

Dundee Naturalists' Society

Instituted 1874



Bulletin No15 1990-91

Summary of Accounts : Year to 15th February 1991.

INCOME

BROUGHT FORWARD:

Current A/c 6021419	6.32	
Deposit A/c 5404632	608.21	
Deposit A/c 0121632 Closed		
Cash in hand	3.30	
	<u>617.83</u>	617.83

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Session 1989/90	0.00	
Session 1990/91	690.00	
Session 1991/92	10.00	
	<u>700.00</u>	700.00

INTEREST:

War bonds	1.74	
Deposit A/c	33.34	
	<u>35.08</u>	35.08

DONATIONS:

Mr Murray	10.00	
Mr Keillor	2.00	
	<u>12.00</u>	12.00

FUND RAISING:

AGM '90-Tea/Coffee	29.60	
Fungi Night Teas	1.67	
Xmas '90-Tea/Coffee	30.00	
	<u>61.27</u>	61.27

EXPENDITURE

BULLETIN AND SYLLABUS:

Printing Bulletin	83.49	
Print Syllabus/Enc.	82.29	
Postage	32.36	
Stationery	73.23	
	<u>271.37</u>	271.37

OFFICE BEARERS' EXPENSES:

Secretary	24.71	
Treasurer	8.50	
	<u>33.21</u>	33.21

LECTURE ROOM RENTAL:

Room T9 to Mar '90	180.00	
Chaplaincy centre	20.00	
	<u>200.00</u>	200.00

LECTURERS' FEES ETC.:

Fees + Expenses		176.28.
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INSURANCE:

Public Liability		65.00
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MISC. EXPENSES:

Photo Comp. Prizes	25.00	
Photo Comp. Cards	2.40	
Get Well Fruit/Fls	53.10	
Donation to SWT.	30.00	
	<u>110.50</u>	110.50

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Rights of Way Soc.	12.00	
FFWAG	10.00	
Habitat	10.00	
S. W. T.	25.00	
	<u>57.00</u>	57.00

CASH IN BANK/HAND:

Current A/c 6021419	13.34	
Deposit A/c 5404632	494.50	
Cash in Hand - Secretary	4.01	
Cash in Hand - Treasurer	.97	
	<u>1426.18</u>	1426.18

TOTAL INCOME

1426.18

TOTAL:

1426.18

CARSEGOWNIEMUIR ACCOUNT

Balance at Feb 1990	244.20	
Interest	13.95	
Total Income	<u>258.15.</u>	
Expenditure:	-0.00	
Balance at 15th Feb '91	<u>258.15</u>	

WEEKEND ACCOUNT - Bamburgh

Income		2652.16
Expenditure	-2681.67	
Net Profit/Loss		-29.51
Balance from Feb 88		77.09
Balance at July '90 c/f		<u>47.58</u>

OUTINGS ACCOUNT

c/f from Feb 1990	8.53	
Income	1051.50	
Interest	2.93	
Sub Total	<u>1062.96</u>	
Expenditure	-1046.20	
Balance at 15th Feb '91	<u>16.76</u>	

WEEKEND ACCOUNT - Speyside

Brought forward bal.		47.58
Deposits received		340.00
Bank Interest		.86
Sub Total		<u>388.44</u>
Refund - M. Dryburgh.		-10.00
Balance at 15th Feb '91		<u>378.44</u>

Expenditure & Income account for the year ending 15th Feb 1991

DUNDEE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

ANNUAL BULLETIN No. 15
1990-91

Hon President : Dr John Berry

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

President : Mr Richard K. Brinklow

Vice Presidents : Mr James K. Cook
Miss Leonore F. Fullerton

Hon Secretary : Mrs Jennifer H. Allan, 18 Grangehill Drive
Monifieth, (0382) 533132

Hon Treasurer : Mr Brian Allan, 18 Grangehill Drive
Monifieth, (0382) 533132

Excursion Secretary : Miss Leonore F. Fullerton, The Castle
Newport-on-Tay (0382) 542249

Bulletin Editor : Miss Mary Galloway, 30 Loraine Road
Dundee, (0382) 454431

The Bulletin cover illustration is by Leonore Fullerton and shows a selection of our area's alpine plants, including the Society's emblem the Dwarf Cornel.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Fellow Members,

As my first year as President draws to a close, I must record that it has been much less traumatic than I might have feared. This is largely due to the extremely competent way in which other officers have carried out their duties. A lot of hard work goes into ensuring the smooth running of the Society and it must be every President's dream to have such a strong team.

The Society is in a healthy state, both financially and in terms of membership. However, if it is to continue to flourish, it must gradually develop and evolve with the changing times.

No radical changes are being considered, although it has become apparent that certain types of outings which were successful ten years or so ago, are no longer so popular. It is hoped that following careful examination and subtle changes, this year's programme will more closely approach current requirements.

Each year we strive to arrange excursion and lecture programmes at least as good or better than those that proceeded them. It's becoming an ever more difficult act to follow.

During the coming field season we intend to revive the informal surveys and small study projects which have been successful in the past. I do hope as many members as possible become involved.

The Society is much more than just a series of winter lectures and summer

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bus trips that individuals can attend. To me the "Dundee Nats" is primarily a friendly organisation which anyone interested in nature and the countryside can contribute to and become involved in.

My aim is to ensure that it remains the Society where everyone feels equally welcome, beginners and experts alike and I would like to end by thanking all the members who help to make the Society so happy and successful.

Richard K. Brinklow.

R K Brinklow

***** SUMMER EXCURSIONS *****

Sadly, at the end of the 1990 summer season we lost the services of Greyhound Coaches, following a takeover by Tayside Transport.

Very quickly it became obvious that the reliable service and friendly association we had established with the Greyhound Staff would not be possible under Tayside's wing. The coach drivers greatly contributed to the success of the outings and one of Mrs Carol Milton's beautiful bouquets was sent to Mrs Fisher, the Manageress, to thank her for all her help over the years.

Regrettably, any new contract is going to mean higher costs, and inevitably higher fares. Please grin and bear with us when the "clippie" does her Saturday rounds!!!

As it is no longer cost-effective to hire a coach for a low mileage excursion, the Council has worked hard to draw up the 1991 programme with a selection of outings offering wide appeal.

I should like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the summer programme, and add a special thank you to Mrs Marjory Tennant, who has carried out her assignments as Assistant Excursion Secretary so ably and amiably.

L.F. Fullerton

EDINBURGH BOTANIC GARDENS
21st APRIL

Any visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh is popular and this year was no exception. Although some of the rhododendrons had been caught by a late, sharp frost, many of the more hardy species were at their best and provided a lovely show.

The Rock Garden too, was at its best with most of the spring alpenes and bulbs in peak condition.

Those of us who headed along the path passed the high beech hedge towards the Alpine House were surprised to see a nesting Mallard duck atop the hedge some 30 or 40 feet above the ground. For your information I'm told that the youngsters did hatch and surprisingly survived the long drop to terra firma.

At the Alpine house itself, which is always my favourite part of the Garden, we were treated to many of the more tender alpenes including some Mediterranean orchid, crocus, cyclamen and fritillary species.

As on other visits, when the weather gets a trifle chilly, we all enjoyed the large expanses of glasshouses and the large exhibition hall, where among other topics was a display entitled 'Bamboo and its uses'. But as the day progressed the most popular 'exhibit' by far was the Coffee Shop at the east gate, which excelled with a selection of sticky buns and gateaux.

Brian Allan.

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DUNKELD/LOCH OF THE LOWES 12th MAY

A full bus load of 'Nats' set off for Dunkeld where we were met by Michael Taylor of Perth Museum. He conducted us on a walk from the square, across the Tay and along the right-hand bank of the river to Inver, which was the birthplace in 1839 of Charlie Macintosh, the renowned Perthshire Naturalist. Neil Gow the violinist was also born in Inver and his cottage is just a stone's throw from that of Charlie. It was here we saw an unusual copper-coloured shrub which prompted some discussion, (a polite word for argument). Later it was definitely identified as a **Copper Hazel** and I have since seen two more in Dundee.

At the age of 16 Charlie started work in the village saw mill which dealt with timber from the Atholl and Murthly estates. Two years later he lost the fingers and thumb of his left hand in a working accident and spent the next 32 years as a rural postman in Strathtay. During these years he furthered his boyhood interest in natural history and archaeology as he walked his round of 16 miles each day. His lanky 6'2½" figure was a familiar sight as he carried the mail and collected botanical specimens to be studied later. He became an expert on fungi and it was this interest which brought him into contact with Beatrix Potter when she came on family holidays to Dunkeld in 1892/3. Beatrix (born 1866) was a fungi expert too and produced exquisite water colours often of specimens collected by Charlie. It is thought that Charlie may have been the unsuspecting model for Mr McGregor in Beatrix's well-known Peter Rabbit stories as by this time he was sporting a long white beard.

Walking back into Birnam, Mr Taylor pointed out two of the houses rented for holidays by the Potter family. All present voted this a most unusual and interesting outing.

After lunch the group was met by Alan Barclay, Warden of the S.W.T. Loch of Lowes reserve, and his assistant. Instead of going straight on to the reserve as usual, we walked from the centre of Dunkeld up a steep lane and then on to a track encircling the hill. The broadleaved woodland was at its springtime best with a thick carpet of **Bluebells**. There was plenty of birdsong to identify and flowers too. As the track reached its summit, a panoramic view over Loch of Lowes, Craiglush, Butterstone and beyond was revealed.

Once at the reserve there was plenty of time to study the aquaria, enjoy the slide/tape show and visit the hide. The **Ospreys** didn't put in an appearance but **Great Crested Grebe** were there, also **Little Grebe**, **Tufted Duck**, **Mallard**, **Coot** etc. Just outside the Centre window a family of foraging **Wood Mice** proved a great attraction. All agreed this was a fitting end to a great day.

Joan L. Thomson

COASTAL WALK FROM BODDIN POINT TO SCURDIE NESS 26th MAY

This rocky coastline which mantles the north eastern shoulder of Angus, is one of the most varied for the enthusiastic Naturalist. In late spring and early summer it abounds with carpets of jewel-like wild flowers, sprinkled around the nests of grassland and shore birds. That's the best season of the year but at any time the contorted and heavily eroded rock formations and semi-precious stones, the cries of numerous seabirds and the wash of seaweeds, with battering and sucking wave action, all along the strand line mean there is always plenty to observe and investigate.

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The scarcity of early bookings meant that we organised this as a private car outing, rather than hiring a bus. A contingent from the Edinburgh Natural History Association added to the cluster of vehicles in Boddin and Ferryden, but there was ample parking between the two. The parties met up on the track just above the headland of Boddin Point.

After taking in **Primroses** and their hybrids with **Cowslips**, **False Oxlips**, **Nottingham Catchfly** and other specialities, the group made its way down to the fortress-like old lime kilns. While being careful of the unstable and even dangerous parts of the massive structure, we searched for, and found, **Thrift**, and **Bulbous Buttercup**, **Sea and Buck's-horn Plantain**, **Oatgrasses** and **Wild Cabbage**. None took much finding as the botanical conditions were excellent. The wind was strong but not too cold and members made sightings of **Gannets**, **Terns**, **Eiders**, **Herring**, **Lesser Black-backed** and **Black-headed Gulls**, **Kittiwakes** and **Cormorants**.

The track northwards along the top of the cliff was in good condition and lined with a wide range of examples of cliff flora, including some **Early Purple Orchids**. We viewed the elephant rock and the small graveyard there, with its headstone of the man who died before he was born! Some members followed the path towards the beach whilst others continued along the top. There was lots to be seen by both groups. Along the shore we passed the probable site of the famous 'blue hole' agate locality; there was certainly considerable and very recent damage from indiscriminate hacking. Another speciality visited was **Sea Mugwort**, *Artemisia maritima*, in what may be its most northern locality on the east coast. The upper party passed a good variety of flowers including **Violets**, **Purple Milk-vetch**, and **Meadow Saxifrage**.

The paths converged on Fishtown of Usan, again a fascinating natural history locality deserving a thorough exploration. There and further along the coast, areas of battered rock from unthinkable rock hounds littered the shore line. Nevertheless, there was enough interest in **Willows**, **Sedges**, some unusual saltmarsh plants and nesting **Oystercatchers** to divert attention. The coastline gradually lowers until there is a drop of only 10 feet or so onto the seashore rocks and a good range of pebbles. Ahead the Scurdie Ness lighthouse beckoned. Time for another cup of tea!

The two groups eventually met up back in Ferryden.
Jim Cook.

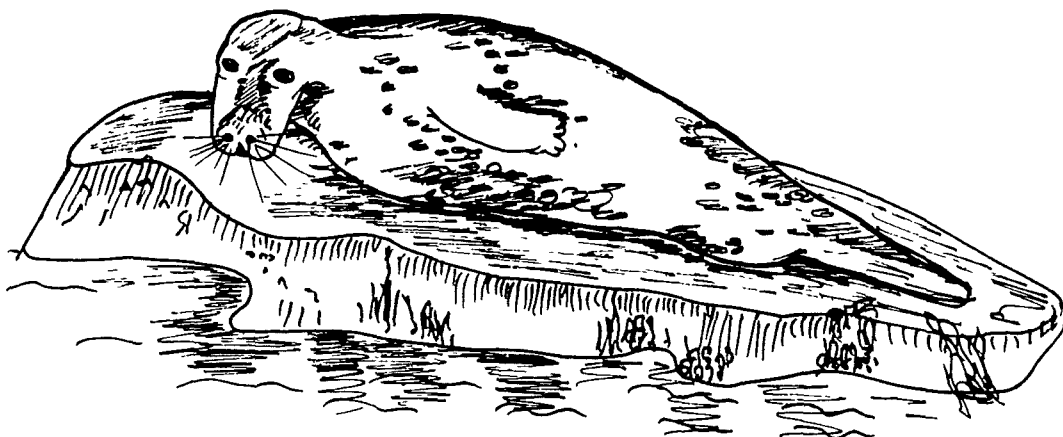
BAMBURGH WEEKEND 8th-10th JUNE

The weekend had an inauspicious start on Friday, when the excursion bus left late - minus the leaders, (Brian was stuck in a traffic jam)! However, after Kinross the bus continued on its scenic journey with a full complement of Nats. Spirits were further lifted after a tasty dinner on arrival at the Sunningdale Hotel in Bamburgh.

On Saturday morning the day dawned wet, windy and misty - the worst possible conditions for our planned boat trip out to the Farne Islands. After some deliberation at the Seahouses pier, a very reluctant boat crew finally agreed to take us on a tour round Inner and Outer Farnes, but the heavy swell precluded us from landing on any of the Islands. Many Members 'took fright' at the mountainous seas and elected instead to spend the day pottering around Bamburgh instead. But those brave and intrepid souls who decided to join the boat excursion found this a marvellously exciting experience with excellent views of **Grey Seals** basking in large colonies on the rocks. There were also **Puffins**, **Guillemots**, **Razorbills**, **Kittiwakes**, **Shags** and **Cormorants**, many busily 'working'.

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for food in the turbulent waters, others watching us from large cliff colonies. A few rare **Bridled Guillemots** were spotted. Those with video and still cameras obtained worthwhile shots in spite of the drenching sea spray and rocking of the boat.



Grey Seal

Solemnly contemplating the 'Boat people'.

At 1.00pm our bus driver returned to Seahouses to convey some wet and shivering souls back to Bamburgh for welcome food and changes of clothing. Others preferred to wander back along the dunes, admiring the diverse flora which included **Wild Lupins**, **Hawkweeds**, late-flowering **Primroses** and **Cowslips**. The elusive sun came out just as we reached Bamburgh and the party split up to spend the sunny afternoon as they wished. Attractions included Bamburgh Castle, the Grace Darling Museum, many interesting shops and tea rooms, and a beautiful sandy beach.

On Sunday morning we boarded our bus again and waved goodbye to a full complement of Sunningdale staff who had gathered to see us off. A lucky low tide gave us several hours to wander around Lindisfarne. A botanically minded group followed Brian around the dunes admiring the beautiful early summer Orchids. Species in flower were Early **Marsh Orchids**, *Dactylorhiza incarnata*, Northern **Marsh Orchids**, *D. purpurella*, Common **Spotted Orchids**, *D. maculata sub sp fuchsii*, and **Coralroot orchids**, *Corallorhiza trifida*. Unfortunately the showy **Marsh Helleborines**, *Epipactis palustris*, were still in bud. Somewhere along the way our leader discovered that he had the rapt attention of another party of botanical enthusiasts who were also following him around the dunes!



Marsh Helleborine

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These turned out to be members of the Northumbria Naturalists' Trust whose leader had apparently failed to turn up. Other interesting plants found among the dunes were Pirri-pirri Bur, *Acaena anserinifolia*, Butterwort, *Pinguicula vulgaris*, and Brookweed, *Samolus valerandi*. Nearby, the large salt marsh area was bordered by colourful clumps of Thrift, *Armeria maritima*, and Sea Milkwort, *Glaux maritima*, in full bloom.

Many members also visited the castle or abbey at Lindisfarne. Sales of the local Mead were steady!

In the afternoon, the party called in at the superb grounds of The Hirsell to wander around the many exhibitions and craft shops, not to mention the tea room, before finally boarding the bus and heading back to Dundee.
Jenny Allan.

BARRY BUDDON Evening Field Trip 12th JUNE

Barry Buddon, when the weather is bad, can be bleak, featureless and uninviting. This was not the case on the evening in June when a large group of members met. Skylarks sang overhead; it was dry and sunny, and there was still a whiff of gorse in the air as the party approached Big Wood.

This is not a large wood; but within a small area there is a variety of trees with the correspondingly different undercover. The latter, especially the damp areas with mosses, was examined in detail as were the various fungi associated with dead or fallen trees. Evidence of Roe Deer, Foxes and Rabbits were seen and Blackcap and Redpoll broke the monotony of the many Chaffinches.

Leaving the wood an area of rough grassland was traversed. Birch was recorded as invading the area and isolated small trees were seen to have been used as rubbing points by deer. Few flowers were seen, a characteristic of the area in general, the dry spring and low water table possibly the main reason. Even the Orchid species that grow in profusion adjacent to the drainage ditches were sparse.

Earlier in the year, a fire had burnt an extensive area of grass; from a distance this looked to be a blackened waste, but as we walked through it much regeneration was noted. Suddenly someone said, "There is an Adder's Tongue fern," and "There is another and another". Numbers seen increased rapidly within a small patch; there appeared to be hundreds sprouting through the blackened earth. (A later count recorded 2000+). All were easy to see because of the lack of any competition; under normal conditions they may have grown just as profusely, but could not be seen because of the thick grass. To the botanists this was the highlight of the evening.

A change of habitat followed. The watercourse was examined. Sticklebacks and many other aquatic organisms wriggled in the shallow water.



Adder's Tongue Fern

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There has been little or no study of this part of Barry Buddon. A few **Marsh Orchids** were discovered in the adjacent dune slack and a single **Twayblade** but no **Coralroot**. A **Green Woodpecker** put in an appearance and called as did a pair of **Reed Buntings**. A keen eyed member picked up some bird pellets; one was almost all beetle carapaces, **Kestrel?**, and the the other, fur and small rodent bones, **Short Eared Owl?**

The sun was beginning to sink lower and the temperature with it. Everywhere an aura of peace and calm seemed to be about. "A strange sensation", remarked someone, "for an area set aside for the practice of military training." This is one of the contradictions of Barry Buddon. Violent practices exist in harmony alongside one another. Most of the area remains natural without the effect of chemicals or fertilisers and it is mainly for this reason that it attracts naturalists. Fortunately those in charge are only too happy to allow persons with genuine interests to visit at any safe time.

Stephen Fulford

DUNKELD HERMITAGE/ABERFELDY 'BIRKS' 23rd JUNE

We were disappointed in being too large a party for the Scottish Wildlife Trust to cope with at their Keltneyburn Reserve. Nonetheless, the Hermitage alternative yielded one **Orchid** spotting, a **Twayblade**, *Listera ovata*, near Inver, and the 'Birks' provided two, **Common Spotted Orchid**, *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, and **Northern Marsh Orchid**, *D. purpurella*.

Some other highlights at the Hermitage were, the magnificent **Conifers**, **Beech**, **Ash**, **Sycamore**, **Hazel**, **Bird Cherry**, **Sanicle**, *Sanicula europea*, **Common Wintergreen**, *Pyrola minor*, **Wood Cranesbill**, *Geranium sylvaticum*, **Wood Sedge**, *Carex sylvatica* and **Black Spleenwort**. An opportunist **Mouse** lurking under a seat at the falls looking for crumbs distracted some of our party from the view while partaking of lunch. Some of the birds seen in the vicinity were:- **Grey Wagtail**, **Wood Warbler**, **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **Heron**, **Jackdaw**, **Kestrel** and **Curlew**.

The 'Birks' yielded a long list of interesting plants and birds. Combining reports from many pairs of eyes gave a good record. Some highlights were:- **Birch**, of course, *Betula pendula* and *B. pubescens*, **Aspen**, **Hazel**, **Goat Willow**, **Blackthorn**, **Gooseberry**, **Beech**, **Woodruff**, *Galium odoratum*, **Ramsons**, *Allium ursinum*, **Globe Flower**, *Trollius europaea*, **Wall Lettuce**, *Mycelis muralis*, **Winter Cress**, *Barbarea vulgaris*, **Stone Bramble**, *Rubus saxatilis*, **Chickweed Wintergreen**, *Trientalis europaea*, **Wood Sage**, *Teucrium scorodonia*, **Common Cow Wheat**, *Melampyrum pratense*, and, after a diligent search, **Wood Cow Wheat**, *M. sylvaticum*. **Red Squirrel**, **Shrew** and **Lizard** were seen. Notable birds were:- **Tree Creeper**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Blackcap**, **Goldfinch**, **Dipper**, **Goldcrest**, **Jackdaw**, **Buzzard** and **Short Eared Owl**.

Margaret G Duncan

BEN LAWERS 14th JULY

Around forty members, young and old, set off early for the drive to the mecca of British alpine flora, Ben Lawers.

Why is Lawers so special for alpinists and why do the same flowers not grow on the many other mountains of similar height to be found elsewhere in Scotland? These questions were asked by many of the group that day and the answer is quite simple; as an old radio comedian often said "the answer lies in the soil" And so it does, the rocks which makes up the Ben Lawers range are mainly calcareous

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schists which in turn produces an alkaline or base rich soil which is the soil most suited to the rarer Scottish alpinists. On the other hand the majority of the mountains found in other parts of the country are formed by acidic rocks like granite and gneiss and are covered with the more typical Scottish mountain plants such as Ling, Bell Heather and associated heathland plants which thrive in acid soil conditions. Hence the familiar heather clad hills traditionally associated with Scotland are covered with grasses and on the higher cliffs and ledges, the goal for our excursion, the alpine flowers.

So much for the background. The weather for the weekend was forecast as warm and sunny, well that was a joke for a start. When we arrived at the visitor's centre we could barely see 20 yards never mind the summit we were to climb. But undeterred we headed for the slopes with about half concentrating on the lower slopes and nature trail and the remainder disappearing into the mist to scale not just one Munro (mountains over 3000 ft.) but two, as to reach the most choice areas the mighty Beinn Ghlas had first to be conquered.

The flowers found on the nature trail and lower slopes are just as interesting as those found further up and many members spent considerable effort in the enjoyable task of plant identification. A list of the ones that stand out in my mind from these lower altitudes are as follows:

<i>Saxifraga aizoides</i>	YELLOW MOUNTAIN SAXIFRAGE
<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>	THYME-LEAVED MILKWORT
<i>Lycopodium selago</i>	FIR CLUBMOSS
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	FAIRY OR PURGING FLAX
<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>	ALPINE LADY'S MANTLE
<i>Polygonum viviparum</i>	VIVIPAROUS BISTORT
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	HEATH SPEEDWELL
<i>Euphrasia officinalis</i> agg.	EYEBRIGHT
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	COMMON BUTTERWORT
<i>Thymus drucei</i>	MOUNTAIN THYME
<i>Galium sternerii</i>	SLENDER BEDSTRAW
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	BOG ASPHODEL
<i>Festuca vivipara</i>	VIVIPAROUS FESCUE
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	CROSS-LEAVED HEATH

On now to 'the slog on the Fog' as the climb was affectionately referred to, when we could find the breath to communicate. Other phrases which were bandied about and which can be put in print include, 'How many more ridges are there?', 'How far to the top', 'If you keep talking you don't notice the climb', 'Ha ha, who are you (pant, pech) trying to kid'. etc. etc.

But on to more serious matters, if survival is not considered serious. The summit of Beinn Ghlas was duly reached and the soul destroying descent to then scale the even higher Ben Lawers was also negotiated and the alpine plants, many of which are found only here, were reached. For those who were too tired to take notes here is a list of the ones I remember in addition to the species previously listed:

<i>Selaginella selaginoides</i>	LESSER CLUBMOSS
<i>Thalictrum alpinum</i>	ALPINE MEADOW RUE
<i>Draba norvegica</i>	ROCK WHITLOW GRASS
<i>Draba incana</i>	HOARY WHITLOW GRASS
<i>Viola lutea</i>	MOUNTAIN PANSY
<i>Silene acaulis</i>	MOSS CAMPION
<i>Cerastium alpinum</i>	ALPINE MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED

Continued/...

<i>Cherleria sedoides</i>	MOSSY CYPHEL
<i>Alchemilla glabra</i>	LADY'S MANTLE
<i>Sedum rosea</i>	ROSEROOT
<i>Saxifraga nivalis</i>	ALPINE SAXIFRAGE
<i>Saxifraga stellaris</i>	STARRY SAXIFRAGE
<i>Saxifraga hypnoides</i>	MOSSY SAXIFRAGE
<i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i>	PURPLE SAXIFRAGE (over.)
<i>Salix herbacea</i>	LEAST WILLOW
<i>Salix reticulata</i>	NET-LEAVED WILLOW
<i>Myosotis alpestris</i>	ALPINE FORGET-ME-NOT
<i>Erigeron borealis</i>	BOREAL FLEABANE

There then followed the long trudge back to the coach, with the last section seeming to be endless, and yes. you guessed it, as soon as we reached the bus the sun appeared, so much for the Nat's good luck!

Having driven via the A9, Aberfeldy and Loch Tay we decided to return by way of Killin and Loch Earn stopping in Crieff for tea. This for most was a well earned fish supper eaten in the sunshine in the main square. I'm sure the proprietor of the chip shop wondered what had hit him!!
Brian Allan.

MORRONE WOOD : NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE 28th JULY

This Birchwood is the best example in Britain of a montane wood on calcareous soils. The combination of birch woodland, juniper scrub, rock outcrops and wet flushes and bogs produce a rich and diverse flora. Research using pollen analysis has revealed that this area has not changed appreciably for thousands of years.

The birch trees are small as they are growing on a north facing slope at a fair altitude. In addition to birch, some aspen, rowan, alder and willow are found. The trees are old - average age about 120 years. Red Deer graze the seedlings so to enable the wood to regenerate; parts of the reserve have been fenced to keep out deer and other animals.

The juniper is mainly a dwarf form and young seedlings are scarce, again because of heavy browsing. Most of the mature bushes are at least 80 years old.

On the day we visited the reserve, at the end of July, the mountains were covered in mist as we drove up Glen Shee, but by the time we reached Braemar the sun was shining. Bird life was scarce and few deer were visible though the wood ants were busy. Pauline Topham and Barbara Tulloch recorded the botanical species. In all over a hundred were identified. The flowering plants were past their best; any future visit should be about a month earlier. Nearly 280 species of flowering plants and ferns have been recorded on the reserve.

At the end of a very pleasant outing we repaired to Braemar for tea before setting off for home.

Eileen Kidney

ENOCHDHU TO SPITTAL OF GLEN SHEE 11th AUGUST

We set off in fine weather from Enochdhu in Strathardle to cross the six miles to Spittal of Glen Shee. The path was followed through stands of trees, a farmyard and open moorland and soon the huddle of thirty-eight members was strung out in twos and threes.

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By noon some had given in to hunger pangs and picnicked alfresco. Others pressed on, making for the comfort of tables and benches in the estate stalkers' hut. The laggards were out of sight. they and the picnickers were caught in a heavy downpour. The middle group kept snugly, snugly dry.

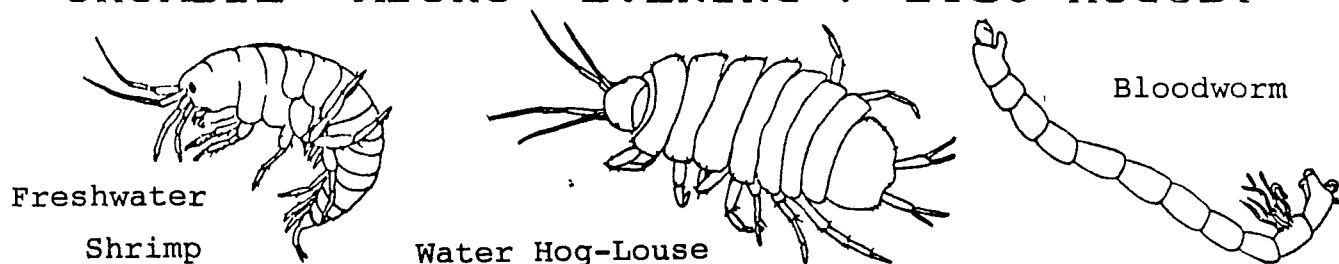
The rain soon passed and we set off for the highest point of the walk, 2,133 feet, and a beautiful view across Glen Shee and up Glean Beag towards Cairnwell, just reward for the effort of getting there.

On the easy stroll down to the Spittal we were met by the few who had travelled round in the coach. They had enjoyed exploring the old churchyard, watching birds in the plantation by the Allt Ghlinn Thatneich, rummaging in the woollen shop and sampling the various refreshments on offer at the hotel. We did likewise before heading for home after another super Nats outing. Sheila Scott.

Some of the plants recorded by Ina Fraser, during this walk, are listed below.

<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	COMMON POLYPODY
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	HARD FERN
<i>Oreopteris limbosperma</i>	MOUNTAIN FERN
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	MALE FERN
<i>D. austriaca</i>	BROAD BUCKLER FERN
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	TORMENTIL
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	PURGING FLAX
<i>Salix repens</i>	CREEPING WILLOW
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	CROSS-LEAVED HEATH
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	HAREBELL
<i>Polygonum viviparum</i>	VIVIPAROUS or ALPINE BISTORT
<i>Saxifraga aizoides</i>	YELLOW MOUNTAIN SAXIFRAGE
<i>Tofieldia pusilla</i>	SCOTTISH ASPHODEL
<i>Viola lutea</i>	MOUNTAIN PANSY
<i>Cirsium heterophyllum</i>	MELANCHOLY THISTLE
<i>Gentianella campestris</i>	FIELD GENTIAN
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	DEVILSBIT SCABIOUS
<i>Meum athamanticum</i>	SPIGNET
<i>Anthyllis vulneria</i>	KIDNEY VETCH

CROMBIE 'MICRO' EVENING : 21st AUGUST



Doubting Thomases wanted to know, 'What on earth is a Micro Evening?' 'A ten minute visit?' No such thing, but a chance to see the world about us on a much smaller scale. And where better to visit than Crombie reservoir, with a room suitable for microscopes and stereo-magnifiers, helpful ranger-naturalists and the water and shore life close at hand? There was plenty to see. The evening began with a look at ferns along the roadside and wild flowers beside the water, soon followed by magnified views of fern spores and club-like spore-bodies and intimate examinations of pollen grains, anthers and stigmas

The rest of the evening was spent taking water and 'beasties' samples from the

Continued/...

reservoir and looking closely at them. There's a microcosm world of life in a drop of water: snails, tiny worms, water fleas, the one-eyed Cyclops and, best of all, a free-living flat worm! Oh, joy! You've never seen one? Well, where were you?

Jim Cook.

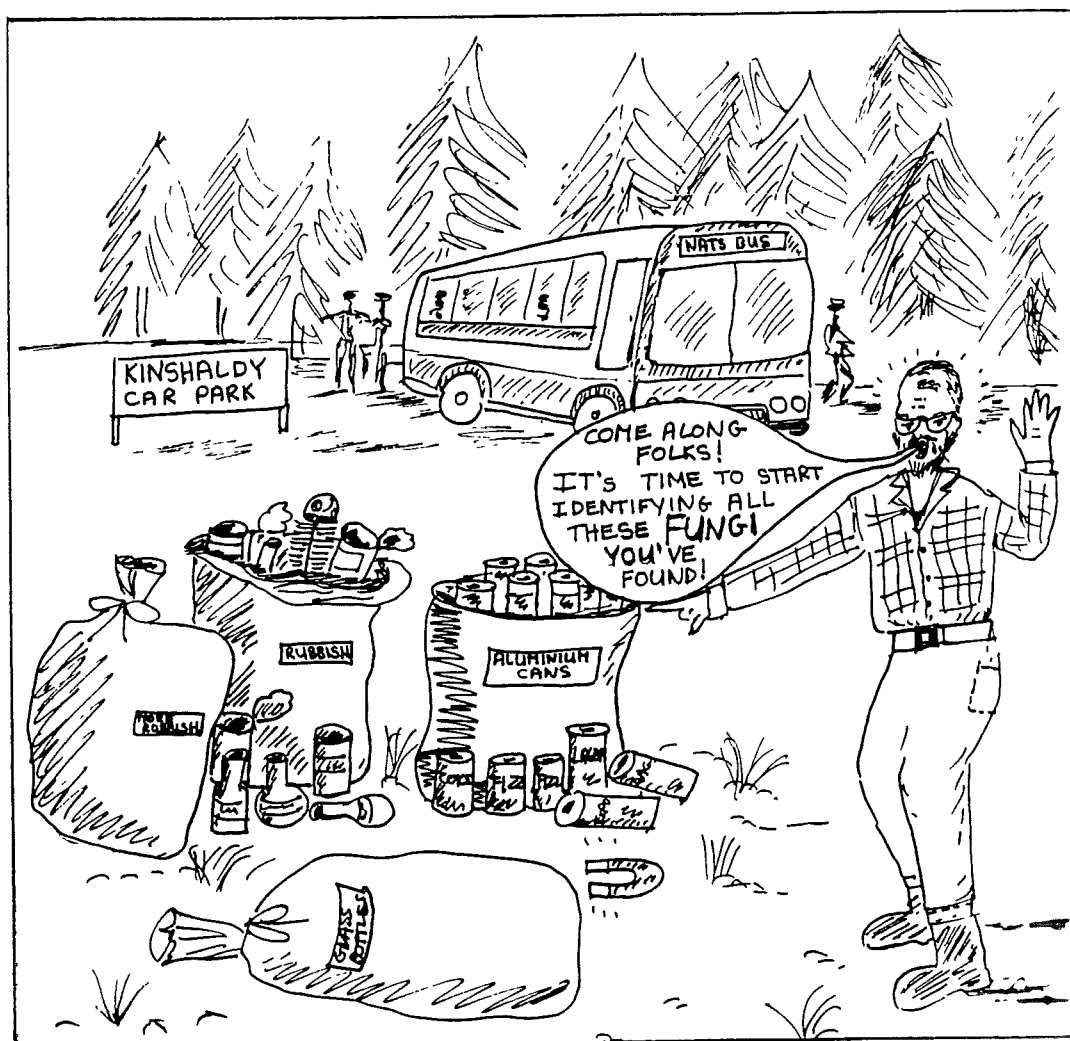
TWO VIEWS OF TENTSMUIR FOREST 25th AUGUST

Fungi foray into the forest? You're joking! It should have been - it was the right time of year and we had the experts scouring the area. But the weather had been far too dry and the sandy soil of the forest lets the water run through like a sieve. The high water table that used to persist almost throughout the year is a thing of the past - due to the dry weather and drainage activities, our total haul was only 9 species including a few dried up Fly Agarics, *Amanita muscaria*, a single Blusher, *A. rubescens*, a *Hygrophorus*, a few Puff-Balls, a *Mycena* and an old and dried *Lactarius* no-one could identify.

However, the weather was good; we renewed our knowledge of the area, and we found the remains of this year's Creeping Ladies' Tresses, *Goodyera repens*, and the Yellow Bird's-nest, *Monotropa hypopitys*.

And the Naturalists' helped to improve the local environment by clearing the rubbish left by thoughtless parties in the dune hollows near the *Monotropa*. A total of over 70 cans were added to the McLeod's recycling effort.

Jim Cook.



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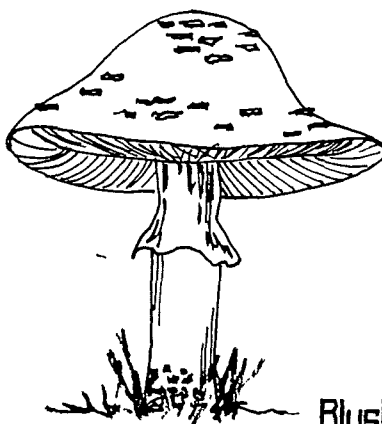
TENTSMUIR TAKE TWO

As the road to Kinshaldy was labelled 'unsuitable for buses' our one took a circuitous route via Leuchars. The walk began at Kinshaldy and the bus withdrew promptly before the Kinshaldy road became busy and went to await the cross country walkers at Tayport. The highlight at Kinshaldy was seeing several heads (dried though they were) of the Yellow Bird's nest, *Monotropa hypopitys*. Concern was shown, and followed up by a letter to the Forestry Commission and the Nature Conservancy Council, about marks on trees surrounding these rare plants, indicating that the trees were soon to be felled. It is believed the plants depend on associations with pine trees. Our comments were noted and we have been reassured that some of the trees will be left.

In this normally prolific site only nine fungus species were seen! Fortunately Society members have wide interests and filled their day in spite of this setback.

The less fleet of foot rode with the bus to Tayport and contented themselves with exploring the coastal plants such as Lovage, Sea Spurrey, Arrowgrass, Keeled garlic, *Allium carinatum*, Restharrow, Sea Aster, Sea Storksbill, Lyme and Marram Grass.

Margaret G. Duncan.



Blusher

One of the few Fungi finds.

FIFE FARM WALK 15th SEPTEMBER

Fife Farming, Forestry and Wildlife Adviser Sarah Warrener joined us for our visit to Berryhill Farm near Newburgh.

Farmer John Nicol has created a conservation area of about 18 hectares on the highest part of the farm. With the help of tree planting grants he has put in a lot of young trees including Oak, Beech, Ash, Spruce, Douglas Fir, Cherry and Norway Maple.

The trees were planted in May/June 1989 and at present are hidden by grasses and thistles. Grass species observed included, Tufted Hair Grass, *Deschampsia caespitosa*, False Oat Grass, *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Red Fescue, *Festuca rubra*, Cocksfoot, *Dactylis glomerata*, Timothy, *Phleum pratense* and Smooth Meadow Grass, *Poa pratense*. Flowers included Dovesfoot Cranesbill, *Geranium molle* and Roses, *Rosa villosa* and *R. canina*.

Mr Nicol was happy to describe his more traditional farming activities, including growing the controversial crop Oilseed Rape.

Sarah Warrener told members about her work, visiting farms to advise on conservation, as well as arranging outings and lectures for group members.

A picnic and barbecue were enjoyed in the centre of the wildlife area and Mr Nicol invited members of Dundee Naturalists' Society to visit the area any time they wish.

Mary Galloway.

Continued/...

**ST. ANDREWS: GATTY MARINE LABORATORY
AND EAST SANDS/KINKELL BRAES
27th OCTOBER**

Our Society has visited the Gatty Marine Laboratory of St Andrews University several times and always found the experience stimulating and educational. This excursion was definitely no exception - a privileged visit to the world of the ultra-small. If the members had no idea what a scanning electron microscope could do before the trip, they certainly did afterwards. We were entertained with a demonstration of the microscope in action and shown a wide range of fascinating photographs of specimens, appearing almost in three-dimensions.

Lunch was taken in the bus or in sheltered areas along the east sands. The afternoon saw the party along the Kinkell Braes to view an excellent range of geological features including the 'Maiden' and 'Rock and Spindle' and examine the few flowers still out in the late autumn weather.

Jim Cook.

**HILLSIDE CAPERS
2nd JANUARY 1991**

Almost a dozen Naturalists straggled into Moncrieffe Hill car park on January 2nd. A few must brush up on their map-reading! A savage rainstorm was brushed aside by their good fairy just in time for Jenny and Brian to pass round the mulled wine. Then it was off, up the hill, collecting and observing wildlife and plants, and hoping to find agates. In the event Pat picked up a beauty by the side of the drive. Two hours of pleasant sunshine later, the group was lured back by the aroma of roasting sausages to enjoy an alfresco meal round the barbecue. Ina and Alistair were adjudged to have won the quiz (the judges' decision is final, however it is reached), and the Nats dispersed. The good fairy withdrew her good offices and a severe rainstorm teemed down on the empty hillside. Thanks to Brian for tending the glowing barbecue. One of the questions proved impossible - the site of the **woody night-shade** had disappeared below a fire of brushwood!

Bob McLeod.

MULLED WINE RECIPE

INGREDIENTS :-

1 Bottle of Red Wine
275ml/10 fluid ounces of Water
75grams/3 ounces of Sugar
1 Cinnamon Stick
Grated rind and juice of 1 Lemon and 1 medium Orange
4 Cloves

Place the water, sugar and spices into a saucepan. Bring to boil then allow to stand for 10 minutes. Add the juice and rind. Add the wine and heat the mull slowly until very hot but not boiling. Serve hot. This amount serves six.

** I usually mull my own home-made Autumn Wine, made with elderberries, brambles, rosehips, apples and grapejuice. This wine should be stored for at least a year before use. However, ANY full-bodied red wine gives a good result with this recipe.*

Jenny Allan

Continued/ ..

***** WINTER MEETINGS *****

October 16th - The season started with an interesting talk by fungus enthusiast Mike Turner.

After speaking about the types of fungi eaten widely on the continent he dispelled myths on how to distinguish between poisonous and non-poisonous species, before illustrating a selection of edible species and describing their culinary uses. This was followed by a 'fungi tasting' with many types of fungi based snacks on offer, with even some delights served hot by the Liebschers.

November 6th - Martin Robertson, warden at Killiecrankie RSPB reserve for the past nine years described a typical year on the reserve.

His talk was illustrated with shades of the wide range of bird, plant and insect species found there, including the Marsh Helleborine and the rare Sticky Catchfly which is at the northern limit of its range.

November 20th - Ecological consultant David Bell illustrated the diversity of habitats and their wildlife throughout the Tayside area in a talk entitled 'Lawers to Tentsmuir'. These habitats range from the reed beds and sand dunes along the Tay Estuary, through farmland with its drystone dykes, to the harsh environments of mountain and moorland.

December 4th - A Himalayan Holidays excursion to north west India furnished expedition leader Henry Taylor with some fascinating material. He described the group's visit to the small town of Manali in the foothills of the Himalayas and their exploration of the surrounding areas, showing slides of the many beautiful flowers observed.

December 18th - Colin Cosgrove was the speaker at the Christmas meeting. He showed slides taken on the Bamburgh weekend, followed by two superb slide tape presentations - 'Fireworks' and 'Seabirds of the Bass Rock' both set to music.

Finally he gave photographic hints, using some of his most successful slides.

January 15th - Adam Ritchie described an adventurous holiday trip to Botswana taken in 1989. He and wife Ann, went with a small group in a specially adapted bus and camping overnight. Highlights included, contact with the Busmen of the Kalahari desert, exploring the Okavango swamp by boat and canoe, a visit to the Victoria Falls and a boat trip up the Zambezi River.

January 29th - Ian Langford is a roving field worker with the RSPB in Dumfries and Galloway. He described the research he has been carrying out into Barn Owls since the early 80's. The birds are seriously declining in numbers at present largely as a result of loss of habitat and nest sites.

He illustrated some typical nest sites in old buildings and described nesting behaviour.

February 12th - Members' night saw an interesting display of slides from Denis Redfern, Alistair Fraser, Dorothy Fyffe, Margaret Duncan, Jean Pollard, Gordon Kirkland, Niall Benvie, Alban Houghton and Barbara Hogarth. Jim Cook showed the entries to the photographic competition and announced the winners.

Continued/ .

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 1990

The judges of the competition were Mr Tony Campbell (photography) and Dr Derek Robertson (wildlife content).

The winning entries were :

THREE SLIDES PHOTOGRAPHED IN THE BRITISH ISLE DURING 1990

- 1st - Brian Allan (Pit-bing Orchids)
- 2nd - Richard Brinklow (Scottish Wildlife)
- 3rd - Alban Houghton (Corrie Fee Plants)

THREE SLIDES PHOTOGRAPHED ABROAD DURING 1990

Winner - Sheila Scott (Mosses and Lichens)

ONE POSTCARD SIZE PRINT OF BRITISH WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHED DURING 1990

Winner - Barbara Hogarth (Seals)

February 26th - Sid Clarke, principal photographer at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh talked to us on plant photography. He imparted a myriad of useful tips on camera equipment and techniques illustrated by a wide selection of plant studies from as far afield as the Galapagos Islands, North America, the Alps of Austria and Italy and from the island of Crete.

The talk was very well received with the photographers in the Society taking home many useful ideas and the non-photographer content with the wonderful slides used during the lecture.

March 12th - This lecture by Rob Ollason, Head of Education at Edinburgh Zoo, described a recent guided tour to Belize and Mexico. Although the trip was taken during the 'dry' season the rainforest lived up to its name with most days marred by heavy showers. The Jaguars and a host of smaller cats were searched for in vain and only seen at the local zoo! A visit by boat to view Red Breasted Boobies and an off-shore coral reef had to be cancelled due to a hurricane.

Despite these setbacks Mr Ollason's humour shone through and his talk included an excellent account of the ancient Mayan Civilisation.

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CARSEGOWNIEMUIR QUARRY RESERVE

ANNUAL REPORT 1990

Trees from our original plantings in 1986 are now growing away well. Hollies which put on only 1" in their first year reached 21" of growth in 1990 (their fourth year). Original pines at the extreme west and east boundaries have put on 18" this season and are now beginning to look like real trees of 3 - 4 feet high. Although measurements had not been completed at the time of writing (January) it is fairly certain that the champion grower of 1990 was our one and only aspen which put on 43"! Oaks weren't too far behind with up to 36". Two oaks hosted numerous oak apple galls, two others had leaf mildew - but all managed to put on good growth.

The pines planted in April 1989 in the windy west corner, however, are really struggling. Following a drought in their year of planting they were hit by strong drying winds in March 1990 and 6" is the best growth they have managed. But this is real progress since most of their predecessors, planted in 1988, blew completely away!

Young ash planted in 1989 were all damaged by a frost in late May. They had started into growth and their new leaves were blackened and killed by frost. Some leading shoots were killed. Most of them have recovered but have made little height. Mature ash, on the other hand, were quite undamaged by the frost as they were more cautious about precocious growth.

Willowherb, up to 6 feet high, swamped some planting areas and we couldn't find all of the trees when drawing maps of planting areas. Willowherb had to be knocked down to let light into our saplings.

Insufficient numbers of people walk regularly through the Quarry to keep paths open so some path cutting took place.

The adder's tongue fern was hard to find in June because of strong competing vegetation. Careful searching revealed some big(!) 2" ferns. Later in the season regenerating willow amongst the adder's tongue colony was browsed - perhaps by deer. In this respect they are helping to maintain the habitat.

A highlight of the working parties' season was spotting a woodcock in the Quarry.

Rabbit pressure was higher than ever with very many new burrow excavations. These caused erosion on the SW bank. Rabbits chewed willow, rowan and even rose bark during freezing conditions in January. Indeed a major feature of the mature Quarry trees are trunks surrounded by thickets of shoots - the results of rabbit coppicing. Eventually a single stem is sufficiently protected within the thicket to grow away to maturity. In spite of the high numbers some parts escaped rabbit attention during the year. There was very good natural regeneration of broom above Pond 5, for example. The good news is that Major Young has made a start in shooting rabbits with serious intent this winter. So much more natural regeneration would develop if their numbers could be kept really low for a number of years.

Major Young provided, and delivered, a carpet which made 12 metre-square weed-suppressing mulch mats. Hopefully our trees will soon rise above the willowherb and begin to shade it out, but meantime volunteer weeders are still required early in the growing season.

Any members wishing to initiate any form of habitat studies at the reserve or to offer any suggestions will be very much welcomed by the Subcommittee:

Margaret G Duncan (67479), Alastair J Fraser (53 2316), James K Cook.

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 1991

One change is being made to the competition for 1991. To encourage more entries in the wildlife print section the category is being extended to include wildlife from abroad as well as within UK.

The competition categories are as follows :

One set of 3 slides on a theme of British wildlife photographed in the British Isles during 1991.

1st Prize - £10 : 2nd Prize - £5 : 3rd Prize - Free Nats' outing bus fare.

Subsidiary Categories

1. Best set of 3 slides on a Wildlife Theme photographed outside the British Isles during 1991. A prize of £5 will be awarded to the winner.

2. Best individual postcard size print on a Wildlife Theme photographed either in the British Isles or abroad. The prize is again £5.

Only paid up members of Dundee Naturalists' Society may enter, and only 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 entrants name. They will be numbered by the organisers.

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

Jim Cook.

BEWARE OF THE TICK

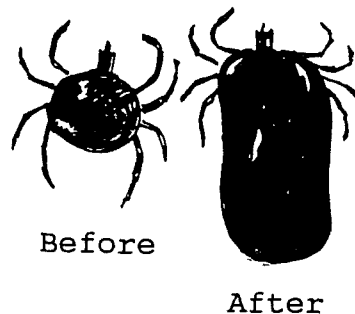
Up to now it has always been regarded as a bit of a joke when one of the group found a tick on his/her person. However it now appears that this should be taken much more seriously since ticks can be carriers of a bacterial infection known as Lyme disease. If infected, a red rash surrounds the tick bite expanding to 15 cm with a clear centre. after two weeks, flu and meningitis like symptoms occur, followed by a more serious disease affecting the heart and nervous system. Months or years later, arthritis may affect the patient.

What to do about it? Well, if venturing into likely tick habitat e.g. bracken or undergrowth, where sheep or deer may have been, shorts are definitely OUT. Wear boots and tuck trousers into socks. Check for ticks and if found, remove immediately by wiping with alcohol or spirit which will make them release their grip. (A good excuse for carrying whisky in your first aid kit!)

Keep an eye on the bite and if you notice a rash or get enlarged glands or flu-like symptoms, see your doctor and mention Lyme disease. If caught at an early stage, anti-biotics are available to effectively limit the disease.

Don't let this spoil your enjoyment of Society outings but forewarned is forearmed and it is sensible to take precautions.

Joan L. Thomson



Sheep Tick

Continued/...

CHANGING WOODLANDS

Members who have found their way to **Moncrieffe hill**, near Bridge of Earn, will have noticed the tremendous changes already achieved since the Woodland Trust bought the wood. Tracks to the summit, a wonderful viewpoint, have been hacked through the semi-mature thickets of **larch** and **Douglas fir**, and most of these dense stands have been thinned out. One area of **sitka spruce** has been cleared and replanted with a variety of native trees such as **gean**, **oak** and **willow**. Many hardwoods have also been planted among the elderly trees below the main drive. Along the track to the summit, a wet area has been bulldozed to form a pond, and a large dead **elm** has been left to benefit wildlife.

Along the Carse at Longforgan, the Woodland Trust has also been busy, removing some elderly **Scots pines** and constructing a track through the crowded eastern section of conifers. Most recently a hillock of rather poor **larch** was cleared. Volunteers from Longforgan and a few from Dundee (Naturalists among them) planted many little **geans**, **oaks** and **willows** etc, on a very wet Sunday. **Brighty Wood**, in the Murroes, has also been improved, with some of the conifers removed and numerous native saplings planted.

The Woodland Trust policy is to make their properties available to the public, and the Dundee Naturalists will find a great deal to interest them in **Moncrieffe Hill**, **Huntly Wood** and **Brighty Wood**.
Bob McLeod.

SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY Reforming the Law

Recently our Society was contacted by the Scottish Rights of Way Society. As a Corporate Member we were asked to write to Scottish Secretary Ian Lang and our own M.P's to endorse recent proposals made by their legal department for reforming the law on Scottish rights of way. In their letter they state:-

"The risk of loss of rights of way is now greater than at any time in the past with road closures and diversions, the disappearance of old ferries and bridges, hydro-electric developments, changing views of land management and, above all, because of the massive afforestation of the Scottish hills.

The risk of loss of rights of way is accentuated by the uncertainty and archaic nature of the law, by technical problems such as the onus of proof, and especially by the cost of litigation."

We were also provided with a copy of their legal proposals. The main problems identified are summarised as follows:-

FORESTRY

Many walks have been obstructed and consequently lost due to the encroachment of trees across previously existing paths.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENTS

Many old rights of way have been submerged by the creation of dams without alternative access arrangements being made.

MODERN AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Many old rights of way across fields have been ploughed up in recent years to maximise crop planting areas. Cattle, including bulls, are often grazed beside paths deterring all but the bravest walkers! Electric fencing is a
Continued/...

commonly encountered hazard these days. Deer farms are usually surrounded by high secure fences, and the recent proliferation of fish farms may result in many shore and inland paths eventually becoming less accessible to the public.

CHANGING VIEWS OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Road improvements and the increasing ownership of cars have increased the pressures on many existing rights of way. Well known rights of way are being used by ever increasing numbers of walkers, including many organised groups such as ourselves, the Ramblers Association, hill walking clubs etc. In many cases this has led to severe erosion of popular paths. At the same time, sporting estates catering for the 'hunting shooting and fishing' fraternities are also attracting large numbers of people, many from overseas. These persons may become aggrieved if walkers disturb game preserves. This has, in some cases, led to attempts by landowners and their factors to try to deter or stop persons who attempt to walk across their land. Tactics used include blocking off rights of way (see below), harassment, prohibition notices, or notices warning of dangers such as fierce dogs etc.

DISAPPEARANCE OF OLD FERRIES AND BRIDGES

Rights of way incorporating old bridges may become lost when these fall into disrepair. Many old ferries have now been replaced by road bridges and in some cases, the old paths leading to the ferries have become obscured or obstructed.

BLOCKING OFF RIGHTS OF WAY

Rights of way are extinguished if passage is blocked for the proscribed period and landowners are increasingly using this method of excluding walkers.

ROAD CLOSURES AND DIVERSIONS

Where a new road has replaced the existing one, the 'old' road may be closed or blocked even although such roads are technically still rights of way. Confused walkers may be deterred from using old roads resulting in the ultimate loss of these rights of way. In addition, rights of way can be closed 'by order' in the cases of motorway and bypass building, and in open-cast mining. In the latter case the right of way should be restored when mining ceases, but it seldom is in practice.

LACK OF LOCAL INTEREST IN MAINTAINING RIGHTS OF WAY

Many remote areas have become depopulated in recent years. Old rights of way, no longer used for business purposes, are little used. In disputed cases it is almost impossible to track down independent walkers who have used these routes. Local persons, who may be in the employ of the landowner, are often reluctant to testify.

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF RIGHTS OF WAY

In all areas, older persons with knowledge of local rights of way have died or moved away. Incomers are often unaware of the existing rights of way and, unfortunately, there is no comprehensive index of Scottish rights of way in existence. In major hill-walking areas the Scottish Rights of Way Society have produced large scale maps which show the rights of way. In addition many paths etc are shown on O.S. and other maps. However, many old rights of way have never been recorded at all.

SUGGESTED LEGAL REMEDIES

A first priority should be to compile a proper, comprehensive, index of all

Continued/...

existing paths and tracks which are presently held to be rights of way in Scotland. This should be compiled and kept by all the Scottish planning authorities and should be available for perusal by the general public. Local authorities should be made more responsible for maintaining and signposting footpaths and bridle paths in their areas, including the maintenance of bridges and other structures. Voluntary organisations should also have a statutory right to enter private land for the purpose of repairing and maintaining rights of way.

At the moment a right of way should have been used 'peaceably and without interruption' for a period of 20 years to qualify as one. However the 'onus of proof' is on the users and not the landowners who, when disputes arise, often deny that the route is, or was ever, a right of way. The S.R.O.W.S. would like the law changed to put the burden of proof on the landowners, who would then have to prove that the disputed path was not a right of way. Documentary evidence such as old maps, should be admissible as evidence; this is not the case at present.

The S.R.O.W.S. would like the '20 year rule' scrapped in favour of a rule which states that if a path could be proved to have been a right of way in the past this would be upheld for the present day.

The archaic nature of existing laws makes it imperative that they be updated to make them relevant to today's world. For example, few paths these days are actually used for 'business purposes' or for travelling 'from one public area to another', as used to be the case when people travelled to fairs, markets, ferry crossings etc. The S.R.O.W.S. would like the term 'public area' changed to 'public resort' to take account of the fact that most persons walk for recreational purposes these days, to enjoy the scenery and views, wildlife etc in the countryside.

The existing laws, which already forbid deliberate obstruction of rights of way, should be strengthened and more assiduously applied by local authorities, who are often reluctant to prosecute when complaints are received from the public. These laws should be enlarged to preclude owners from allowing dangerous animals near rights of way or from putting up notices intended to deter walkers from using rights of way.

The enormous costs of litigation deter all but the richest persons from going to court to uphold a disputed right of way. The S.R.O.W.S. can only afford to challenge a small percentage of cases which come their way because of the enormous costs involved. They would like to see the Environment Secretary appointing inspectors with powers to hold public examinations in cases of disputed rights of way and also give firm decisions in these cases, thus saving expensive court costs for all parties.

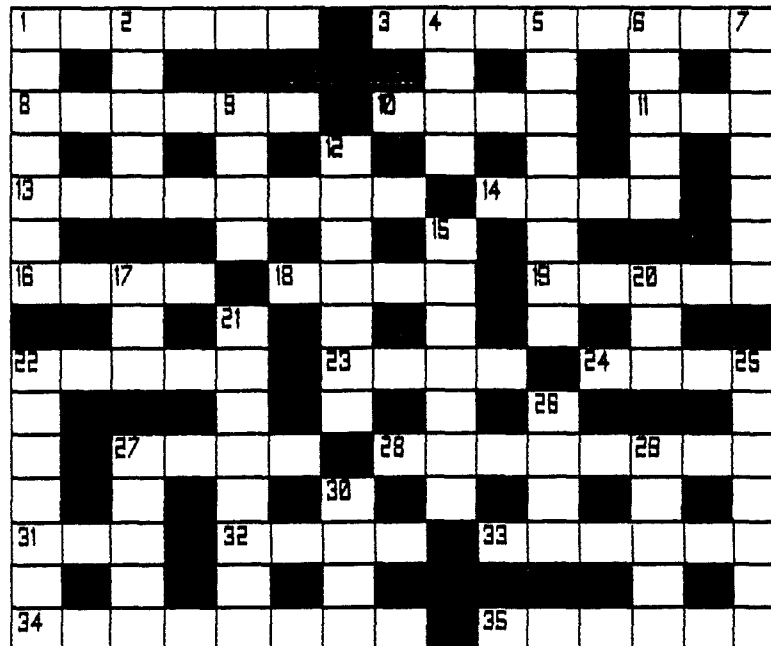
Our Society, which relies heavily on good, accessible paths and tracks for our summer outings, has already written to Scottish Secretary of State Ian Lang endorsing these proposals. Copies of the letter were also sent to M.P's John McAllion, Ernie Ross and Andrew Welsh. However, it is the overwhelming weight of public opinion which in the end produces changes to the law, (or prevents them).

So, if you presently enjoy walking in our beautiful Scottish countryside, and presumably you do if you are a member of our Society, then please add your individual endorsement of the S.R.O.W.S. proposals by writing to the Scottish Secretary at New St Andrew's House, EDINBURGH, and also 'lobby' your own M.P. on the subject.

Jenny Allan

Continued/...

' NATS ' CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Animals with long snouts. (6)
3. Early spring flower. (8)
8. Citrus fruit. (6)
10. Only one? (4)
11. Tiny colonial insect. (3)
13. A good view from here? (4,4)
14. A lesser branch. (4)
16. A Thatcher revival? (4)
18. Celestial body or earthy fungi? (4)
19. Fragrant romantic flowers. (5)
22. A flying tree! (5)
23. Ovine females. (4)
24. See 6. down.
27. Dad's hands? (4)
28. Decorative evergreens with poisonous berries. (3,5)
31. Where thirsty Nats won't come 'out'! (3)
32. Flightless birds. (4)
33. Egyptian sacred beetle. (6)
34. Maritime daisy. (3,5.)
35. Base material. (6)

DOWN

1. Hogs appendage, or Del Boy! (7)
2. Some mushrooms have this shape. (5)
4. Plant anchor. (4)
5. Does this fern have a blemish on it's heavenly body! (8)
6. and 24 across. Borneo's 'Man of the woods'. (5,4)
7. A good way to slim. (3,4)
9. Good Nats always remember to close it. (4)
12. Leopards and Dalmations are this. (7)
15. Well groomed birds? (7)
17. Time span. (3)
20. Dog command. (3)
21. Are these tiny birds Scottish sailing lassies. (3,5)
22. No shrinking violets these (7)
25. Birds, wasps or bats may colonise this! (4,3)
26. Torridon mountain peak (4)
27. WWF emblem. (5)
29. Mistake. (5)
30. Fishy bait. (4)

Continued/...

INNER TAY ESTUARY L. N. R. ?

In Tayside we have the potential for one of Britain's largest Local Nature Reserves right on our doorstep.

The area concerned stretches from Invergowrie Bay to Cairnie Pier, near Glencarse, (approx. 5400 hectares), and comprises the River Tay itself along with extensive reedbeds, tidal mudflats and sandbanks. The varied habitats attract a rich birdlife - large numbers of **Greylag** and **Pinkfooted geese** roost on the river in winter; the reeds provide breeding places for **Water Rail**, **Mallard**, **Sedge Warbler** and **Reed Bunting**, and large numbers of waders feed on the mud flats. The north bank of the estuary contains suitable breeding places for **Shelduck**, and the wooded stretches shelter **Sparrowhawk**, **Great Spotted** and **Green Woodpecker** amongst others, also the uncommon **Hawfinch**. **Grasshopper Warblers** sing on the more open banks and vast numbers of **Sand Martins** and **Swallows** gather to feast on the rich insect life in late summer. Many of these species are present in numbers that are of national or even international importance.

This environment and the wealth of birdlife it supports caused the Inner Tay Estuary to be designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and as far back as 1966 it was proposed as a National Nature Reserve. This was investigated by Tayside Regional Council but eventually shelved after the responsibility for LNR's was shifted to District Councils, i.e. Perth and Dundee.

All the local wildlife and conservation groups support the idea of a Local Nature Reserve to protect the area from exploitation, unsuitable developments, indiscriminate wildfowling etc. It is known that some officials are sympathetic and it is felt that if pressure was brought to bear on the District Councils something very worthwhile might be achieved. And this is where you can help. Please write to your District Councillor and M.P. supporting the establishment of a Local Nature Reserve on the Inner Tay Estuary. It would be a wonderful natural resource for the district and a feather in Dundee's cap if it could be set up in 1991, the year of Dundee's octocentenary.

Joan L. Thomson

HOW TO FIND AND POLISH AGATES

The winter outing to Moncrieffe Hill on 2nd January included, amongst other things, a hunt for agates. Not surprisingly this generated quite a bit of interest considering the 'reward' for the most successful team over the course of the day's activities and the mention of a special prize for the best agate.

However, agates are not lying around conveniently labelled and the most common question from would-be agate hunters is 'what do they look like?' Agates are usually formed in the bubbly holes left in lavas when they solidify, by the deposition of minerals leached out of the surrounding lavas. This provides a clue to their recognition. They may appear still embedded in the lava as a knobbly kernel or, if they have been broken, as a glassy rounded disc. The best ones, however, have been removed from the lava by weathering and are commonly rounded or almond shaped, frequently with a rough, lumpy surface. If they have been chipped they may reveal a hint of the internal structure. They are usually very hard and feel quite heavy. However, finding a good agate is a matter of luck, but once your 'eye is in' they can be spotted fairly easily.

The deposition of different coloured minerals within the cavity produces the well known banded agate but no two agates are ever exactly alike and many subtle patterns and 'scenes' can be seen, particularly with the help of a good imagination. Agates are very hard materials, a fact which makes it possible to polish them to a degree, giving them a glossy mirror-like surface.

Continued/ .

The first step is to cut the stone with a diamond saw, (which I'm sure everyone just happens to have!) hopefully in the best direction to reveal the most attractive surface, but this, unfortunately, is often not obvious until it has been cut! If the cut is made slowly with a fine saw-blade leaving only very fine marks the subsequent grinding is much easier and quicker. The grinding can be done quite easily by hand on pieces of plate glass about a foot square and a grinding paste of silicon-carbide grits and water.

The first grit size used depends on the roughness of the saw cut but usually 180 or 220 grit is satisfactory (the higher the grit number the finer the grit). Sprinkle a little of the grit on the glass plate and sufficient water to lubricate it and simply rub the agate round and round on the plate applying moderate but uniform pressure. It is not necessary to apply heavy pressure at this stage, you will only make your fingers ache unnecessarily. You will feel, and hear, the grit cutting the surface at first but after a few minutes the grit is reduced to a fine paste and is no longer effectively grinding. The feel and the sound of the grinding will be different when this occurs. A little more grit and water may be added and the grinding continued but it is often better to wash the plate clean and start again with fresh grit. Examine the surface of the agate frequently at a low angle and when the surface appears completely flat and free from saw marks it is ready for the next stage.

Wash the agate thoroughly, repeat the process with a finer grit, for example 400 grit. This is much finer but the procedure is the same, and again you will sense where the grit is no longer cutting. Examine the surface frequently for slight hollows and continue rubbing until a flat even surface is obtained. Wash the agate thoroughly again and finish the grinding process with 600 grit on yet another glass plate. With care this should produce the kind of surface you require for the final polishing. The agate should be thoroughly cleaned again making sure all traces of grit or grinding paste have been removed. The final polishing is best done on a stiff, wet felt pad, liberally sprinkled with cerium oxide. This process takes a bit longer than the grinding and does require firm pressure on the pad so it can be rather tiring. It need not however be all done at one time, it won't do the agate any harm to leave it aside for a day or two and continue the polishing as and when you feel like it. When you are satisfied with the surface wash and clean the agate thoroughly with soapy water. A word of caution! It is inadvisable to wash the glass plates in the kitchen sink - the grinding waste is very dense and may cause blocked drains!

The cutting and grinding part of the operation should not last more than one or two hours, depending on the hardness of the agate, but the polishing will take as long as you require to get a satisfactory polish. Remember the grinding stages are only to produce a flat smooth surface but they are important to the finished stone. No matter how hard you polish you will not remove a small scratch or blemish left from the grinding stage. Cleanliness and care is essential at all times but the effort can be well rewarded if you have been lucky enough to find a good agate.

Unfortunately the grits and polish are no longer as readily available as they once were but if anyone is interested I can supply the addresses of one or two suppliers.

Douglas Palmer.

Continued/...

Fungus Foray: August was very dry in 1990 and thus the fungus crop was poor but rain late in the month meant that a District Council guided walk, on Sunday 2nd September, was very successful with a prolific range of species. An energetic group of 35 enthusiasts found enough to satisfy all tastes, literally, from the very edible to the rather poisonous and exotic. Here are the ones recorded by Margaret Duncan and Jim Cook. Why not come along next year?

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
(A number of species have no common name)		
-	Peziza badia	Found beside path
Candle-snuff Fungus	Xylaria hypoxylon	On rotted branch
Many-zoned Polypore	Coriolus versicolor	On rotted stump
-	Tyromyces stipticus	On base of moribund larch
Root Fomes	Heterobasidion annosum	On rotted conifer stump
Chanterelle	Cantharellus cibarius	Only a few with apricot smell
The Deceiver	Laccaria laccata	Common and variable
Amethyst Deceiver	L. amethystea	Very distinctive purple colour
Wood Woolly-foot	Collybia peronata	Among fallen leaves
Butter Cap	C. butyracea	Cap feels 'buttery'
-	Mycena alcalina	Distinctive 'chemical' smell
-	Mycena sp.	Possibly M. galericulata
Horse-hair Fungus	Marasmius androsaceus	Occasional
Fly Agaric	Amanita muscaria	Large specimens seen
Tawny Grisette	A. fulva	3 specimens recorded
The Blusher	A. rubescens	Common
-	Pluteus cervinus	Several specimens found
-	P. salicinus	On rotted hardwood stump
-	Lepiota sp.	Small scaly cap
Field Mushroom	Agaricus campestris	Found in a grassy patch
Lawyer's Wig	Coprinus comatus	Specimen in good condition
Common Ink Cap	C. atramentarius	Gills dissolving into 'ink'
Sulphur-tuft	Hypholoma fasciculare	Tufted on rotted stump
-	Psilocybe semi-lanceata	Occasional
The Miller	Clitopilus prunulus	Common
Brown Roll-rim	Paxillus involutus	Occasional
-	P. atrotomentosus	Large specimens seen
Penny Bun, The Cep	Boletus edulis	Common; in excellent condition
Red-cracked Bolete	B. chrysenteron	Occasional
-	B. sp.	Just possibly B. calopus
-	B. sp.	Possibly B. erythropus
Bay Bolete	B. badius	Several good specimens
Slippery Jack	Suillus luteus	Very common
Larch Bolete	S. grevillea	Common
Orange Birch Bolete	Leccinum versipele	Several excellent specimens
Brown Birch Bolete	L. scabrum	Good specimens found
-	Russula sp.	Washed out R. atropurpurea?
Rufous Milk-cap	Lactarius rufus	Occasional under conifers
Coconut-scented Milk-cap	L. glyciosmus	Occasional under birch trees
Stinkhorn	Phallus impudicus	Smelled but not found
Puff-ball	Lycoperdon perlatum	Common
Stag's-horn Fungus	Calocera viscosa	Bright orange colour
-	Dacrymyces deliquescens	On rotting wood

DOES NATURE NEED A HELPING HAND?

Today's environment is one of changing values. There is a need for more building land coupled with the increased leisure time available to us all. The loser, in many cases, is nature and in particular the habitats essential for our birds, plants and animals' survival. With the decrease in habitats plus the increase in interest in natural history, is there a case for the re-introduction of species back into areas where previously they had been recorded? Or to take re-introduction a step further and place rare plants, birds or animals into confined habitat areas and encourage the public to visit these managed areas, thereby decreasing the pressure on more ecologically fragile areas?

Where birds are concerned, in particular birds of prey, which have been persecuted out of existence here in Scotland, a precedent has been set with Sea-eagles and Red Kites being brought from Scandinavia and released over a period of some years. This policy has, so far, been successful with Sea Eagles released by the R.S.P.B. on Rhum, now breeding successfully elsewhere in the Hebrides. The Red Kite programme is still in its early years and, consequently, it is too early to say if this will prove as successful as the Sea Eagle experiment.

With the ability of birds to migrate and cover vast areas on the wing it is fairly safe to assume that the birds from Scandinavia are close, genetically, to those which existed in Scotland earlier in the century, prior to their extinction. This, however, is not the case where plants are concerned; recent research has shown that seemingly identical plants from Scotland are subtly different genetically from their English or Continental counterparts due to their isolation and separate evolution.

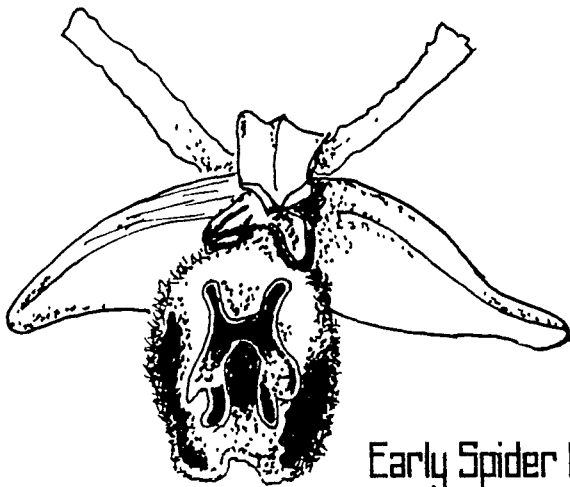
This genetic difference was dramatically illustrated when faced with only one single plant of the spectacular Lady's Slipper Orchid left growing wild in Britain. These plants are not self-pollinating and require fertilisation by another plant to produce viable seed. Seemingly identical plants from mainland Europe were compared and found, to be, indeed, different genetically from the British stock. But after some years, a plant was found which was known to have been cultivated for many years, but was originally collected from the wild. The plants were subsequently pollinated and viable seed was obtained.



Lady's Slipper Orchid

This then leads to the dilemma. Should plants cultivated in this way be re-introduced to areas known to have hosted the plant in the past? Opinions, as one would expect, differ over this, with the authorities at Kew keen to build up a reserve of seeds and seedlings of many endangered species. But they have stopped at the brink by only, so far, planting seedlings within the confines of their many gardens.

Continued/...



Early Spider Orchid

They have suggested that they would like to set aside an area where rarities like the Lady's Slipper and others such as the Military Orchid, the Early and Late Spider Orchids, and the Monkey Orchid could be viewed and photographed by the public at large.

Many eminent botanists agree with this proposal and recently Dr Francis Rose, in personal correspondence, has indicated to me his commitment to such a re-introduction programme, but he insists that such a programme must be strictly controlled and the seed stock used must be from the general area where the seedlings are to be planted.

This insistence, in my view a correct one, brings us into another area of controversy. At the 1990 British Orchid Congress conference, in Edinburgh, where I was honoured to be asked to participate in a seminar, together with scientists and botanists from Kew Gardens; the seminar was to consider Orchid Conservation and the main, and somewhat stormy, topic of discussion was to highlight this dilemma. In the audience were a number of professional orchid growers from both Britain and Europe and they put forward quite forcibly their disagreement that all such growing and re-planting experiments were strictly controlled by scientists at Kew, when they, the growers, could reproduce many seedlings from viable seed and presumably sell them for profit, if only they were given, or be allowed to collect, from the wild, seed from these rare species.

This is where the law in the shape of the 'Wildlife and Countryside Act' comes in. It clearly forbids anyone from picking or disturbing any wild plant without the landowner's consent, and furthermore, for 62 specific plants, including most of the rare orchids I have mentioned, there are much stricter controls which make the collecting of seed or other plant material illegal.

I feel the government, in the guise of the authorities at Kew are right to restrict the re-introduction programme to those nominated by Kew or the Nature Conservancy Council. As to letting growers produce thousands of young plants then sell them widely throughout the country, I feel this would certainly, in the future, cause major problems for plant recorders who may innocently record any of these species, which could quite simply have been planted by unscrupulous 'nature-lovers' years before.

You may recall that just that scenario took place recently, when a year or so back the Dundee Courier reported that a plant of the Lady's Slipper Orchid had been found growing 'wild' in Fife. After investigation this was proved to be of continental parentage and that a young man anxious to hit the 'botanical headlines', had planted it!

I will curtail this discussion here and leave you to make your own minds up which way you view this dilemma. But hopefully you will have found the above goes some way to providing the background to enable you to make a judgement

Brian Allan

Continued/...

SAVING THE FORESTS

Our aluminium can collection in aid of the campaign for tropical rain forests has now reached £168.80p. This represents a year's effort, but doubling this sum should take a shorter time as many more cans are coming in.

Thanks to all our helpers in the Tree Group, The Naturalists, the R.S.P.B., and many others. Keep it up.

Pat and Bob McLeod

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS

1. Tapirs
3. Primrose
8. Orange
10. Solo
11. Ant
13. Treetops
14. Twig
16. Reed
18. Star
19. Roses
22. Plane
23. Ewes
24. Utan
27. Paws
28. Yew Trees
31. Inn
32. Emus
33. Scarab
34. Sea Aster
35. Matrix

DOWN

1. Trotter
2. Plate
4. Root
5. Moonwort
6. Orang
7. Eat less
9. Gate
12. Spotted
15. Preened
17. Era
20. Sit
21. Wee Wrens
22. Pansies
25. Nest Box
26. Stac
27. Panda
29. Mistake
30. Lure

DIARY DATES

DUNDEE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY WINTER PROGRAMME PROPOSED DATES

1991

October 15th : Lecture
 October 29th : Lecture
 November 5th : Lecture
 November 19th : Lecture
 December 3rd : Lecture
 December 17th : Christmas Meeting

1992

January 2nd : Barbecue
 January 21st : Lecture
 February 4th : Lecture
 February 18th : Members' Night
 March 3rd : Lecture
 March 17th : A. G. M.

Continued/ ..

SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST

- Sun 28th April : DAWN CHORUS - Charlie Riddell's best outing - Balgavies Hide Car Park - 0500hrs. (Don't go to the road-side Lay-by.)
- Sat 11th May : PLANT SALE - at 11 Norwood Crescent DUNDEE. (Details from Mrs E Walsh Tel Dundee 65843)
- Sat 11th May : WILDFLOWER WALK - St Cyrus NNR Car Park, 1300hrs. Leaders NCC staff.
- Sun 12th May : WILDFLOWER WALK - Balgavies Hide Car Park 1300hrs. Leader Jim Cook. (Don't go to lay-by).
- Sat 18th May : BRANCH A.G.M. Lunanhead Village from 1000hrs.
- Sun 19th May : WILDFLOWER WALK - Whiting Ness, Arbroath Cliffs, 1400hrs. Leader Derek Robertson.
- Sat 25th May : PLANT SALE at 75 Camphill road Broughty Ferry.

Further details from Branch Secretary :- Miss A.H.M. Prain, Altnamuileann, 7 Lochmill, KIRRIEMUIR. DD8 4JQ. Tel (0575) 72224

DUNDEE TREE GROUP

- Mon 15th April: Fred Duncan will tell how to photograph natural history objects.
- Mon 20th May : Tour of Templeton Woods. 7.00pm
- Mon 10th June : Developments in Tentsmuir Forest with a Forestry Commission Guide. 7.00pm Kinshaldy.
- Sat 13th July : A ramble on Moncrieffe Hill 2.00pm.
- Mon 14th Oct : Charles Riddell with slides and chat about Balgavies nature reserve.
- Mon 18th November : Explore the Dighty with Pat and Bob McLeod.
- Mon 9th December : Mrs Walsh will talk about Malawi's forests and its many problems.
- (Meetings at 7,30 in Society of Friends rooms Whitehall Crescent, DUNDEE. All Invited; tea and biscuits served.)

ENVIRONMENT DAYS

- Sun 12th May : CROMBIE COUNTRY PARK - 2pm-4pm Afternoon music, stalls and barbecue. For more details Tel (02416) 360
- Sun 5th May : MONIKIE COUNTRY PARK - 2pm-4pm A variety of events and stalls. For more details Tel Newbigging (082-623) 202

FRIENDS OF THE BOTANIC GARDEN

- Tues 28th May : A.G.M. and Cheese & Wine at Vernonholme - 7.30pm.
- Thurs 30th May : Joint meeting with Scottish Arboricultural Society.
- Sat 14th Sept : Open Day.
- Further details from the garden Visitor Centre.

SUMMER 1991 EXCURSIONS

Birkhill Clay Mine & Linlithgow Loch - 20th April

At Birkhill Clay Mine, near Bo'ness we will discover the mysteries of fireclay and see 300 million year old fossils. The mine is in the Avon Gorge, a SSSI and nearby is a meadow untouched by artificial fertilisers.

Linlithgow Loch has breeding Great-crested Grebes, Reed Buntings, Sedge Warblers, Martins and Swallows and if you are lucky you might catch sight of a Kingfisher.

Lochore Meadows Country Park - 18th May

It is several years since the Society last enjoyed a day at Lochore Meadows and it will be very interesting to note the further development of this attractive park which originated from coal mining waste-land. Nowadays the visitor sees young woodlands and rolling grassland surrounding a loch, providing habitats for all manner of wildlife. A ranger will meet us and after a short slide show lead a morning walk. The afternoon will be free to explore a different area of the 1000 acres. Should the weather be unkind there is a display area and cafeteria.

Isle of May - 1st June

Our trip to the Isle of May is ruled by the tides and consequently our boat sails from Anstruther at 2.00pm returning at 7.00pm. The cost for the boat is £8.00 for adults and £4.00 for children.

The Isle of May boasts a lighthouse dating from 1816, a 12th century priory, and the ruins of the first lighthouse built on Scottish shores, in 1636. All that and birds galore from shags to puffins, and just an hour's sail from Anstruther. When we return to Anstruther we will have time to partake of fish and chips from the local Chippy.

R.S.P.B. Reserve - Killiecrankie - 22nd June

This reserve is just as well known for its plants as for its birds. The warden, Martin Robinson, proved this point when he delivered a fascinating winter lecture to the Society last year.

Hopefully we will see many of the summer migrant birds which are a feature of the reserve as well as a myriad of summer flowers, including a few orchids, which also grace this area.

This is an opportunity too good to miss!!

Queen Elizabeth Forest Park - 6th July

Our visit is to be based on the new Highland Boundary Fault trail, which together with a variety of shorter walks, starts from the Aberfoyle Visitor Centre. At the Visitor Centre there is also a wet weather slide show, a restaurant and toilet facilities.

Pencaitland Walk - 13th July

This outing is our annual joint outing with the Edinburgh Natural History Society, and features an area near to Ormiston, East Lothian. Part of the walk is along a disused railway line and the Tyne Water and we have been told that this is a botanically rich area. Other habitats which are to be encountered on the walk include farm land, burns and woodland.

Loch Muick - 20th July

The bus journey to Loch Muick is in itself a spectacular one, as we travel via Blairgowrie, up the length of Glenshee and Glen Clunie, pass Braemar and Crathie then on to Glen Muick and the Loch.

The walk around the loch is about 8 miles and is almost flat, certainly there are no steep climbs, unless you wish to take a detour up the path to the Lochnagar waterfall above the Royal retreat of Glas-alte Shiel. During our walk we should, at this time of year, see many of our mountain flowers including mountain pansies and a few upland orchids. Should an 8 mile walk appear daunting it is just as easy to take shorter walks up one or both of the loch sides.

On our return we will stop at either Banchory or Braemar where we will allow time for a high tea or just a stroll.

Dumyat - Stirling - 10th August

Dumyat, site of an ancient hill-fort, lies at the western end of the rampart-like Hillfoots range of old volcanic rocks, running eastwards to Castle Campbell and beyond.

Weather permitting, an easy to moderate walk of about 3½ miles is planned. A downpour will also be catered for!

Mystery Tour - 31st August

When we last organised a Mystery Tour it was not one of the best attended outings, but the reaction from the members who did join us, voted it one of the best of the year.

We can't, of course, indicate where the trip will end up, but rest assured a full day of mixed interest will be on the agenda.

So if you want to know the answer to the Mystery, then come and find out!

Linn of Dee - 14th September

At Linn of Dee, near Braemar, we will take a gentle walk through Highland Glen scenery, looking at the wildlife, especially the fungi typical of remnant Old Caledonian Pine/Birch forest.

Longer and much more strenuous walks are also available in the area.

DUNDEE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

Excursion Secretary · Miss L F Fullerton
57, West Road
NEWPORT-ON-TAY
Fife DD6 8HN Tel 542249 (after 6 00pm)

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, preferably in writing, 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 1991 OUTINGS

	ADULTS	JUNIORS
Sat 20th April	Birkhill Clay Mine/Linlithgow	
Sat 18th May	Lochore Meadows Country Park	
Sat 1st June	Isle of May	
Sat 22nd June	R.S.P.B Reserve Killiecrankie	
Sat 6th July	Queen Elizabeth Forest Park	
Sat 13th July	Pencaitland Walk	
Sat 20th July	Loch Muick	
Sat 10th August	Sherriffmuir - Dumyat	
Sat 31st Aug	Mystery Tour	
Sat 14th Sept	Linn of Dee	

THE FOLLOWING OUTINGS NEED NOT BE BOOKED

Tues 11th June	Lundie Crag (evening)	////////// OWN TRANSPORT //////////
Tues 30th July	Dundee Botanic Gardens (eve)	////////// OWN TRANSPORT //////////
Tues 20th August	Easthaven/B B Q (evening)	////////// OWN TRANSPORT //////////

NAME

ADDRESS

Tel No

PLEASE ENSURE NAME AND ADDRESS COMPLETED

CUT HERE

DUNDEE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

DO NOT SEND THIS COPY TO EXCURSION SECRETARY

The two copies of the Booking Form for the 1991 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, preferably in writing, at least by the Monday prior to the outing, otherwise members will be charged full fare

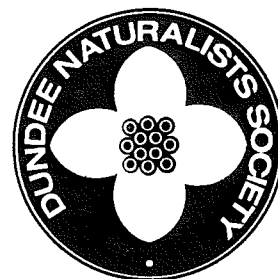
All buses leave from North Lindsay Street promptly at the time indicated

RETAIN THIS COPY REFERENCE COPY FOR 1991 OUTINGS

	ADULTS	JUNIORS
Sat 20th April	Birkhill Clay Mine/Linlithgow Bus 9 30am	
Sat 18th May	Lochore Meadows Country Park Bus 9 15am	
Sat 1st June	Isle of May Bus 10 00am	
Tues 11th June	Lundie Crag/Meet Tullybaccart Car Park 7 00pm	////////// /// OWN TRANSPORT ///
Sat 22nd June	R.S.P.B Reserve Killiecrankie Bus 9 00am	
Sat 6th July	Queen Elizabeth Forest Park Bus 8 30am	
Sat 13th July	Pencaitland Walk (E.H.N.S.) Bus 9 00am	
Sat 20th July	Loch Muick Bus 8 30am	
Tues 30th July	Dundee University Botanic Garden Meet at car park 7 00pm	////////// /// OWN TRANSPORT ///
Sat 10th August	Sherriffmuir - Dumyat Bus 9 30am	
Tues 20th Aug	Easthaven/B B Q Meet at Easthaven car park 7 30pm	////////// /// OWN TRANSPORT ///
Sat 31st Aug	Mystery Tour Bus 9 30am	
Sat 14th Sept	Linn of Dee Bus 9 00am	

Dundee Naturalists' Society

Instituted 1874



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 26th March 1991

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

Chairman Mr R K Brinklow Present 50+

APOLOGIES

Miss F Towns, Mr and Mrs G Kirkland, Mrs E McClure, Mrs E Leitch, Mr and Mrs A Ingram, Dr A Houghton, Mrs J Thomson, Mrs S Scott.

The minutes of the AGM 1990 had been previously sent to all Members.

Miss Eileen Kidney proposed the adoption of the minutes.

Mr Bob McLeod was seconder.

There were no matters arising.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr Brinklow stated that his report would be brief since most of his statement was also included in the Annual Bulletin. His first year, which he had expected to be onerous, had turned out to be most enjoyable due to the excellent coordinated efforts of all the other Office Bearers. Their support for him and professional running of the Society made for a smooth Presidency. He thanked all Office Bearers and Members for their support.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Current Membership numbers are :-

Honorary	- 5	(5)
Ordinary	- 129	(127)
Family	- 72	(82)
Student	- 11	(6)
Past	- 7	(3)
TOTAL	- 225	(223)

This year Miss Fullerton and Mrs Tennant are having some problems with the Summer Outings' organisation due to the uncertainties and rising costs of booking excursion buses. (Some companies have been taken over etc.) Mrs Allan asked the members to help the Excursion Secretaries by supporting the Summer outings. A sheet with information about each outing is included with the Bulletin.

Mrs Allan apologised for this session's winter programme dates clashing, in some instances, with those of the Royal Scottish Geographic Society. This was due to them sending their dates to her later than usual. She thanked those members who had supported the Society's meetings in spite of divided loyalties. The situation will not arise next year. Once again, our Society's programme of winter lectures was superb.

The Bulletin is the largest to date. The Editor, Miss Mary Galloway, and all her contributors were thanked. Members were asked to continue to send in articles. All those Members who collect and deliver Bulletins to friends and neighbours were accorded the Society's grateful thanks. This saves a great deal of money in postage. Members were reminded that returned A4 envelopes are always welcomed.

The Secretary, writes up the minutes of all the winter lectures. Copies of last session's minutes are available to Members at the cost of 10p per lecture plus an S.A.E. (single or first lecture free!) All 10 meetings can be had for the bargain price of 50p. Payment should be made in the form of stamps to the value.

This year has been quite a 'campaigning' year. Last year our Society was involved with the successful 'Lurcher's Gully' campaign. This year we were contacted by Mr Steve Moyes of the Tay Ringing Group with the objective of forming a pressure group to push for a Tay Estuary Nature Reserve. Our Society provided two delegates to the group which has already made successful representations to the District Councils involved. Delegate Mrs Joan Thomson has written an informative article in the Bulletin

Our Society also received a request from the 'Scottish Rights of Way Society' asking us to write to the Secretary of State and local M.Ps supporting their new legal proposals for reforming the Rights of Way laws. Mrs Allan referred Members to her article in the Bulletin summarising these proposals.

These days with the proliferation of stored computerised information, the Secretary is having to cope with more and more requests from other persons and organisations seeking to use our Society in some way. Most send sales leaflets for natural history holidays, outdoor equipment, field courses and books etc. But we also receive questionnaires, requests for various kinds of information including surveys and, last year, two job applications! One other large organisation wanted us to swap names and addresses. This was refused although we did agree to include leaflets in a mailing.

Many Members are unaware of the correct procedure for requests to our Society to campaign on their behalf e.g. objections to a planning application. In the first instance a letter should be sent to the Secretary, preferably with as much information as possible. Copies are then sent to the Society's other Office Bearers. Action is only taken when a majority of the D.N.S. Council are in agreement. The Secretary has no power to act independently. Mr Brinklow intervened to emphasise this point.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Brian Allan briefly explained each item in the Accounts Summary 1990/91, included in the Bulletin. The Society still has an overall surplus this year, but the Treasurer noted that steeply rising costs were eating into this 'cushion'. The Subscription rates are to remain at the same levels this year, but Members were told that next year's rates will have to rise in line with increased costs.

Miss Eileen Kidney proposed the adoption of the accounts.
Miss Shelagh Gardiner was Secunder.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICE BEARERS

There was 1 Council vacancy to be filled.

Dr Alban Houghton was proposed by Mr Jim Cook and seconded by Mr Richard Brinklow and there being no other nominations he was duly elected.

TECHNICAL CONVENOR'S REPORT

Last year Local wildlife sites were visited, including the Tay Estuary. A small group of Members went fungi hunting. Lists of sites good for fungi are available from Mr Cook.
Badger sites were visited.
A botanical Survey of the Montrose Basin was carried out.

This year the following surveys require Members' help:-

Local Wildlife Sites, Bats, Fungi, What the Cat Dragged in, Butterflies and Kestrels.

Interested Members were asked to append their names to a list provided. Records may be notified to Mr Cook or Mr Brinklow.

A Wildlife Site near Carrot Hill has been designated an SSSI.

A. O. C. B.

Mrs Duncan reminded Members that help is always required at Carsegowniemuir. Although the tree planting programme is complete, ongoing work such as weeding mulching and watering is still necessary, as well as recording wildlife on the site.

In response to a query from a Member, Mr Cook explained that new local wildlife sites are still being discovered. The new SSSI at Carrot Hill was originally discovered by DNS Members. Local surveys are the basis for SSSI designation.

This ended the business at 8.15pm approximately.

Members were then given the opportunity to complete quiz sheets identifying objects provided. Refreshments were then served.

PLEASE RETAIN FOR THE A. G. M. 1992

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL 1992

Next year three Council Members are due to retire, having served for three years.

Nominations for replacements, along with the names of proposers and seconders, should be intimated to the Secretary, not later than 3rd March 1992. If more than three nominations are received for these positions, a vote will be taken at the A. G. M. 1992.

Please note that Nominees, Proposers and Seconders should be paid up Members of Dundee Naturalists' Society.

The Secretary will be pleased to provide details of Council duties etc to Members on request.

For many years Jim Cook has held the post of Technical Convenor within Dundee Naturalists' Society. Due to pressure of work he has intimated that he wishes to give up this aspect of his involvement with the Society. In past years Jim has conducted several local wildlife surveys for our Society and other groups, and he has helped countless Members with species identification.

The position of Technical Convenor is an unstructured one and if any Member would like to conduct wildlife Surveys or organise other conservation activities for Society Members, please inform the Secretary personally. (This position is not an elected one and a proposer and seconder are not necessary). The name of this position may be changed in future to 'Activities Officer' or similar.

DUNDEE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

(Revised 21st March 1978)

1. The Society shall be called the Dundee Naturalists' Society.
2. The objects of the Society shall be the promotion and study of all departments of Natural Science.
3. Membership of the Society shall be open to all persons interested in Natural Science, and shall be by Annual Subscription. Honorary Membership may be conferred on certain members by nomination and election at an Annual General Meeting.
4. The funds of the Society shall be raised by an annual subscription from each Member. Subscriptions shall become due immediately following the Annual General Meeting, covering the period up to and including the following Annual General Meeting.
5. The business of the Society shall be conducted by the following Office-bearers constituting together the Council of the Society. Viz. President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Excursion Secretary, Treasurer, and six Councillors. Additionally, the Council shall have the power, if so desired, to appoint an Assistant Secretary and an Assistant Excursion Secretary. Five shall form a quorum. The normal length of term of office for President and Councillor shall be three years. A member who has so served will then be ineligible for re-election to the Council for a period of one year. There are no prescribed terms of office for other Office-bearers. In the event of a vacancy occurring among the Office-bearers, the Council shall have the power to co-opt a Member to fill such a vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting.
6. The Council shall have the power to arrange the dates of meetings at the beginning of each session, or to alter the date of any meeting if deemed expedient.
7. Excursions to be held shall be arranged by the Council.
8. At the Annual General Meeting, annual reports shall be submitted by the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer. All the Office-bearers shall be elected. These comprise Hon. President, two Hon. Vice-Presidents, and the Members of the Council. Motions, duly proposed and seconded, may be raised, if the matters do not refer to the Constitution. Any motion proposing alteration to the Constitution must be notified at least one calendar month before the Annual General Meeting.
9. Members may introduce friends to the Ordinary Meetings of the Society, but such persons shall take no part in any business proceedings of such Meetings unless invited to do so by the Chairman of the Meeting.
10. The property of the Society shall be vested in the Council of the Society.