks to our Secretary, Jenny Allan, and to the Treasurer Brian Allan for the immense amount of work they have done on our behalf.

Finally I wish your new President, Richard Brinklow, and next year's Council every success in the years that lie ahead.

*Eileen A. Kidney*  
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## DEATHS

Once again it is our sad duty to indicate that a number of longstanding members have passed away. This year we seem to have lost many more than in previous years and our sympathy goes out to their families and friends.

The members that will be sadly missed from our midst are Mrs. E. Mair, Miss. M. H. Smith, Miss. Connie Tait, Miss. M. G. Rutherford, Miss. Jenny Davidson, and Mr. M. S. MacConnachie.

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## ' HABITAT' NEWSLETTER & S. W. T. MAGAZINE

Our Society has for some time subscribed to both the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Conservation and Environment Council. This year the DNS Council decided that copies of their publications, 'Scottish Wildlife' and 'Habitat' would be donated to the Reference Library, Wellgate, Dundee. Members who wish to refer to these can find them displayed there.

## \*\*\*\*\* SUMMER EXCURSIONS \*\*\*\*\*

1989 saw another successful series of Summer Outings with new topics of interest, new venues and new leaders. My thanks to all those who contributed to the season's success.

Suggestions for future outings are always welcome.

Thanks to Fred Keillor, our driver and fellow member, whose interest, courtesy and consideration added so much to our outings.

Please remember to cancel as early as possible if you are unable to come, and please remember a seat cannot be guaranteed if you have not used the booking form.

L. F. Fullerton.

## POLLOK PARK AND BURRELL COLLECTION 29th APRIL

The first outing of the Summer Programme is always eagerly awaited by many of our members and a good turnout was assured for our visit to Pollok Country Park.

On arrival at the park and after a slight delay, we were met by the warden on duty and given guides and maps covering the whole area. Most of us started by visiting the demonstration and woodland gardens, bright with many spring bulbs and flowers. These gardens looked really well as the spring sun shone, the first we had had for some time. The next venue most of us visited was Pollok House completely restored and furnished as it was when last used as a home by the Maxwell family who generously gave the house to the City of Glasgow in 1966.

The highlight, however, was to be the fabulous Burrell Collection, a hoard of priceless works of art amassed by Sir William and Lady Burrell and gifted to the City of Glasgow with certain conditions regarding its display. After many years these strident conditions were met, and the imaginatively designed air-conditioned building which houses the collection was opened by H.M. The Queen.

The contents of the collection are many and varied with pieces of pottery from China and Egypt displayed cheek by jowl with early English tapestries and needlework. Whole house contents from 16th-17th century mansions are also on display. A truly superb collection in a striking setting, makes this one of the most popular "museums" to be found in Britain or indeed Europe.

B. A.

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## ST MONANS TO ELIE 13th MAY

When we set out from Dundee the weather was cool and overcast, but to everyone's delight the sun broke through on arrival at St Monans, a lovely Fife 'East Neuk' town.

The tiny tea room, facing the harbour, was immediately invaded by a large number of Naturalists who proceeded to eat the proprietors out of scones, pancakes and jam! Eventually, having eaten their fill, everyone assembled by St Monans Church for the start of the shore walk to Elie, three miles along the coast. The walk was very interesting geologically with five extinct volcanic necks intruded into Carboniferous sediments, containing lots of fossils as well as thin coal seams. The enthusiastic children in the party beat the adults hands down (or should it be eyes down!) when it came to prospecting for Elie Rubies, tiny garnets associated with the Elie Neck volcanic formation. The Mars Bar prize for the biggest "Elie Ruby" was won by young Karen Milton with a specimen of around half a centimetre long.

As well as geology, there was much on the walk to please the bird and flower 'buffs'. West of St Monans the cliffs formed natural rock gardens where *Primroses*, *Primula vulgaris*, *Bluebells*, *Endymion non-scriptus*, *Red Campion*, *Silene dioica*, *Dog Violets*, *Viola riviniana*, and *Meadow Saxifrage*, *Saxifraga granulata*, were blooming in profusion, with attendant *Cabbage White Butterflies*. Towards Elie the extensive dunelands were the habitat for thousands of lovely *Cowslips*, *Primula veris*, in full flower; also found here were a few spikes of the primula hybrid *Primula veris x vulgaris*.

Birds recorded on the walk included *Larks*, *Eiders*, *Swallows*, *Sand Martins*, *Lapwings*, a hunting *Kestrel* and fishing *Terns* and *Gannets*.

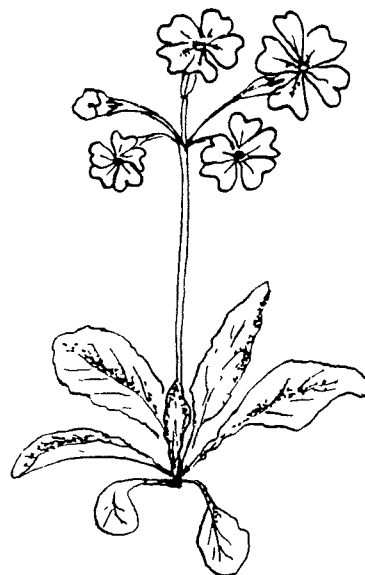
J. H. A.



Primrose



Cowslip



False Oxlip

# PITMEDDEN FOREST 27th MAY

This large forest plantation near Abernethy in North West Fife was a new excursion venue for our Society. A bus load of enthusiastic Naturalists was deposited at one end of a maze of forest tracks. Unfortunately very few people had maps of the area with them; (the forest occurs at an intersection of four O.S. maps). But undaunted, a large party obediently followed the leaders along multiple paths all dominated by towering spruce trees. A couple of hours later lunch was munched in a grassy clearing, then it was back on the trail again. At this point a strange sensation of 'deja vu' permeated the party - Yes! We were back at the start again! A highly amused bus driver watched grinning as the party turned and headed off frenetically down yet another spruce-lined track which, happily, turned out this time to be the correct one.



Too bad, most folks were by now in far too much of a hurry to get to Newburgh to notice the surrounding wildlife. But overhead a Kestrel hunted, while on the ground a lovely meadow full of Early Purple Orchids, *Orchis mascula*, was admired by a few stragglers at the back of the party. An assortment of pretty Speedwells were blooming just about everywhere including Germander Speedwell, *Veronica chamaedrys*, Heath Speedwell, *V. officinalis*, and Field Speedwell, *V. persica*. Dominating the more open country were the Hawthorns in full blossom. Geological buffs were rewarded with good specimens of agate and cornelian eroded from cavities in the bedrock.

At last the elusive Newburgh was in our sights and hooray for the ice-cream shop and afternoon opening pub which welcomed the weary and foot-sore Nats who had managed to turn a 6 mile hike into a 12 mile one!

J. H. A.

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## ST CYRUS NATURE RESERVE 10th JUNE

The St Cyrus cliff reserve is one of the Society's favourite visits with its spectacular cliff and sand dune setting, its range of coastal habitats and its wealth of wildlife, including a number of plants at the extreme northern ends of their ranges. The timing of the visit, and the weather of the preceding weeks, determines the likelihood of finding particular species. This outing was a little earlier than the preceding trip, being too late for the **Hairy Violet** and rather early for **Maiden Pinks** and **Bloody Cranesbills**. However, the omens were good for a range of plants and birds. Everything that is except the weather. It had been dry, limiting the growth of many species, and yet that day was damp, threatening rain, and cold, raw in other words. Our route took us down the cliff path from St Cyrus village and north to the end of the reserve. After a quick bite of lunch, most "nats" followed the edge of the dunes along the beach and onto the paths at the cliff base to the old graveyard and the saltmarsh.

Over a period of years the changes are very evident, especially to the now almost dry marsh. Then, almost in single file, the party followed the course of the disused railway line back to the bus. Although the numbers of plants was down, the variety was still there. We were pleased to find the old favourites including **Viper's Bugloss**, *Echium vulgare*, **Wild Liquorice**, *Astragalus glycyphyllos*, **Purple Milk-vetch**, *A. danicus*, **Hemp Agrimony**, *Eupatorium cannabinum* and **Nottingham Catchfly**, *Silene nutans*. Because of the weather most of the party returned early. When the leader went for some "refreshment" he found difficulty getting in, for the crush of naturalists already there!

Jim Cook

## HARECRAIGS 20th JUNE Evening Outing

It was a beautiful evening, although with a biting cold wind. However, it's a chill wind that blows no-one any good. We probably saw more plants, because we had to keep moving, than if we'd been tempted to examine each new find closely.

The whole stretch of shore and turf between the river and railway is interesting. It has had a long botanical history, the site being well known to William Gardiner (1848) who wrote the first "Flora of Forfarshire". Since his day, house building and the coming of the railways removed much of interest. In the end, there was a good list of well over 100 species, from between the railway bridge car park at Stannergate and the yacht club.

There was a good range of **Grasses**, **Fescues**, **Meadow grasses** and, a typically coastal species in this part of the country, **Crested hair-grass**, *Koelina cristata*. Both species of early hair-grasses were seen. On the seashore itself clumps of **Orache**, *Atriplex hastata*, and **Sandwort**, *Honkenya peploides*, crowded in with a whole range of minor species. On drier areas **Stonecrops** were found with **Bladder Campion**, *Silene vulgaris*. The three common **buttercups**, including **Bulbous Buttercup**, *Ranunculus bulbosus*, were common in damper grassy parts, along with **thistles**, **nettles**, **Common Wormwood**, *Artemisia vulgaris*, **brambles**, **docks** and several **umbellifers**. The most interesting was **Hemlock**, *Conium maculatum*. Perhaps the two best plants for us came right at the end, in between the yacht club huts, **Pellitory-of-the-wall**, *Parietaria judaica*, and **Common Mallow**, *Malva sylvestra*.

Jim Cook

Continued/...

## ABERLADY BAY 24th JUNE

Around ten welcoming members of the "Edinburgh Natural History Society" were our hosts on this visit to the beautiful duneland and saltmarsh reserve at Aberlady Bay, owned and managed by East Lothian District Council. The dry but undeniably "bracing" weather did not diminish the enthusiasm of the forty or so participating Naturalists. Initially, the party was split into two groups to separately explore the Reserve; one group was accompanied by the Warden/Ranger, and the other by my secretarial counterpart from the Edinburgh Society, Mary Robertson, whose speciality was the plants of this botanically very rich area.

The Orchids were magnificent, prolific and hugely admired. They included **Northern Marsh Orchid**, *Dactylorhiza purpurella*, **Common Spotted Orchid**, *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, two varieties of the **Early Marsh Orchid**, *Dactylorhiza incarnata*, and **Lesser Twayblade**, *Listera ovata*. Unfortunately an intensive search failed to find the resident **Frog Orchids**, *Coeloglossum viride*; it was assumed the dry weather and/or rabbit grazing had adversely affected them.

Other plants of note were **Amsinkia**, *Amsinkia intermedia*, a North American "alien", **Quaking grass**, *Briza media*, and the lovely **Bog Pimpernel**, *Anagallis tenella*, which was particularly prolific this year, growing in the damper areas.

Many species of caterpillars were in evidence, feeding on ragwort and other leaves. The entomological buffs identified those of the **Burnet** and **Cinnabar moths**. Birds were not too much in evidence on the reserve because, as the Ranger explained, they were busily engaged in breeding and feeding offspring. We did see a "creche" of female **Eiders** minding chicks, and a busy family of **Coots**.

The two parties made a rendezvous for a welcome lunch break before making their separate returns to the bus. A final short break in North Berwick was appreciated by all, (especially those interested in the "cliff-hanger" final of the Youth World Cup, televised in the local pubs and cafes!), before the bus finally headed homewards.

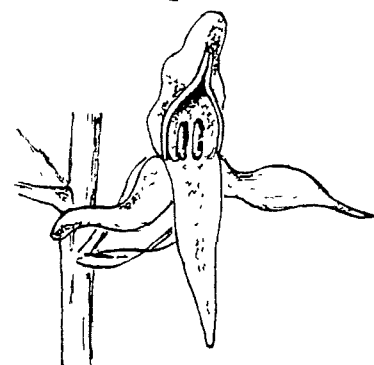
J. H. A.

## ABERDEEN WEEKEND 30th JUNE - 2nd JULY

There was a change in the time of our weekend this year, 1st July to allow us to find a more advanced Flora and Fauna. It also meant we could stay in a University residence in Old Aberdeen, and this afforded us delightful and interesting evening walks.

Saturday morning we trod a lovely floral path to Loch Strathbeg. Not many birds but the **Butterfly Orchids** were beautiful. A quick visit to Fraserburgh and a stormy walk along the coast made a lively afternoon.

Sunday morning hid its charms while we had an historical trip around ancient battle fields and studied a stone circle at Loanhead of Daviot. But Bennachie was awaiting us, the mist lifted and we had a splendid day. From the forestry centre there were many paths giving woodland or riverside walks and a climb to the top of Millstone Hill gave superb views.



Lesser Butterfly Orchid

Our thanks to Jim Cook for arranging such a varied and enjoyable weekend.  
M. T.

Continued/...



## BEN Y VRACKIE 8th JULY

A large contingent of members mustered for a return visit, after some years, to this fascinating mountain. The route we were to follow started at the village of Moulin, just outside Pitlochry, and wound its way upwards, firstly through mixed woodland where the first of many interesting plants were recorded. Lesser Wintergreen, *Pyrola minor*, Yellow Pimpernel, *Lysimachia nemorum*, and Wood Cranesbill, *Geranium sylvaticum*, were three of the most attractive.

The path then entered a new habitat of open heather moorland where the dominant ground cover of Ling, *Calluna vulgaris*, was interspersed with other less common plants such as Cross-leaved Heath, *Erica tetralix*, Bell Heather, *Erica cinerea*, and Blaeberry, *Vaccinium myrtillus*. Also found among these ericaceous plants on this section of the walk was the delicate Lesser Twayblade, *Listera cordata* and another small orchid, the Fragrant Orchid, *Gymnadenia conopsea*. A diversion was also made to an alkaline flushed area where Bog Asphodel, *Narthecium ossifragum*, Scottish Asphodel, *Tofieldia pusilla* and the tiny insectivorous plant Sundew, *Drosera rotundifolia*, were found.

Up now to the last stage of our walk, through the swirling mist, to the summit at nearly 2800 feet. The plants to be found near the top are some of the rarest to be found in Britain and a short list of these is noted below:-

Alpine Milk Vetch	- <i>Astragalus alpinus</i>
Purple Milk Vetch	- <i>Oxytropis halleri</i>
Alpine Cinquefoil	- <i>Potentilla crantzii</i>
Twisted Whitlow Grass	- <i>Draba incana</i>
Alpine Mouse-ear	- <i>Cerastium alpinum</i>
Moonwort Fern	- <i>Botrychium lunaria</i>

With the top finally reached, the long downward trudge was made in record time, with high tea in Pitlochry being the main goal. The coach left Pitlochry at 6-00pm with 40+ tired but happy "Nats."

B. A.

## EVENING OUTING TO TAYFIELD 11th July

On the evening of Tuesday 11th July some seven or eight car-loads of Naturalists received their usual warm welcome to Tayfield from Dr and Mrs Berry.

Dr Berry conducted us on a tour of the grounds which, as always, provided a great deal for all our members whatever their special interests. After our walk we enjoyed Mrs Berry's hospitality and a lot of animated conversation about topics currently under discussion in the 'media'.

We are indeed fortunate to have as our Honorary President a distinguished conservationist with an extremely wide breadth of interests and withal a most friendly and approachable man. The Society is much indebted to him and to Mrs Berry for their kindly interest in its activities.

E. K.

## GLEN FINCASTLE-LOCH TUMMEL-QUEENS VIEW 22nd July

Very good botanical interest was found along the roadside in Glenfindcastle. Rock-rose *Helianthemum chamaecistus*, Field Gentian *Gentianella campestris*, Fragrant Orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea*, and Scottish Asphodel *Tofieldia pusilla* were notables. The tops of the knolls were chosen for lunch near Edintian Farm in an effort to catch the breezes on an oppressively hot day. The shade of the conifer forest was ignored because of the threat of flies.

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Fortunately the steepest parts of the walk were now downhill through Allean Forest (FC) via the forest walks to Queen's View Visitor Centre. Plants of interest were Creeping Corydalis *Corydalis claviculata*, Parsley Piert *Aphanes arvensis*, New Zealand Willow Herb *Epilobium pedunculare* and Melancholy Thistle *Carduus heterophyllus*. There were signs that the forest was beginning to be cut and some welcome breaks in the canopy had been recently planted with broadleaved saplings in plastic tree shelters.

The heat persuaded the majority that the leader's estimate of 4 miles for the walk was a bit neat!

M. G. D.

### BLACK WOOD OF RANNOCH 26th August

Only the persistent rain spoiled this excellent walk. On a good day the views of the Loch combined with the attractive mix of trees of all ages and their accompanying flora and fauna would be a magnificent spectacle. The rain and mist concentrated our attention on the nearest trees and the colourful fungi. Mr Jeffrey, Perthshire Forest District Manager, made us very welcome and suggested routes through the most interesting parts of this internationally important remnant of native pine forest. He met us after our walk to tell us some of the history of its management and later supplied three official fungi list for the wood (available from MGD). The Wood was first notified as an SSSI in 1955. It is now a Grade 1 site. A management plan was agreed in 1975 and is revised as a result of information from trial plots. There is a conservation zone, a restoration zone, an extension zone and a buffer zone (of 2 - 3 miles to prevent pollen mixing). Over the next 60 -70 years the non-native species planted by the FC will be replaced with Black Wood stock. Felling will then be only to restore the balance of ages.

Our route began at Blackwood Cottage and wound east to the Dall Burn and finally to Dall Shed at the roadside, just west of Rannoch School. The Dall Burn path is very pretty and a good place to walk for those revisiting on their own who do not wish to risk getting lost. (Waymarker posts are not provided in the SSSI.) Stone bramble with berries was a plant of note on the stones of the loch shore.

M. G. D.

### GUINEVERE—ARTIFACT, FACT AND FICTION 23rd SEPTEMBER

In the Meigle area there are two versions of the Arthur and Guinevere legend. One is that Arthur was defeated on the banks of the Humber by a combined army of Picts and Scots. The Scots' share of spoils included armour, chariots, horses and jewels, while the Picts took Queen Guinevere and the ladies and noblemen of the court, together with their vast riches. These prisoners were kept until death at Dunbarre Castle on Barry Hill near Alyth, then buried in and around Meigle.

The other version is that Guinevere was unfaithful to Arthur and he had her imprisoned on Barry Hill. One day she was to be taken to another castle in the Sidlaws and on the way was attacked by wild animals and killed. Succession in those days was matrilineal and she was a person of high rank so, despite the disgrace of her adultery, she was buried at Meigle which was the ecclesiastical centre.

The second version is supported by the carved stone which used to stand on "Verona's Mound" in Meigle Churchyard and is now in Meigle Museum. (Guainore, Wanor, Verona - all are corruptions of Guinevere.) On the reverse is a figure wearing long robes, and with long hair, being licked by four animals. Is this

Continued/...

Daniel being licked by lions or Guinevere being eaten by wild beasts? The choice is yours.

Our outing took us to Meigle churchyard and the Museum, but not before we brought a later historical figure into our thoughts by stopping at the Belmont Centre to see "Macbeth's Stone", a ten foot high monolith with many cup marks.

It had been planned to have lunch on top of Barry Hill but the recent heavy rain made the Reekie Linn a much more attractive site and we spent over an hour there, picnicking in glorious sunshine and admiring the thundering waters and the autumn tints on the trees.

Then we climbed to the vitrified fort on Barry Hill. The fort is oval and consists of a stone wall, now much tumbled down, enclosing an area of about 200 feet by 120 feet, with other defences on the south and west sides. The view over the Isla valley and to the Sidlaws beyond was superb.

Our last stop was in Alyth where we visited the small but most interesting museum. Memories of childhood were recalled by seeing many household items that were standard equipment in Granny's home but which have been superseded by those which will become the treasured memories of our grandchildren in their later years.

Sheila Scott

### GARTMORN DAM 28th OCTOBER

On the last outing of the season, approximately 40 "Nats" made their way to Lindsay Street, somewhat reluctantly, since the usual good weather had deserted them - for monsoon precipitation!

However, the bus departed en route for Gartmorn Dam, the main topic of conversation being "What were the alternatives?" Popular decision was Garden Centre and Butterfly Farm at Kinross, but alas! On reaching there the Garden Centre was no more and the butterflies had decided to hibernate for the winter. So Gartmorn it had to be.

But.....Was the sky clearing and the rain easing? Yes, it continued to improve thro' Dollar, Tillicoultry and New Sauchie. By Gartmorn, it was actually fair. We were welcomed by the Country Park Warden to the Information Centre, site of the former Pump House. He invited us to "Look About Ye", which we duly did and found it interesting and informative.

We proceeded round the dam, following the footpath which takes the line of the lade which provided water-power for the mills and mines of Alloa. Thirty-eight species of birds, varying from the smallest, the tiny **Goldcrest**, to the largest, the **Mute and Whooper Swans**, were recorded. Several pieces of coal, containing fossils were found, evidence of mining activity during the last century.

Departing for home, the consensus of opinion was, once again the "Nats" had been extremely lucky.

A. and I. Fraser

### NEW YEAR CAPERS 2nd JANUARY 1990

On January 2nd, 17 intrepid "Nats" were sufficiently free of headaches to assemble at Monifieth Beach for the first get-together of the New Year. After exchanging greetings, each one was handed a headache in the form of things to collect, questions to answer and pictures to identify.

The winners were Pat and Bob McLeod, with an excellent collection of shells and a superior knowledge of Tayside. The good news for them was that for winning they have to organise next year's quiz - the bad news was that the Frasers had forgotten the prizes!

The barbecue that followed, rounded off another successful outing.

I. and A. Fraser

Continued/...

\*\*\*\*\* WINTER MEETINGS \*\*\*\*\*

The rich and varied wildlife of the Falkland Islands was the topic of the first lecture of 1989-90 season. Local dentist, Ian Cumming, spoke of his days as a dentist in the Falklands and showed slides of the landscape, the many bird species, including six varieties of **Penguin**, and the marine life. He also gave a potted history of the islands since 1771.

On November 7 Dr. and Mrs Mike Almond took us to the Peloponnese area of Greece with a superb selection of slides. Pictures included shots of the local architecture plus flowers of the area such as **Cyclamen**, **Crocus** species and numerous types of **Orchid**.

"It's a Small Small World" was the title of an intriguing talk on photography through the microscope given by Professor Laverack and Mr A. S. Edwards of the Gatty Marine Laboratory. As well as explaining how microscopes work they showed slides of marine organisms at various magnifications plus shots taken with a scanning electron microscope of minute objects such as an insects's eye or scales of a butterfly's wing.

On December 5 Ron Downing spoke on the history and work of the RSPB. He showed slides of different habitats and discussed conservation problems and reserves.

A holiday in India furnished Gordon Kirkland with material for an interesting talk at the Christmas meeting. Famous buildings and views in the Delhi area were illustrated and slides of local wildlife included **Ring-neck Parakeets**, **Weaver birds** and **Greater Egrets**. Following the talk a buffet Christmas supper was enjoyed.

On January 16 Mrs Elin Walsh took us on a fascinating tour of the National Parks of North America, visiting the Grand Canyon, the Petrified Forest and the geysers of Yellowstone Park to name but a few of the tempting sights. She also gave a brief history of, and some personal views on, the National Park System.

Mr Norman Elkins spoke on January 30th about the influence of weather on bird behaviour, varying from the effects of gales and extremes of temperature to the mysteries of migration.

February 20th was members night when Jim Cook showed the lovely selection of pictures entered for the 1989 photographic competition and announced the winners. This was followed by a slide show from members.

The final lecture of the year was from Mr Les Bisset, who, as curator of the Dundee University Botanic Garden, is well qualified to talk on "Plants that Fascinate". This interesting and sometimes amusing lecture was a highlight which brought this years excellent series of lectures to a close.  
M. G.

**CARSEGOWNIEMUIR QUARRY RESERVE  
ANNUAL REPORT 1989**

We can report a happy outcome to a testing climatic season for 1989. Drought conditions for most of the summer were causing real worry by July, and five watering expeditions were mounted. The 30 replacement Glen Tanar pines, newly planted on 9 April, gave most cause for concern. They were given priority watering and received at least at least a gallon each. Water levels in the ponds were low so the gallant water carriers had to clamber even further to

Continued/...

reach the source. Welcome rains came in August and most trees made an excellent recovery from the stress and put on good growth. The willowherb grew best of all and swamped some of our November '88 plantings. Six foot tall willowherb had to be cleared round each tree just to let in some light. To our surprise the trees in the willowherb suffered less drought stress - perhaps because of shelter from winds.

Many plastic tree shelters were blown off in the high winds in July '88, along with their identifying numbers, and we are having some problems with the accuracy of our tree record.

Rabbit pressure was high throughout 1989 and many more of the original plastic mesh protectors were breached. As many as possible have been replaced, or reinforced, with wire. All solid square plastic tree protectors, so vulnerable in the wind, have now been replaced by wire.

A convenient, sturdy stile was built for us in the spring by Major Young at the eastern approach to the quarry, in time for our planting day on 9 April. Another feature of this day was the recording of interviews by Jim Cook for his program on Radio Tay's Campus Radio. Some of the six stalwart planters, and the owner, contributed.

Our carpet square mulches, though effective, rotted surprisingly quickly. Thick newspapers seem to be almost as effective - and easier to carry!

Three oaks at B and two elms at Q displayed wrinkled leaves throughout the growing season. Proximity to the south field with its grain crop suggests broad-leaved weedkiller drift. The leaves stayed green but were distorted throughout the season. One leading shoot died. As the oaks had been our champion growers and our very first planted trees this was a sad blow.

A possible solution to the mystery of the disappearing orchids was noted. In June, 19 **Northern Marsh Orchid** flower buds were seen but one was being rapidly consumed by a large black slug. We were puzzled in previous years about the disappearance of the orchids. This might be the reason.

**Bluetits** were seen feeding young in the new nestbox (No.2) and the high nestbox (No.1) appeared to have been used as well. Two herons were seen on several occasions in the vicinity. Planted **Cowslips** were in bloom in May.

Fifteen replacement broad-leaved trees were planted in October 1989. No further major plantings are planned in the near future. Weeding and mulching existing young trees early in the season are the immediate priorities. Help with this and with photographic records would be welcome by the sub-committee.

LOCATION: Map ref.: NO 580543. On B1934 (Forfar to Brechin), 5 miles east of Forfar. Signs at end of lane to Fordmouth and Back of Turin Hill Farm. Drive up lane and take first right to park at Maj. Young's white cottage.

SUB-COMMITTEE.: M.G. Duncan, (67479), A.J. Fraser, (532316), J.K. Cook, (78311). M.G.D.

### BARRY MILL SURVEY

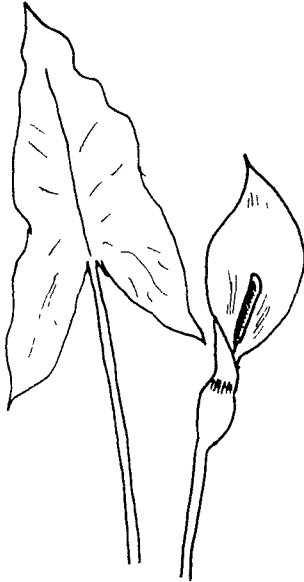
In the spring and early summer of 1989 members of the Society carried out a natural history survey of the Barry Mill property owned by the National Trust and a report was prepared by Jim Cook. The results are summarised here.

One of the objectives of the survey was to look for interesting wildlife which might be affected by the diversion of part of the course of the burn just above the mill. This is necessary because of severe undercutting of the bank.

The new course of the stream would run across a neglected field which contained little of interest, but on the side of the stream opposite the undercut bank were several small colonies of **Meadow Saxifrage**, *Saxifraga granulata*, which would be affected. This species is well worth conserving as it is generally declining. The plants could probably be transplanted or the new bank re-seeded.

Continued/...

Other species which would be affected by the alteration are a clump of **Balsam Poplars**, *Populus gileadensis*, a non native species which could be replanted if necessary and clumps of **Green Figwort**, *Scrophularia umbrosa* which are locally plentiful and would probably recolonise.



**Lords and Ladies**

Several interesting plants were found within the area but none of any great rarity. They include a single spike of **Early Purple Orchid**, *Orchis mascula*, **Lords and Ladies**, *Arum maculatum*, an introduced species recorded as rare in the county; **Celery Leaved Buttercup**, *Ranunculus scleratus*, and **Green Figwort**, *Scrophularia umbrosa*.

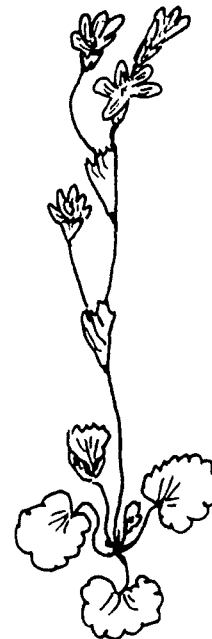
A good stand of **Red and White Campion**, *Silene dioica*, and *S. alba* are growing on the edge of the field and on the steep bank just outside the National Trust area.

Several small colonies of **Few-flowered Leek**, *Allium paradoxum*, were observed along the steam bank. This is an introduced species which is spreading rapidly and needs close monitoring.

**Hérons, Dippers and Grey Wagtails** were among the bird species observed at the site.

The conclusions are that the site has considerable natural history potential. The dam if cleared out could provide a focus for aquatic animals and plants. The damp area between the dam and the burn has potential as a damp meadow and the field could be improved as a flower meadow. There is an obvious path for a nature trail along the bank of the mill lade.

M. G.



**Meadow saxifrage**

## BIRD WORDSQUARE

N	E	R	W	R	O	O	K	T	H
S	P	O	O	N	B	I	L	L	T
P	N	R	O	L	L	N	A	W	S
A	O	I	D	S	A	I	D	E	R
R	R	A	P	K	P	Y	R	R	X
R	E	D	I	E	W	J	A	O	P
O	H	T	G	R	I	L	Z	B	Y
W	E	R	E	L	N	O	Z	I	T
F	C	O	O	T	G	R	U	N	T
N	I	L	N	U	D	A	B	A	O

There are 15 birds names in this square. Names run in a straight line in any direction including diagonally. How many can you find?

Answers on page 22

## FUNGUS ANAGRAMS

Unscramble the names of these fungi.

BLUFPALF

STOBLUE

SPAROLA RUMMOHOS

PANICK (2 words)

YONEH SNUGUF

FELFURT

Answers on page 22

Continued/ ...

## A BUDDON EXPERIENCE

On Sunday 6th August '89 last year I had the pleasure of attending a joint R.S.P.B./S.W.T outing to Barry Buddon. The outing was ably led by Stephen Fulford who knows the area very well, and who told us with some luck we could expect to see 10 species of butterfly, plus birds, plants, flowers, etc. My main interest is birds but being a Dundee 'Nat' and having been told of the great variety of plants/flowers which grow uninhibited and undisturbed on Buddon I was looking forward to that aspect of the visit in particular.

The turn-out was excellent and after being welcomed by Archie Addison, the Camp Commandant, who wished us a good day we set off under blue skies and very little wind.

Stephen led us on a fascinating tour of the area, lasting four hours with a welcome lunch break. The variety of habitat on Buddon is amazing, all conducive to providing a safe undisturbed haven for the wide diversity of wildlife, plants etc. Sand dunes, marram grass, shoreline, marshy phragmites areas, willow scrub, Scots pines, heath, all combined to produce sightings, during our concentrated search of the area, of the following:-

### FLOWERS

Ladies' Bedstraw, Birdsfoot Trefoil, (eggs and bacon), Harebells, Marsh Cinquefoil, Cudweed, Eyebright, Germander Speedwell, Grass of Parnassus, Sticky Groundsel, Meadowsweet, Pennywort, Ragged Robin, Ragwort, Yellow Rattle, Rest Harrow, Devil's Bit Scabious, Self Heal, Silverweed, Sneezewort, Wild Thyme, Tormentil, Rosebay and Greater Willowherb, Yarrow, Purple Milk Vetch, Kidney Vetch.

### BUTTERFLIES

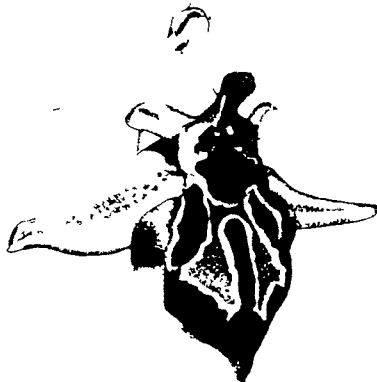
Small Copper, Grayling, Meadow Brown, Small Tortoiseshell, Small blue, Large White, Green Veined White, Small White.

A Fox was seen, as were Toad and Rabbit, but perhaps the most unusual sightings were the Bee Flies which Stephen pointed out to us, on our walk through 'Happy Valley' a particularly pleasant part of the walk through an area thick with pines and a stream running through it. These Bee Flies are huge, and Stephen told us are very rare and found in very few other habitats.

We had a truly enjoyable outing blessed with excellent company and weather, so much so it was agreed to have a repeat joint outing this year. Barry Buddon is a Naturalists' paradise.

Bob McCurley

## SPRING IN CRETE



Cretan Bee Orchid

The first two weeks of April saw nine intrepid 'nats' head to the Greek island of Crete. The holiday involved two bases to enable us to visit both ends of this picturesque island. The first base was in the east at Agios Nikolaos and visits were made to numerous areas of botanical and ornithological interest. At one special site we were to record over 18 species of orchid. Another site, was the Doric palace of Lato, where we were to see a number of endemic species including *Cyclymen creticum*, *Alyssoides cretica* and *Petromarula pinnata*.

Continued/...



During the second week we were based at Rethymnon and this enabled us to visit many unique archeological sites including Knossos and Phaestos, two spectacular Minoan palaces. Plants of note from this end of the island included the endemic *Peony*, *Peony clusii*, and fields of bright yellow *Asiatic buttercups*, *Ranunculus asiaticus*. Another day saw us climb high to the Omolos plateau and beyond where we were delighted to find the rare wild tulip *Tulipa bakerii* and high near the snowline of the White Mountains we located endemics such as *Crocus sieberi* var. *sieberi*, *Chionodoxa cretica* and *Corydalis uniflora*. Of the birds spotted during the trip, *Griffin Vultures*, *Hoopoes*, *Alpine Choughs* and *Little Egrets* spring immediately to mind.

Crete, as you may guess from the above brief account, is an ideal holiday destination where you can combine normal holiday pursuits with the opportunity to indulge your interests in natural history.

B. A.

### RHUM — AN ISLAND LABORATORY



The Hebridean Isle of Rhum is the largest, and most mountainous of the "Small Isles", which also include the islands of Eigg, Canna and Muck. Presently owned and managed by the N.C.C., the Island is mainly used for a variety of on-going scientific research projects. Three current projects which have received some publicity are firstly, a moderately successful attempt at re-introducing *Sea Eagles* at a site near Harris. Many of these *Sea Eagles* are still surviving and breeding, but most have now dispersed to other islands nearby. An on-going study of *Red Deer* population dynamics is being carried out on the northern part of the Island. No culling is allowed in order that the deer population is allowed to regulate itself. Counting the deer forms a major part of this study, and the results are analysed and used as a model for deer management elsewhere in Scotland. The third project is an attempt at re-afforestation of the Island using native trees. A large number of research students and volunteers are required each year to assist with these and other research projects.

Continued/...

The Island was purchased by Lancashire cotton baron John Bullough in 1886. His son George built the impressive Kinloch Castle from imported Arran red sandstone at around the turn of the century. The innovative George also installed one of the first hydro-electric schemes to provide power at the castle. One item which consumed a large amount of the electricity generated by these means was the famous (or infamous) Orchestreon, an enormous and highly ornate piece of musical engineering incorporating organ pipes, drums, cymbals and myriad other effects and carvings. Eventually, George's widow sold the Island to the N.C.C. in 1957. A huge collection of Victorian and Oriental bric-a-brac was amassed by the Bullocks much of which still remains at the castle, now being slowly restored to its former glory. The orchestreon plays every evening when visitors are staying at the castle, but it still uses vast amounts of electricity; alas the old Hydro-electric supply is now derelict and power is supplied via a large and expensive-to-run diesel generator.

There are many different wildlife habitats on Rhum resulting from a combination of geological, climatic, and grazing influences, along with the effects of aspect and elevation above sea level. The mountainous interior region is characterised by a number of rugged peaks, Barkeval, Hallival, Askival, Ruinsival and Trallival; these are also known as the Rhum Cuillins and resemble them geologically, being the remains of a deep Tertiary magma chamber containing basaltic type lava which cooled slowly giving rise to a variety of coarse-grained layered rocks including the commonest rock, gabbro, which chemically resembles basalt, and allivalite, (named after Hallival), containing equal amounts of olivine and feldspar. Peridotite is a very dense rock containing a large amount of the minerals olivine and pyroxene. Some geologists believe this intense igneous activity some 60 million years ago was due to a "failed" rifting process which would have otherwise given rise to a new ocean ridge. No-one knows why the North Atlantic Ocean ridge eventually formed further west, but it did, and it is still spreading to this day at the rate of a few centimetres every year.



Lapland Marsh Orchid

Last June Brian and I visited Rhum with a large party from the Open University Geological Society. We were fascinated by the many interesting rock types found on the Island. However, for us, an unexpected bonus was the varied and unusual floras associated with many of these rocks. The slopes of Hallival and Askival were carpeted by a colourful display of low-growing plants specially adapted to the conditions. They included, clumps of Thrift, *Armeria maritima*, Moss Campion, *Silene acaulis*, Scottish Asphodel, *Tofieldia pusilla*, and Northern Rock Cress, *Cardaminopsis petraea*. At a lower elevation in a damp flush meadow below a marble outcrop, a large number of Orchids were growing. These included Fragrant Orchid, *Gymnadenia conopsea*, Lesser Butterfly Orchid, *Platanthera bifolia*, Heath Spotted Orchid, *Dactylorhiza maculata*, Early Marsh Orchid, *D. incarnata* and *D. incarnata* sub species *pulchella*, plus a real "find" the Lapland Marsh Orchid, *D. Lapponica*, which has only been found in three other sites in west Scotland.

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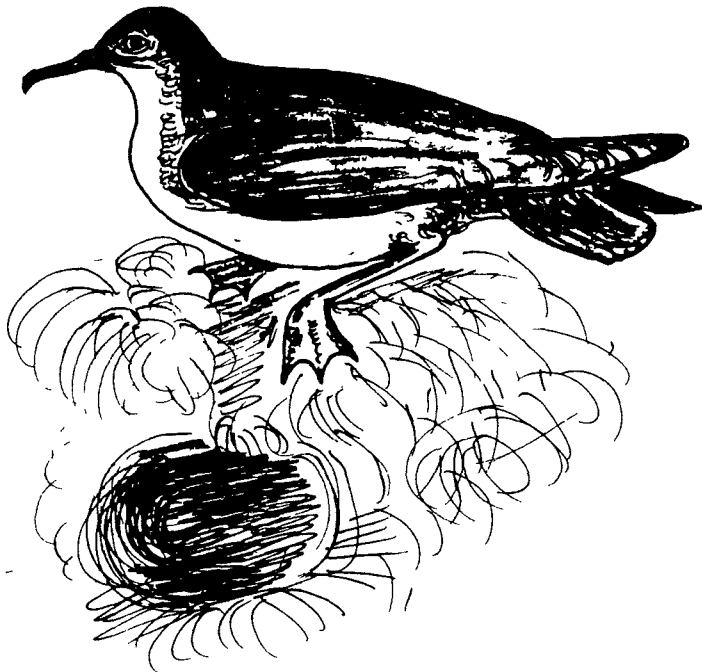
The precipitous cliffs at Fionchra, on the northern part of the Island, are composed of a different kind of igneous rock called mugearite.

In June these were a joy to behold with many different species of plants growing and flowering in colourful profusion in nooks and crannies in the rocks. These included **Roseroot**, *Sedum rosea*, **Early Purple Orchids**, *Orchis mascula*, three species of **Saxifrage**, **Mossy**, *Saxifraga hypnoides*, **Starry**, *S. stellaris*, and **Arctic**, *S. Nivalis*, along with many varieties of cress including **Alpine Penny-cress**, *Thlaspi alpina*. Unfortunately photographing the plants growing on the cliffs required strong nerves and the climbing abilities of a mountain goat!



Roseroot

Early Purple Orchid



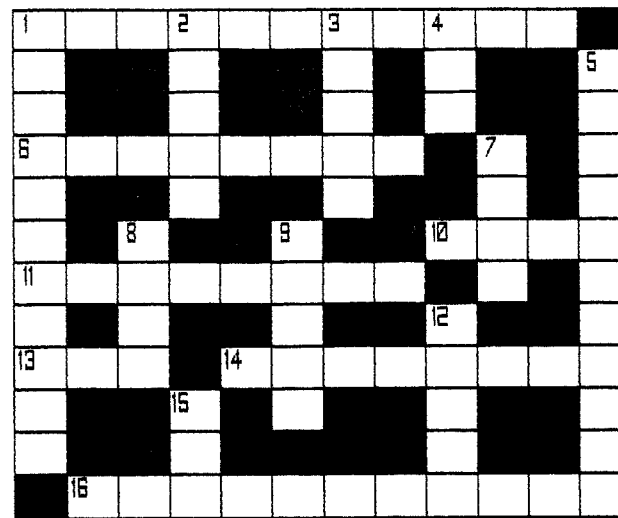
Manx Shearwater

Rhum is also famous as an important nesting area for **Manx Shearwaters**. Most of the mountain peaks, in particular Hallival and Askival, are home to large colonies of these seabirds which nest in burrows. One local 'mystery' which was puzzling the Chief Warden and his staff during the time of our visit, was that a large number of **Manx Shearwater** carcasses had been found minus their feet! A number of theories were put forward to try to explain this phenomenon, including attacks on the birds by extra fierce deer! As far as I know the 'mystery' still remains unsolved!

Our 4 days on Rhum were, alas, only too short and soon it was time to board the "shuttle" boat Rhouma which makes a rendezvous out in Loch Scresort with the Cal-Mac ferry to Mallaig.  
J. H. A.

Continued/...

# NATURE CROSSWORD.



## CLUES.

### Across.

1. Plant originally used to make a sweet of the same name. (5, 6)
6. The world's most poisonous mushroom. (5, 3)
10. Bird with striking collar. (4)
11. Common bird often regarded as a pest. (8)
13. North American Wapiti. (3)
14. Hunts for moths at dusk. (8)
16. Bird with characteristic tail movements. (4, 7)

### Down.

1. Filippendula vulgaris. (11)
2. Tropical tern (5)
3. Island that is a geologist's paradise. (5)
4. Pasture. (3)
5. Rare Highland plant which can be used as an aperitif. (5, 6)
7. Snail without a shell. (4)
8. Bird that's more often heard than seen. (4)
9. Tawny and red throated are two members of the family. (5)
12. Black-winged bird that is a rare visitor to Britain. (5)
15. Type of deer. (3)

Solution on page 22

Continued/...

## CONSERVATION ON THE FARM

It seems that conservation is the "in" word in the farming community these days. Patches of woodland are springing up, farm conservation plans being made, ponds dug and land set aside from agricultural production to revert to natural grassland and scrub.

The reason for this is two fold. On the one hand farmers have become much more aware of conservation issues and of the damage that certain farming activities have done to the environment. They are keen to overcome their bad image as destroyers of the environment by such activities as the removal of hedgerows and application of chemicals designed to produce higher and higher yields and there is a genuine concern amongst many to conserve and improve.

The second reason is a change in government policy which encourages these developments. For years farmers were encouraged by subsidies to produce as much as possible until the situation was reached in the early 80s that production was far outstripping demand and the newspapers were full of stories of grain and butter mountains.

Since then measures have been introduced to reduce these surpluses and, although they have had a considerable effect there is still a long way to go to balance supply and demand. The EC say that an area about the size of Belgium will have to be taken out of production in the community countries by the end of the century. In UK terms that means that about a million hectares or 25% of the area devoted to cereal crops will be surplus to agricultural requirements.

Thus government policy is now to encourage farmers to set aside land from production and grants are given to cushion the effect of the loss of income this involves. The land must be managed to some extent by cutting to prevent the spread of weeds, pests and diseases, but generally it is good news for wildlife. Grants are also available for planting and maintaining trees on a large or small scale.

The Farming, Forestry and Wildlife Group actively encourages these developments and employs full time advisers to liaise with farmers and draw up conservation plans.

Even farmers who do not wish to take land out of production can take measures of considerable value to conservation. Small patches and strips of woodland can be put in as shelter belts and these act as wildlife corridors. Ponds can be cleaned out and enlarged.

Conservation headlands are a useful concept too. Here, a strip of land around the edge of a field of crops is left untreated by chemical sprays to act as a wildlife sanctuary. If necessary the strip can be treated just before harvesting.

The benefits of such measures can be quickly seen in terms of an increase in small mammals, birds, insects and butterflies without a noticeable reduction in yields for the farmer.

One farmer who has planted up a considerable area of new woodland with conservation in mind is John Nicol of Berryhill by Newburgh, whose farm is the venue of our September 15th outing this year. He hopes to share the benefits with local schools and conservation groups and encourages anyone to visit and take an active role in the conservation measures. He has even gone to the trouble of planting wild flower seeds as well as digging out a pond.

Generally the future for conservation on the farm looks bright, but the one factor which could cause a halt would be a change in government policy with the abolition of set-aside and woodland grants and a return to increased food production. Fortunately, this does not appear likely in the foreseeable future.

M Galloway

Continued/...

## GLENCOE INTERLUDE AUGUST '89

We tumbled through Glencoe on a fine bright morning with only the tops of the mountains still asleep in the mist. At the foot of the glen we pulled into a small layby with thoughts of coffee uppermost. Meall Mor rising steeply on the left and the YH Hostel across the river on the right and at our feet a beautiful flowery ditch.

We climbed the fence (the gate was locked) into a small damp meadow carpeted with **Heath Spotted Orchids**, *Dactylorhiza maculata*, crossed a burn, still more orchids, over a crumbling wall and on to the steep hillside. We had noted from a geological map that Meall Mor was largely composed of Metamorphosed limestone up to 1500 feet, so curiosity forced us to climb among the small outcropped rock gardens, **Purple Saxifrage** *Saxifraga oppositifolia* and **Mountain Avens**, *Dryas octopetala*.

The view back up Glencoe was splendid and although we climbed to the top all the best plants were on the lower slopes. A very worthwhile stop.  
M. Tennant.

### THE CASE OF THE VANISHING ORCHID

Almost a century ago, twenty one years after the founding of our society, we were affiliated to 'The East of Scotland Union of Naturalists' Societies.' In the proceedings of that Union published in 1895 was a very interesting article by a Mr W. S. Blacklock entitled 'Plants of Kirkcaldy'.

In this article Mr Blacklock "...desires to indicate the value of Kirkcaldy as a botanical centre,..." and proceeds to outline various excursions which would interest the botanists of that time. He goes on to "...emphasise the grave fact that our rare plants in Fife are being fast rooted out." To illustrate this he lists numerous plants which had in the twenty years prior to 1895 had been rare but at least surviving. These included *Orobanche rubra* the **Thyme Broomrape** now of course known as *Orobanche alba* which he found at a number of stations along the Fife coast. One of these sites at Kinghorn had twenty good specimens but had been reduced to only two rather stunted plants over a five year period.

At Raith he states he had found *Primula elatior* the **Oxlip** but in all probability the plants he described were *Primula veris* x *vulgaris* the **False Oxlip**. He records finding the numbers of this hybrid between the **Primrose** and the **Cowslip** decreasing rapidly over a fifteen year period. Members who joined us on our May outing to St. Monans and Elie will recall that one of the highlights of that walk was the numbers of **Primrose**, **Cowslip** and **False Oxlip** we found near to Elie. So this plant at least still has a good foothold in south Fife.

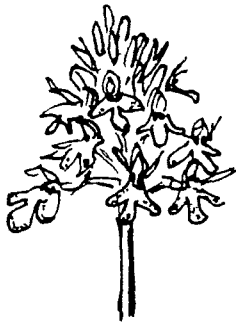
Another plant mentioned was of particular interest to me as it is the rare, *Anacamptis pyramidalis* the **Pyramidal Orchid** referred to in the article as *Orchis pyramidalis*. The tale he relates is a strange one full of misplaced good intentions. The article reads as follows:



Oyster Plant

"Ten years ago, along with my friend Mr. Howie, then of Largo I first visited the stations for the *Orchis pyramidalis* and the **Oyster Plant**. *Orchis pyramidalis* is now extinct. The **Oyster Plant** has extended greatly. Of the latter there existed at that time about seven plants; last year I counted about twenty. I have always kept the station as far as possible secret, and I was sorry to see in our local papers that the **Oyster Plant** had been reported as found by some of the

Continued/...



**Pyramidal Orchid**

excursions of our society. The Kincaig camp is to blame for the obliteration of *Orchis pyramidalis*. On the formation of the camp, the various specimens were, by the orders of the late Mr. Jeffrey of Largo, taken up and planted in the garden of Largo House; there they died, and as far as I know, this rare and beautiful plant is extinct."

So that seemed the end of that, but two years ago, close to the original site over 200 flowering spikes of this rare member of the Scottish orchid flora were found. Of the **Oyster Plant**, I have no accurate information but I fear it may now be lost to Fife. So all in all a fairly happy ending to 'The Case of the Vanishing Orchid'.

P.S. Copies of the original 1895 article can be had from the Secretary, priced 50p including postage.

### **WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 1989**

About 12 different members of the Society put slides in for judging by Dr Derek Robertson and Mr Tony Campbell, in the three sections of this year's competition. Again the standards were very high. The winners of the 1st. section, a set of 3 slides on a Wildlife Theme in Britain were:-

- 1st - Dr Alban Houghton who won the £10 prize.
- 2nd - Mr Dennis Redfern, awarded the £5 prize.
- 3rd - Mr Colin McLeod, the winner of the free bus trip.

The winner of the section for 3 slides on a wildlife theme taken overseas was Mr Brian Allan

The winner of the best print section was Mrs Jenny Allan.

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all entrants. More power to your camera-button finger for this year!

### **WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 1990**

Because of the success of the competition in 1988 and 1989, the council have decided to run it again this year. Closing date 31st January 1990. The rules are unchanged and are as follows.

The main competition is for :-

A set of 3 slides on one theme of British wildlife photographed in the British Isles in 1990.

**1st Prize - £10 : 2nd Prize - £5 : 3rd prize - Free Nats' outing bus ride.**  
**A certificate will be awarded for the best winning set.**

#### **Subsidiary competitions :**

1. Best individual print (postcard size) of British Wildlife, photographed in the British Isles in 1990. **A prize of £5 will be awarded to the winner.**
2. Best set of 3 slides on a Wildlife Theme photographed outside the British Isles in 1990. **The winners prize is again £5.**

Continued/...

*Only paid up members of Dundee Naturalists' Society may enter, and one entry is allowed in each section. Those who wish to enter please complete the enclosed application form. There is no entry fee.*

*All slides or prints must be labelled, with the title but NOT with the entrant's name. They will be numbered by the organisers.*

*Pictures will be judged on their wildlife/natural history interest, the pictures' impact, composition and sharpness.*

Jim Cook

\*\*\*\*\*

## QUIZ ANSWERS

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

#### ACROSS

1. Marsh Mallow
6. Death Cap
10. Ruff
11. Starling
13. Elk
14. Nightjar
16. Grey or Pied Wagtail

#### DOWN

1. Meadowsweet
2. Sooty
3. Arran
4. Ley
5. Dwarf Cornel
7. Slug
8. Lark
9. Pipit
12. Stilt
14. Roe

\*\*\*\*\*

### WORD SQUARE SOLUTION

Wren, rook, sparrow, spoonbill, dunlin, wood pigeon, snipe, eider, heron, coot, lapwing, buzzard, robin, kite, swan.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ANAGRAMS SOLUTION

Puffball  
Boletus  
Parasol Mushroom  
Ink Cap  
Honey Fungus  
Truffle

\*\*\*\*\*

## DIARY DATES

### DUNDEE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY WINTER PROGRAMME PROPOSED DATES

1990  
October 16th : Lecture  
October 27th : Outing  
November 6th : Lecture  
November 20th : Lecture  
December 4th : Lecture  
December 18th : Christmas Meeting

1991  
January 2nd : Barbecue  
January 15th : Lecture  
January 29th : Lecture  
February 12th : Members' Night  
February 26th : Lecture  
March 12th : Lecture  
March 26th : A. G. M.

Continued/...



**SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST**  
Dundee and Angus Branch

April 27th-29th: KINDROGAN WEEKEND (Details from Mrs J Bruce, Tel Dundee 68501)  
12th May : PLANT SALE AND GARDEN PARTY - at 11 Norwood Crescent DUNDEE.  
(Details from Mrs E Walsh Tel Dundee 65843)  
19th May : OPEN DAY with two talks in the morning and a choice of 2 outings  
in the afternoon, plus A.G.M. 12.00 noon at South Esk Church Hall,  
St Ninian's Square, BRECHIN.  
20th May : ARBROATH CLIFF WALK - Meet 2.00pm at Whiting Ness Car Park.  
26th May : ST CYRUS - Meet at the St Cyrus Reserve Car Park at 10.00am.  
27th May : BALGAVIES LOCH - Meet at Viewpoint Car Park at 1.00pm.  
(The last three outings mark National Wild Flower Week).  
(Further details from Mr M A Bushby, 15 Graham Crescent, MONTROSE. Tel 73343).

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**SCOTTISH ORCHID SOCIETY**  
Tayside and Fife Branch

25th March: "CONSERVATION AND PRESENTATION" Lecture by Mr Henry Marsh.  
31st May : "ORCHID JUDGING" with Mrs J Halcrow, Mr I Kennedy and Mr P Timoney.  
Meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Logie and St John(Cross) Church Hall,  
Shaftesbury Terrace, DUNDEE. (Details from Mr Alex Barty, Tel 08284 349)

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**R. S. P. B. BARRY/BUDDON OPEN DAY**

19th August : Once again, Mr Stephen Fulford will be leading a walk over this  
wildlife rich area. Meet at 10.00am at the Monifieth Gate.  
Further details from Stephen. Tel 91 53053

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**ENVIRONMENT DAYS**

29th April : CROMBIE COUNTRY PARK - Afternoon music, stalls and barbecue.  
For more details Tel (02416) 360  
6th May : MONIKIE COUNTRY PARK - A variety of events and stalls.  
For more details Tel Newbigging (082-623) 202

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**DUNDEE TREE GROUP**

9th April : "THE MAKING OF A NATURE RESERVE" - Illustrated talk by Mrs M.  
Duncan. 7.30pm in the Society of Friends Rooms, Whitehall Cres.  
21st April : Visit to WEST WOODS OF ETHIE, Arbroath. Meet at woods 2.00pm  
2nd May : Tour TEMPLETON WOODS with Eric Hamilton, Forestry Officer. Meet at  
Ranger Centre 7.30 pm.  
19th May : Tour of MONCREIFFE HILL WOOD , Enter by gate on South Rhynd Road,  
Bridge of Earn. 2.00pm.

Important Note.

Pat McLeod is collecting aluminium cans; proceeds to help the tropical rain  
forests campaign. All cans to Pat at 65 Johnston Avenue, Dundee.  
Foil trays, milk bottle tops etc. to Pat or nearest Oxfam shop.

# DUNDEE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

Excursion Secretary · Miss L F Fullerton  
57, West Road  
NEWPORT-ON-TAY  
Fife DD6 8HN Tel 542249

Please complete the form below and return it to the above address.

This will be accepted as a firm booking and any alterations or cancellations should be notified to Miss Fullerton at least by the Monday prior to the outing, otherwise members will be charged full fare

For the purposes of this form, a junior member is a student or school pupil and will pay half fare

## BOOKING FORM FOR 1988 OUTINGS

	ADULTS	JUNIORS
Sat 21st April	Edinburgh Botanic Gardens	
Sat 12th May	Dunkeld/Loch of the Lowes	
Sat 26th May	Boddin to Scurdie Ness	
Sat 23rd June	Keltneyburn/Aberfeldy	
Sat 14th July	Ben Lawers	
Sat 28th July	Morrone Wood	
Sat 11th August	Innerwick - Rannoch	
Sat 25th Aug	Tentsmuir	
Sat 15th Sept	Fife Farm Wildlife Walk	

### THE FOLLOWING OUTINGS NEED NOT BE BOOKED

Tues 12th June	Barry/Buddon (evening)	//////// OWN TRANSPORT //////////
Tues 17th July	Carsegowiemuir (evening)	//////// OWN TRANSPORT //////////
Tues 21st August	Crombie Park (evening)	//////// OWN TRANSPORT //////////

NAME

ADDRESS

Tel No

# DUNDEE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

DO NOT SEND THIS COPY TO EXCURSION SECRETARY

The two copies of the Booking Form for the 1990 Summer excursions will enable you to keep a copy of your bookings for your own reference while sending the other to the excursion secretary But remember this is a firm booking and any alterations or cancellations should be notified to Miss Fullerton at least by the Monday prior to the outing, otherwise members will be charged full fare

## RETAIN THIS COPY REFERENCE COPY FOR 1990 OUTINGS

	ADULTS	JUNIORS
Sat 21st April	Edinburgh Botanic Gardens	Bus 9 30am
Sat 12th May	Dunkeld/Loch of the Lowes	Bus 9 00am
Sat 26th May	Boddin to Scurdie Ness	Bus 10 00am
Tues 12th June	Barry/Buddon Meet 6 00pm-Monifieth gate	// OWN TRANSPORT ///
Sat 23rd June	Keltneyburn/Aberfeldy	Bus 9 00am
Sat 14th July	Ben Lawers	Bus 9 00am
Tues 17th July	Carsegowiemuir	Meet CGM 7 00pm /// OWN TRANSPORT ///
Sat 28th July	Morrone Wood	Bus 8 30am
Sat 11th August	Innerwick - Rannoch	Bus 8 30am
Tues 21st August	Crombie Park	Meet at car park 7 00pm . /// OWN TRANSPORT ///
Sat 25th Aug	Tentsmuir	Bus 10 00am
Sat 15th Sept	Fife Farm Wildlife Walk and BBQ	Bus 10 00am

CUT HERE

# Dundee Naturalists' Society

## Instituted 1874



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20th March 1990

The above meeting was held in the Chaplaincy Centre, The University, DUNDEE at 7-30pm.

Chairman Miss E Kidney Present 80+

#### APOLOGIES

None

The Secretary read the minutes of the AGM 1989 to the assembled Members.

Mr Jim Cook proposed the adoption of the minutes.

Mr Bob McLeod was seconder.

There were no matters arising.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Miss Kidney thanked all Society Members and Office-bearers for her enjoyable three years as Society President. She then wished the new President, Mr Richard Brinklow, every success for the future.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Current Membership numbers are :-

Honorary	- 5
Ordinary	- 127
Family	- 82
Student	- 6
Past	- 3

Overall numbers have remained stable since numbers of Members leaving are balanced by those joining.

An excellent and varied Summer programme was enjoyed by attending Members, with some new Leaders and locations as well as 'tried and tested' ones. All those who led outings were thanked as was Excursion Secretary, Miss Leonore Fullerton, for her excellent and efficient organisation.

A different time and venue was tried for our Summer Weekend last July, taking advantage of inexpensive accommodation in Aberdeen University's Halls of Residence. Mrs Marjory Tennant and Mr Jim Cook organised a very successful and popular weekend in the area.

The Society's programme of winter lectures was, once again, varied and memorable. Thanks are due to all those Members who supported the lectures and to Society Members Mr Gordon Kirkland and Mrs Elin Walsh who both gave excellent talks. Attendances were better this year with an average attendance of around 70 persons per lecture. There were some problems initially with the poor state of Room T9, but after a stern letter to the management there was an improvement. The Autumn Outing to Gartmorn Dam was enjoyable and well supported. An Autumn outing to the Gatty Marine Laboratory is planned for this year. The Winter Barbecue, ably organised by Ina and Alistair Fraser, was excellent and enjoyable. The Bulletin has incorporated a diary page this year for the first time; if this proves useful and popular the page will be repeated in future editions. The Editor, Miss Mary Galloway, and all her contributors were thanked. Members were reminded that articles for the 1991 Bulletin would be accepted at any time during the year.

Mrs Allan asked for volunteers to man stalls at Monikie and Crombie Country Parks on their "Environment Days".

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Brian Allan briefly explained each item in the Accounts Summary 1989/90, which was included in the Bulletin. The Society has a healthy surplus this year. The Subscription rates are to remain at the same levels as in the previous year.

Mr Bob McLeod proposed the adoption of the accounts  
Mrs Betty McLure was Seconder.

### ELECTION OF NEW OFFICE BEARERS

Miss Eileen Kidney proposed that Miss Leonore Fullerton be adopted as Vice President.  
Mr Brian Allan was seconder.

There were 2 Council vacancies to be filled and the following 2 Members were nominated to fill the vacancies:-

Miss Shelagh Gardiner	- Proposer Mrs M Tennant
	Seconder Miss E Kidney
Mr Neil Burford	- Proposer Mrs J H Allan
	Seconder Mrs Joan Thomson

There being no other nominations they were duly elected.

### TECHNICAL CONVENOR'S REPORT

Mr Cook referred Members to attendant copies of the "Barry Mill Survey", (also available from the Secretary). This survey was undertaken by Society Members on behalf of new owners, The National Trust, who wish to restore the Mill and adjacent lands. Mr Cook compiled and presented the survey results in the form of a booklet. The National Trust were delighted with the survey and may commission further work from our Society in the future.

The Sea Pea was once again surveyed in its Angus Coastal locations. Last year's dry summer caused some consternation, but the plant nonetheless appeared to be thriving; in fact in some places there were too many to count! The report has been sent to the N.C.C. Volunteers are still needed to survey the Sea Pea this year, but less detail will be required.

Mr Cook also referred Members to the following :-  
The Dundee and Angus Bat Group would like more Members.  
A Badger Survey may be undertaken if enough Members are interested.  
Volunteers are needed for a Montrose Basin Botanical/Invertebrates Survey.  
Carsegowriemuir still requires members to help with various surveys and other activities. Volunteers to contact the C.G.M. Committee.  
A List of Fungi found on the Methven Woods Excursion is available on request.  
Finally, Mr Cook reminded Members about this year's Photographic Competition.  
**This ended the business at 8.30pm apprx.**

Retiring President, Miss Kidney was then presented with a bouquet by Karen Milton, one of the Society's youngest Members.  
Mr Tony Campbell then showed two excellent slide/tape programmes on 'The Shetlands' and 'Ancient Stones'.  
Afterwards Members adjourned for Tea and Coffee etc.

PLEASE RETAIN FOR THE A.G.M. 1991