

# Dundee Naturalists' Society

Instituted 1874



**Bulletin No17 1992-93**

Summary of Accounts : Year to 15th February 1993.

**INCOME**

**BROUGHT FORWARD:**

Current A/c 6021419	42	
Deposit A/c 5404632	390 50	
Cash in hand (Sec )	-1 01	
Cash in hand (Treas )	50	
	<u>390.41</u>	390.41

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

Session 1991/92	28 00	
Session 1992/93	895 00	
Session 1993/94	6 00	
	<u>929.00</u>	929.00

**INTEREST:**

War bonds	1 74	
Deposit A/c	5 88	
Current A/c	3 12	
	<u>10.74.</u>	10.74

**FUND RAISING:**

AGM '92-Tea/Coffee	38 20	
Sale of Minutes	1 30	
Xmas '92-Tea/Coffee	22 90	
Photo Card Sales	11 00	
The Joan Thomson		
Memorial Walk	993 80	
	<u>1067.20</u>	1067.20

**EXPENDITURE**

**BULLETIN AND SYLLABUS:**

Printing Bulletin	132 89	
Print Syllabus/Enc	108 40	
Postage	38.64	
	<u>279.93</u>	279.93

**OFFICE BEARERS' EXPENSES:**

Secretary	20 53	
Treasurer	7 35	
	<u>27.88</u>	27.88

**LECTURE ROOM RENTAL:**

Room T9 to Mar 89	258 75	
Chaplaincy centre	20 00	
	<u>278.75</u>	278.75

**LECTURERS' FEES ETC.:**

107.00

**INSURANCE:**

100.00

**MISC. EXPENSES:**

Elin Walsh Appeal	25.00	
AGM Quiz Prizes	1 00	
Photo Comp. Prizes	25 00	
To Cancer Charities	1000 00	
	<u>1051.00</u>	1051.00

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

FFWAG	10 00	
Habitat	13.50	
S W T.	25 00	
	<u>48.50</u>	48.50

**CASH IN BANK/HAND:**

Current A/c 6021419	45 10	
Deposit A/c 5404632	458 52	
Cash in Hand - Secretary	-0.51	
Cash in Hand - Treasurer	1 11	

**TOTAL INCOME**

2397.35

**TOTAL:**

2397.35

**CARSEGOWNIEMUIR ACCOUNT**

Balance at Feb 1992	205 85	
Donations & F/Raising	161 20	
Interest	2 64	
Total Income	369 69	
Expenditure	-233.77	
Balance at 15th Feb '93	<u>135.92</u>	

**WEEKEND ACCOUNT - Silverdale**

Income	1592 43	
Expenditure	-3572 00	
Net Profit	20 43	
Balance from Feb '91	61 94	
Balance at June '92 c/f	<u>82.37</u>	

**OUTINGS ACCOUNT**

B/f from Feb 1992	5 11	
Income	1297 50	
Sub total	1302 61	
Expenditure (Bus Co )	-1253 00	
Organisers Expenses	-6 50	
Sub total	-1259 50	
Balance at 15th Feb '93	<u>43.01</u>	

**WEEKEND ACCOUNT - Glasgow**

Brought forward	82 37	
Deposits received	230 00	
Bank Interest	2 38	
Balance at 15th Feb '93	<u>365.25</u>	

*Examined and found correct  
Frances Cairns*

*G. B. Kirk  
1/3/93*

# DUNDEE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

## ANNUAL BULLETIN No. 17 1992-93

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 Mrs Margaret G. Duncan
Hon Secretary :	Mrs Jennifer H. Allan, 18 Grangehill Drive Monifieth, (0382) 533132 (1992/93)  Mrs Doreen Fraser, 19 Arnhall Drive Dundee, (0382) 66993 (1993/94)
Hon Treasurer & Membership Secretary:	Mr Brian Allan, 18 Grangehill Drive Monifieth, (0382) 533132
Excursion Secretary :	Mrs Marjory Tennant, 39 Balgillo Road Broughty Ferry, (0382) 480034
Bulletin Editor :	Mrs Jennifer H. Allan, 18 Grangehill Drive Monifieth, (0382) 533132

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. Other illustrations by Brian and Jenny Allan, Jim Cook, Alban Houghton and Doreen Fraser.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year's A.G.M. marks the end of my three years as your President. They have been enjoyable, although at times, somewhat hectic years.

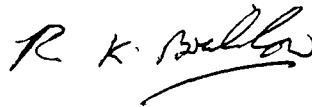
We have had a very successful series of summer outings, brief reports of which appear elsewhere in this Bulletin. The timing of the programme and the choice of venues seems to have suited most people as all have been well supported.

Last year I wrote about my wish to see the D.N.S. taking a more active role in recording our local wildlife and already this is happening. Last summer was an excellent one for butterflies and quite a few members have helped put this on record. Further initiatives to increase expertise through informal workshops are in hand. Others to recruit new members are currently being planned.

T9 was newly refurbished over the summer and although it has not been without certain 'teething problems', in general I think we all find the facilities much improved. The lecture programme itself has once again been both stimulating and entertaining. It is most pleasing to have so much talent locally available.

Throughout my term, the luxury of retaining the same efficient Secretary and Treasurer and the continuity this has given, has been of great benefit to me. So too has been the support provided by other members of the Committee. Part of the team is changing, with Jenny Allan also standing down after a six year stint as Secretary. But with Brian Allan remaining as Treasurer and Marjory Tennant continuing as Excursion Secretary, we are maintaining the balance between continuity and change, so essential if a Society is to remain healthy and continue to thrive.

Finally I would wish your new President, Jim Cook and the rest of his team every success in the years ahead.



R K Brinklow

## ACTIVITIES REPORT

Last autumn a small Sub-committee was formed to provide opportunities for Society members to acquire in depth knowledge about a variety of wildlife topics.

The first workshop was held at Barrack Street Museum on the afternoon of 21st February this year. Fifteen persons came along to learn about **Mosses**. Microscopes were provided to help with identification and to study the structure of these tiny plants. This was very successful and another session dealing with mosses is planned for 21st March at Barrack Street 2-15pm to 4-00pm. All interested members are welcome to attend.

Further workshops and other study sessions are being planned, including a workshop on **Grasses** in June. Interested members can find out more by contacting Richard Brinklow at Barrack Street, Tel 23141 ext. 65162.

Richard will also be pleased to answer any queries about the **Naturebase** computerised species data project, to which many of our members supplied species data in 1991 and 1992. Further data, on selected species, will be required this year.

Continued/.

\*\*\*\*\* SUMMER OUTINGS \*\*\*\*\*

GLASGOW BOTANIC GARDEN & FOSSIL GROVE  
9th May

Where to go is the question? The weather at the start of the summer season usually is rather changeable - which means we must visit a locality that is both very interesting and well sheltered. Glasgow Botanic Garden is excellent on both counts - and the weather lived up to expectations; it was cool and showery.

As soon as we arrived the party moved out to the arboretum extension beside the river Kelvin. Many of the trees are fairly young but we inspected a good display of **Tethyan trees**. These are species that used to be found in Europe before the ice-age period but have been extinct here for millions of years. Perhaps we could plant the Dawn redwood and the **Caucasian Wing-nut** as native species at Carsegowniemuir?

With the encouragement of the weather, the glasshouses beckoned. On the way we stopped beside the *Berberis* hedge to admire the moving stamens of the pollination mechanism of the flowers. A few DNS members walked along the paths beside the river and were promptly mugged by gangs of marauding **Squirrels** demanding tit-bits. However, most of us made it safely into one of the magnificent greenhouse displays - **Bromeliad** and **Orchid** collections, the **Primulas**, the desert plants, the hydrophytes in the ponds and the rich variety of the famous Kibble palace itself. The deputy curator was kind enough to give us a personal tour into the centre to admire the **Tree Ferns** and the unique **Clubmoss**, known from nowhere else in the world. We followed that up with a visit to the rarely-opened filmy-fern house to see the striking collection of these unusual plants and finished with a walk round the back of the main houses to visit the range of smaller greenhouses.

Later in the afternoon the coach took us across Glasgow to Victoria park to see the world-famous **Fossil Tree Grove**. These are a series of large tree stumps and fallen logs displayed in position in the rock they were found during quarrying last century and are protected and displayed inside a low shed. The fossil trees are not closely related to modern species but are extinct tree-ferns and related plants with distinct evenly-branched roots. They date from Carboniferous times, long before the dinosaur era, and are the types of plants from which coal seams are formed. During our visit we were pleased to meet and talk to one of our former members who had left the society to move to Glasgow in 1949. Around the site is a magnificent rock garden but we hardly had time to admire the display before the heavens opened once again. Fortunately the fossil grove building offered shelter close at hand.

Jim Cook.

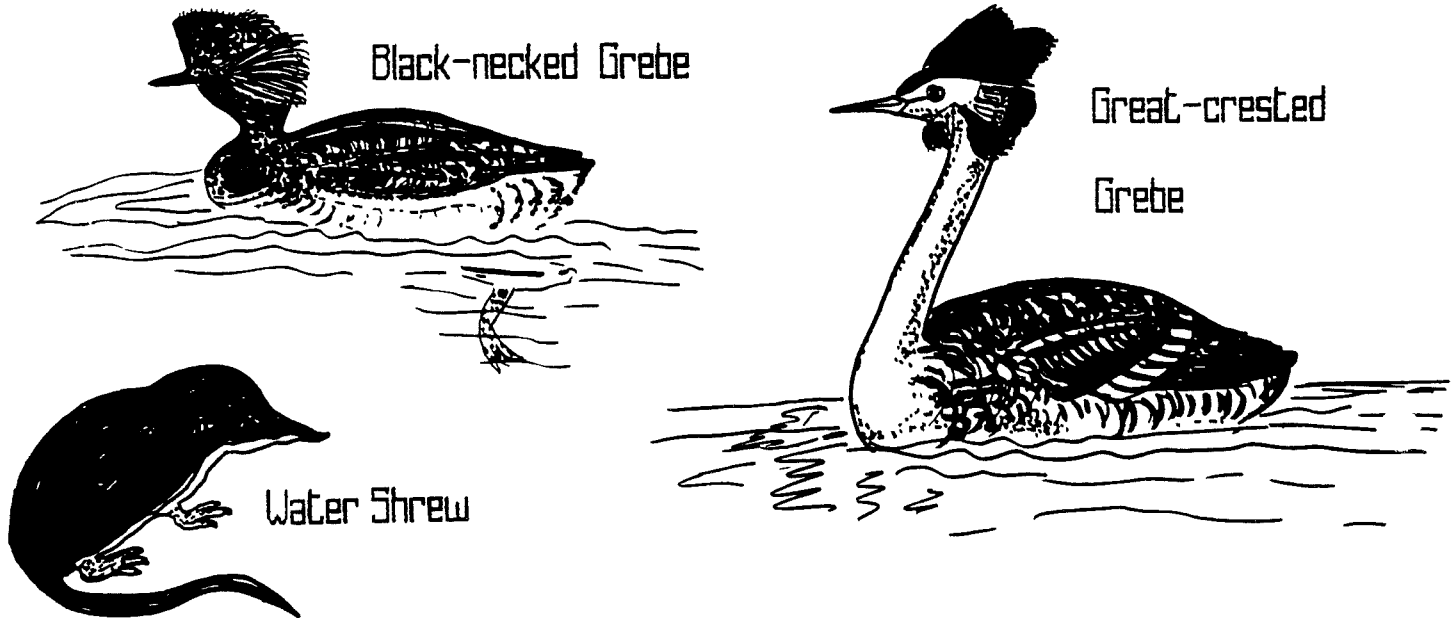
LOCH OF KINNORDY  
Tuesday 19th May  
Evening Outing

Our first evening outing of the season took us to the Loch of Kinnordy to visit this excellent R.S.P.B. Reserve. After welcoming us and briefly describing why the reserve is such a good site for birds, Jim Scott, the Warden, divided us between the two hides to let us enjoy the ornithological spectacle.

The thousands of breeding **Black-headed Gulls**, nesting on the floating mats of **Bogbean**, almost deafened us with their raucous cries. It is however, for the superb views of the wildfowl, some with flotillas of ducklings in tow, that I will most remember our visit.

Continued/...

Common species like the **Mallard** and **Tufted Duck** could be compared at close quarters with more elusive species such as **Shoveller** and **Gadwall**, together with one of Kinnordy's specialities - the **Ruddy Duck**. **Great Crested Grebe**, **Little Grebe** and the nationally very rare **Black-necked Grebe**, all nest at Kinnordy and it was very pleasing to see them all in view together.



High pitched squeaks, just outside the hide, alerted some of us to the presence of one of our most elusive mammals - the **Water Shrew**. It seemed the height of impertinence when one ran across the muddy channel in full view, as if to try to steal the show from the birds!

As dusk descended, the insect hoards came out with a vengeance - and some members may also remember this trip as the evening when the **Nats met the Gnats!**

Richard Brinklow

### LOCHORE MEADOWS COUNTRY PARK 23rd May

A last minute change of plan meant we were not expected at Lochore until 1.00pm. However, the Nats do not allow the grass to grow underfoot, so, we spent the morning in Ceres Den, a splendid choice with the countryside in full spring dress.

We arrived at Lochore Country Park in time for lunch, after which we were welcomed by the Ranger and his staff. The Ranger was a most interesting and knowledgeable guide as he led us through the history of the area from the Iron Age to farming 600 years ago, coal mining of yesteryear to the present day leisure park. The park caters for all outdoor pursuits and all ages. Boating and watersports, fishing, riding, golf, birdwatching and just walking are there for all to enjoy.

The woodland management scheme where the conifers are gradually being replaced by broadleaves, is all part of the future, ongoing, plan.

Those of us who visited the park some years ago would see a tremendous change from a bare landscape to a softer, leafier place, and we can surely appreciate all the hard work and far-sighted planning that has made a place of beauty from a coal bing

Marjory Tennant

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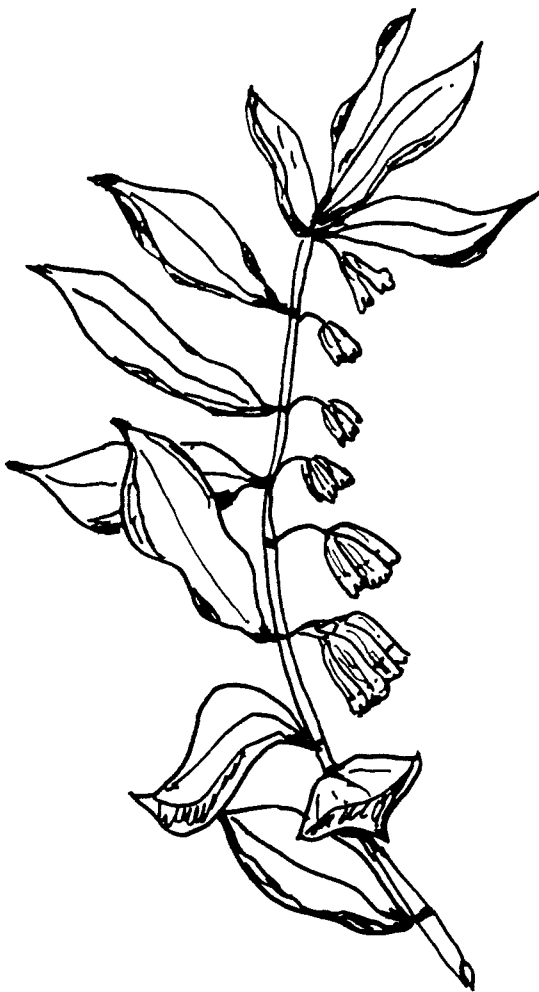
## SILVERDALE WEEKEND 5th - 8th June

An early start was made on Friday morning to begin the long journey south to Silverdale. A brief lunch stop at Strathclyde Country Park was enjoyed by everyone including a large number of 'mooching' **Swans** which homed in on the food. Back on the bus and to everyone's delight our driver George took us on a scenic detour around lakes Ullswater and Windermere. We arrived at our destination, the Clawthorpe Hall Hotel in plenty of time for a welcome dinner.

### Saturday

The weather was glorious on Saturday morning for our short drive to nearby Silverdale Quarry, where our 'quarry' the **Fly Orchids**, were at their photogenic best. An unexpected hazard, hordes of starving mosquitos lurking in the undergrowth, failed to deter the Society's intrepid photographers. Other plants in the quarry included **Rock Roses**, **Common Spotted Orchids** and **Twayblades**.

The excellent beer garden back at the hotel was a popular choice for quenching thirst and demolishing huge packed lunches, after which George drove us to the top of nearby Hutton's Roof, a beautiful area of limestone pavement, where a few happy hours spent wandering around the clints and grikes were rewarded with sightings of several rare plants including **Angular Solomon's Seal**, **Common Helleborine**, (in bud), **Stone Bramble** and many other characteristic lime-loving plants. A few miles walking down the narrow road brought us back to Clawthorpe and our hotel



Angular Solomon's Seal



Fly Orchid

Continued/...

### Sunday

The theme changed from plants to birds with a visit to the extensive Leighton Moss RSPB reserve at Silverdale. Plenty of ducks could be viewed from the hides, many with young chicks. the Bittern's 'boom' could be clearly heard although sightings of the bird remained elusive. A beautiful waterside show of **Yellow Flag Iris** and pink **Ragged Robin** was admired by everyone. The hot weather meant brisk business for the sale of ices from the reserve shop and the cool tea room also provided a welcome refuge from the heat.

After lunch George managed to negotiate the bus around a corkscrew road to take us to nearby Arnside Knott where most people climbed to the top to admire the views. A **Green Woodpecker's** noisy 'yaffling' was heard close by in the dense undershrub, but like the Bittern the bird remained unseen. The **Broad-leaved Helleborine**, alas in bud, was growing in several areas on the Knott.

A quick stop was made at Arnside to demolish yet more ice cream and admire an impressive steam train crossing the Kent Viaduct. No sign of the famous tidal bore although Brian tried hard to make up for it. After dinner, members settled down in the Hotel's lounge bar to enjoy a musical evening with local folk duo John and Judie Surridge. Many of our members showed themselves to be in fine voice and talented at playing a variety of percussion instruments! Driver George and Bill and Alistair, delighted us with solo songs.

### Monday

Sadly we all piled back on to the bus with our luggage, and George headed up the M6: but there were still some delights to come. We soon left the M6 and headed for Smardale, near Kirkby Stephen. The friendly farmer's wife at Friar's Bottom had offered to allow our bus to park in the farmyard. This was impossible in practice since the bus was larger than the access road; but undeterred, George parked in a farm turning bay and everyone set out to walk along the disused railway line, now a Nature Reserve managed by the Cumbria Naturalists' Trust.

The **Birdseye Primroses** were spectacular and **Common Spotted** and **Northern Marsh Orchids**, along with some hybrids, were also at their best. A profusion of **Water Crowfoot** was growing beside the river.

One of the biggest attractions along the walk was man made. The beautifully preserved viaduct over Scandal Beck was a magnificent sight and provided the perfect setting for many a souvenir snapshot. After eating packed lunches, (the Clawthorpe staff had forgotten to put in the sandwiches but nobody minded!) we headed home.



Birdseye Primrose

All agreed that this weekend had been marvellous, with perfect weather, wildlife, scenery and company, and of course George was accorded a big cheer for his safe driving and excellent company.

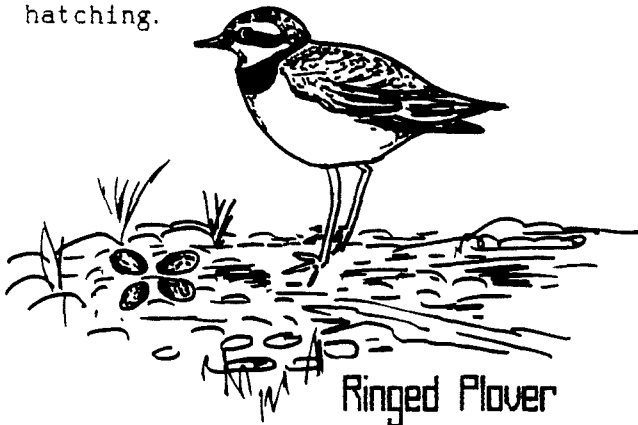
Jenny Allan

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## THE SANDS OF FORVIE 14th June

Our venue was the Sands of Forvie Nature Reserve at the mouth of the River Ythan, some 20 miles north of Aberdeen. We were met at Waterside Bridge by the Warden, Bob Davis and his two assistants.

Straightaway, a rarity was spotted - a **Great White Egret**, which had taken up residence in the Estuary 6 weeks previously. The reserve is important for the large number of **Eider Ducks** which breed there. Normally, at this time, there would be ducklings everywhere, diving in shallow water and bouncing on the waves, but that day there was only one solitary fluffy ball in sight! The Warden thought perhaps the bad spring had something to do with the late hatching.



As we walked on marked trails, over the dunes and moorland to the Centre at Collieston Farm, (Apprx. 4 miles), keen eyes noted the caterpillar of an **Elephant Hawkmoth**. **Sandwich Terns** were seen in the roped off area and the nests of an **Oystercatcher** and a **Ringed Plover** were found on the beach. The flora, though perhaps not abundant, included an unusual two-headed **Northern Marsh Orchid**, and for those prepared to scramble to the base of the cliffs, a big patch of the rare **Oyster Plant**.

There was plenty of interest at the Centre itself with it's varied displays, wild garden, tree nursery and little pond. Some bog plants were displayed in an appropriate container!

After thanking our very obliging wardens for all the information they had afforded us, we departed well satisfied with our day's outing.  
Ina and Alistair Fraser

## LUNDIE CRAGS Tuesday 23rd June Evening Outing

The weather smiled on us this year for our evening outing to Lundie Crag. The hillside was yellow with **Gorse** and **Broom**, but this brilliance did not prepare us for the sight in the little quarry - a carpet of **Northern Marsh Orchids**, *Dactylorhiza purpurella*, in all their purple/pink splendour.

We continued along the path, past the fishermen in the loch and into the boggy ground at the foot of the Crag - where we left the keen botanists! The rest of us climbed and walked along the cliff top enjoying the sunset and the flowers before rejoining our friends. A lovely evening.  
Marjory Tennant

## GLEN MARK 27th June

The walk along Glen Mark, being about five miles long and relatively level, is not at all strenuous by mountain standards. Even so, these rough tracks are more demanding than many folk realise.

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We took advantage of the short distance involved, to make frequent stops to hunt for flowers and other wildlife along the way. Sunshine to bring out the butterflies was somewhat lacking, but careful searching in the damp conditions revealed roosting **Common Blue**, **Small Heath** and **Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary** butterflies.

The **Small White Orchid**, discovered some years ago on a Nats outing, could not be re-found, but the site of the very few plants of **Intermediate Wintergreen** was relocated and the finding of quite a number of plants of **Lesser Twayblade** under the heather, showed we were being reasonably observant. Altogether, over a hundred different species of flowering plants were recorded, quite a reasonable total for a glen like this.

The trip also gave several of our most elderly members a real sense of satisfaction knowing they could still reach the Queen's Well without needing to resort to the services of a pony.

Richard Brinklow

Intermediate  
Wintergreen



### GLENTANNER 11th July

This outing was notable for the attention we received from Eric Baird, the Estate Ranger. He took us to Juniper Viewpoint above the carpark (where a **Buzzard** flew by), and Knockie Viewpoint on the green walk, to point out the features of this working estate. He described the Estate's integrated activities of farming, forestry, field sports, conservation and informal recreation. A significant feature was the skyline shield fence built in 1936 to stop deer coming in. A balance of deer and regeneration is sought which allows the native pines the chance they need to be self perpetuating. The plantations are seminatural and so extend the options for native creatures. Two wild cat territories are known on the Estate. The general public are encouraged to enjoy the features of the Estate by waymarked trails, an information centre and ranger service.

Mr Baird commented on the human history of the Estate with some amusing anecdotes. We examined sawpits and channels dug beside the river for handling sawn logs in the past.

Eric discussed ecology and fielded all our questions thoughtfully. A notable natural feature he pointed out was a 5' rowan sapling growing directly out of a horizontal branch of a mature tree of another species. It wasn't growing in the more usual position of debris of a fork in the trunk but straight up from the branch with no visible roots - apparently grafted in.

It was a dull day, which limited our view from the summit of Cairn o'mount when our bus paused for breath, but the occasional damp patches probably suited the pines in the NNR very well. Bramar was inundated by requests for hot fish suppers at the end of our interesting day.

Margaret Duncan.

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## DUNDEE LAW 14th July Evening Outing

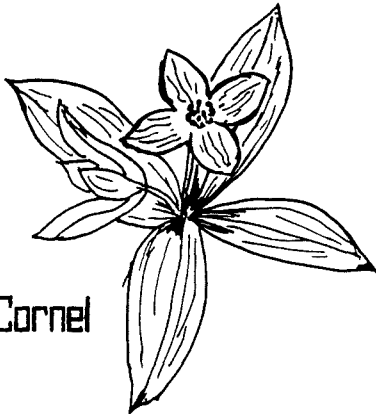
The Society was fortunate to have Alison Silk, Dundee District's Wildlife Co-ordination Officer, to lead us round the Law to see the work being done there. A small party turned out for the guided walk. The aim of the work that is going on is to restore one of Dundee's major landmarks to a more natural condition. The top is being improved to make it more attractive and the conifer woods are gradually being felled and replaced with native species. On the grassy slopes wildflower meadows are being created and will provide a colourful display in season.

Jim Cook

## GLEN DOLL AND GLEN CLOVA Sunday 26th July

As I walked back through the rain to meet the bus at Braedownie, I couldn't help thinking this just wasn't the day to be doing this walk. Indeed we set off on the long trudge up Jock's Road fully expecting to have to retrace our steps.

No one wanted to hurry over the slippery rocks, and so it was a rather late lunch that we took by Davie Glen's Bothy. By then though the clouds had lifted and the weather was set to improve. So most opted to go 'over the top', albeit risking being a bit late for the bus.



Dwarf Cornel

Having admired our Society's emblem, the Dwarf Cornel, growing not far from the bothy, we made our way across the shoulder to Bachnagairn. Everyone seemed to have their own idea of exactly which was the driest and least arduous way between the flushes, peaty patches and pools bordering Loch Esk, thus reinforcing the importance of good visibility for making the crossing. We did find several specialities of these high, wet places, including the Cloudberry and the charming diminutive Cranberry, but time was not on our side for a thorough study of the flora.

As it was, the long trek down from Bachnagairn felt a bit more like a route march than a Sunday stroll. Still, once back on the bus, everyone although weary, seemed to think that in retrospect it really had been well worth while.

Richard Brinklow

## INCHCOLM ISLAND & CRAMOND 8th August

Our trip was to revisit, for I think the third time in recent years, the beautiful island of Inchcolm with its historic Abbey and more importantly it's wealth of natural history, mainly the many breeding seabirds.

A word first about the Island itself which has justly been called "the Iona of the east". Situated about 5 minutes east of the Forth bridges just off Aberdour, the Island can be reached by boat from South Queensferry. The boat trip takes around 30 minutes depending on wind and tide conditions.

Continued/...

The Abbey on the Island was founded by Alexander I in 1123 and is extremely well preserved. It features a rare 13th century octagonal chapter house and attractive gardens. Inchcolm was also strategically positioned for defence purposes and evidence of 1st and 2nd world war coastal defences still remains.

On now to the wildlife, particularly the seals and the resident seabirds. Bede Pounder, one of the Society's most knowledgeable ornithologists, kindly noted the birds spotted during our all too brief visit. These are listed below:

Black-headed Gull	Lesser Black-back Gull
Herring Gull	Great Skuas (3)
Sandwich Tern	Arctic Tern
Gannet	Guillemot
Puffin	Cormorant
Oyster Catcher	Curlew
Redshank	Carriion Crow

The only other mammal seen, other than the Common and Grey Seals, was a lonely Shrew, intent on keeping a low profile.

The second part of our day was the walk from South Queensferry to the village of Cramond through the extensive wood and parkland owned by the Earls of Roseberry. The weather, however, had by afternoon become somewhat wet and windy and most nats were more intent in striding out to reach Cramond, with its warm pubs and cafes, than recording the many birds and plants to be found on the walk.

Luckily the small rowing boat which takes you over the River Almond was operating and there were no delays at that point.

As usual a good and varied day was had by all.

Brian Allan

## THE GLEN TILT TRAILS 22nd August

The morning commenced rather dreich and the forecast not too promising, as a good turnout of 'nats', 52 (including a goodly bunch of enthusiastic youngsters) boarded at North Lindsay Street bound for 'The Tilt'. No prizes awarded for naming the pair who mistook the bus time and came by car later on. (Must be keen).

Arriving at Pitlochry and stopping for a break, it was a case of rushing from the bus, grabbing a cup of coffee and a bun and rushing back to the bus again, as by this time the heavens had opened up and the rain was coming down full pelt. However, 6 miles up the road to our destination it miraculously ceased.

This was a joint outing and fraternal greetings were exchanged between the 'nats' and members of the Edinburgh Natural History Society who had travelled by cars to Blair Atholl. The combined force of over 60 then marched resolutely through the caravan park, gaining access to the left bank of the river Tilt. About 50%, lead by Jenny, elected to tackle the long trek up to Marble Lodge and beyond to search and find samples of the famous Tilt Marble, which can be seen to great effect at a fireplace in Hopetoun House. This intrepid band followed in the footsteps of the famous geologist Hutton, who, during his geological excursions into this area in the late 18th century, searched for and found spectacular contacts between the Deeside red granites and the local schists.

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The remainder, including myself, took a shorter circuit up to Gilbert's Bridge and back to the caravan park. The initial part of the walk is through a fine wooded gorge with fine stands of **Beech**, **Oak**, **Horse Chestnut** etc. A stop was made at a view point where a deep pool and waterfall were an attractive sight.

Back on the main path again, the uncommon **Herb Paris** was pointed out to us by Brian and further on **Grass of Parnassus**, pointed out by Margaret Duncan. The fungi lovers noted an outstanding show of **Fly Agaric**, *Amanita muscaria* in the birch scrub by the path and other less common fungi were soon 'bagged' such as *Boletus edulis*, a fine edible species, *Gomphidius glutinosus*, also edible, but not so popular, due to the very slimy cap. The kids had a great time collecting, and a disconcerting habit of finding specimens which were well nigh unidentifiable, but a knowledgeable look and and "that's a **Lactarius**" or "this is a **Boletus**" seemed to satisfy them and let the experts off the hook. A mine of information was the Edinburgh lady - a real enthusiast - who really knew her mushrooms.

Soon the clamour for a lunch break was overwhelming and a halt was made on an elevated moorland area overlooking the Tilt just below the shooting range - better to have a full belly before being shot! **Buzzards** were heard and seen here, but overall, birds were rather scarce. It was here that the last remaining flowers of the delightful **Field Gentian**, *Gentianella campestris*, were seen.

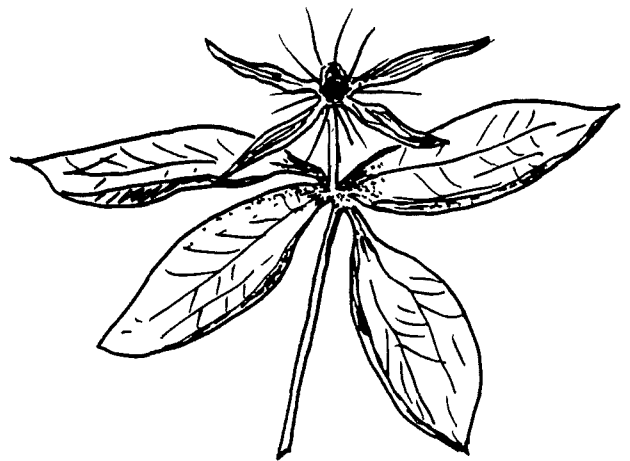
On our return from Gilbert's Bridge, many more tree associated fungi were found including, *Leccinum versipelle*, *L. scabrum* (birch), *Boletus variagatus*, *B. edulis* (conifers, large specimens).

A **Scotch Argus** butterfly was spotted by Brian during a brief (very brief) glint of sunlight before the now leg weary foragers straggled back to the bus or sought the comforts of the cafe in the castle or caravan park. On the whole, an enjoyable day, and the rain was no problem until our return to the bus.  
Gordon Maxwell.

## FOOTNOTE TO THE GLEN TILT FIELD TRIP

A colony of the rare **Herb Paris**, *Paris quadrifolia*, seen on previous visits, was refound on our visit of 22nd August 1992. However, dumps of tarry road metal had been deposited on some of the plants. A letter was sent to the Atholl Estate Factor, (and to Scottish Natural Heritage, SE Region, Tayside Area), informing him of the location of the plants and asking if the Estate would be prepared to take measures to protect the locality. A favourable reply was received.

There is only one record for this plant in Angus and 9 localities in Perthshire.  
Margaret Duncan.



Herb Paris

Continued/...

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

MUSHROOM MAGIC  
13th October

After posing for press 'photo calls', (see page 18), three of our most senior and well known office-bearers, President Richard Brinklow and Vice-Presidents, Jim Cook and Margaret Duncan, provided an excellent start to the lecture season with their exciting insights into the vast and diverse world of fungi.

Jim Cook began and very soon had us all cringing and scratching with graphic descriptions of the effects of several well known 'fungi nasties' including **Athlete's Foot**, **Ringworm**, **Ergot** and the crop destroying **Rust Fungus**. Happily, there are also many useful fungi species around to compensate, including **Penicillin** and **Yeast**. Other interesting fungi included the aptly named 'Stinkhorn', easily located by its putrid smell, which attracts flies to spread it's spores.

Richard then provided us with an entirely different fungi perspective, concentrating on the strange fungi/algae alliance collectively known as **Lichens**. These proved to be amazingly diverse organisms, ranging from the appropriately named **Map Lichen**, which looks just like a relief map, and grows in upland areas, to the luxuriant grass-like growths of **Ramalina**, prominent on coastal cliffs. Interestingly, many innocent looking encrusting lichens are actually masters of chemical warfare, releasing toxins to deter other lichens from growing into their space,

Finally Margaret, whose nature slides are well known both for technical and artistic excellence, delighted us with her slide studies of many interesting and beautiful fungi, including **Porcelain Fungus**, **Parasol Mushrooms**, **Jelly Babies**, and the **Hedgehog Fungus** with spiny gills.

WILDLIFE OF THE CAIRNGORMS  
27th October

Brian Lightfoot, presently warden of St Cyrus Nature Reserve, has worked with the N.C.C. (now part of Scottish Natural Heritage), for more than 16 years. While based within the Strathspey area, Brian's duties included regular checking of all **Golden Eagle** and **Peregrine** eyries, a hazardous task since these were invariably sited on precipitous cliffs. Many other birds are also found in this area including **Crested Tits**, **Bullfinches** and **Grey Wagtails**. On the high tops **Dotterel** and **Ptarmigan** can be seen.

Insects included many species of **Damsel Flies** and **Dragonflies**. Brian demonstrated how to differentiate between them. (**Damsel Flies** fold their wings over their bodies when resting). Butterflies included **Small Copper**, **Ringlet** and **Red Admiral**. Brian also drew our attention to the high incidence of **Clouded Yellow** butterflies recorded last year. Colourful moth species included the **Six-spotted Burnet**, **Leopard** and **Tiger Moths**.

On the hills, **Feral Goats** are relatively tame. Overgrazing by **Red Deer** means reducing their numbers with an annual cull. **Roe Deer** are smaller and reside in the less mountainous areas. One slide showed a beautiful **Red Squirrel**, resplendent in his bright red summer coat. A whole family of mischievous **Fox** cubs had obviously inherited their distinctive white markings from the parent dog **Fox**.

An excellent evening with the audience enthralled by the beautiful slides and the Speaker's obvious enthusiasm for his subject.

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## HEN HARRIERS AND OTHER BIRDS OF PREY 3rd November

Bruce Anderson is a Field Worker with the R. S. P. B. His main interest is in raptor species, particularly **Hen Harriers**.

**Kestrels** are thriving in Tayside. These birds are able to breed successfully in a variety of habitats and 30-40 breeding pairs were recently recorded in Glen Isla. **Peregrines** are also doing well, even moving into areas where they were previously unrecorded. The **Golden Eagle** population is stable but **Ospreys** are slowly increasing, with over 100 breeding pairs presently recorded in Scotland. Well known **Osprey** nest sites are guarded during the breeding season.

Moorland raptor species have more problems, although **Short Eared Owls** are common in Tayside and can often be observed hunting. **Merlins** have had to adapt to the ever-changing moorland conditions with encroaching forestry a major threat to their habitat. Breeding ceases in areas after 8-10 years of **Spruce** growth.

**Hen Harriers** are controversial birds. They are often regarded as the 'forgotten raptor' since they are accorded little status or publicity compared with other more prominent raptor species. **Hen Harriers** prefer rank heather, often beside streams, for their nesting sites. In good areas several breeding pairs may reside in fairly close proximity. This high density is very unpopular with gamekeepers and persecution of these birds by trapping and poisoning is rife, although illegal. **Hen Harriers** do predate on **Grouse** but their diet also includes other small moorland birds and rabbits. Four to five **Hen Harrier** chicks is an average brood and the parent birds are fiercely protective of their young, as Bruce found to his cost on several occasions while attempting to tag fledglings!

Large moorland estates are presently being monitored to try to identify those areas where **Hen Harrier** persecution is taking place. Wing tags are colour coded and lettered to help with identification and monitoring of the movements and population numbers of these birds.

## FARMING AND WILDLIFE 17th November

Our Speaker for the evening, Miss Christine Hall, has for the past 5 years been working with F.W.A.G. in the Angus and Perthshire areas. She told us about the history and aims of F.W.A.G. (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group).

Many problems have been created by past overproduction of food by farmers, encouraged by government and European subsidies. Intensive farming methods have caused pollution and progressive land degradation in many areas.

Grants are now available to farmers from many sources in return for introducing wildlife conservation strategies into their farming methods. These include re-establishing native woodlands, flower meadows, wetlands and hedges. Field margins can be planted with wild flower species to encourage hoverflies and other insects and 'beetle banks' provided to encourage the overwintering of beetle species. Both hoverflies and beetles are natural predators of aphids and other farming pests; encouraging these insects results in less use of potentially harmful insecticide sprays.

Existing areas of woodland are often poorly managed for wildlife, as are areas of grassland and moorland and Christine demonstrated how the landscape is changing in response to F.W.A.G. and other conservation initiatives. In future, farming subsidies will depend on farmers 'setting aside' a proportion of their land for wildlife, and this should result in a more interesting and varied

Continued/...

landscape which balances the need for food production with wildlife conservation.

## FLOWERS OF CYPRUS 1st December

This eagerly awaited lecture by the well known traveller and botanist Dr Chris North was an ideal choice for mid winter.

Dr North quickly transported us to the sunny island of Cyprus with slides of the plants and archaeology of this, the most easterly of the Mediterranean islands. He firstly outlined the political situation of the area, pointing out the problems facing this divided country. To reach southern Cyprus is fairly easy with flights available from most UK airports including Glasgow. However, to visit the Turkish controlled northern sector is far more difficult; the only flights are from London airports and these must first touch down on mainland Turkey.

The plants of the Troodos mountains in the Greek southern sector, including many orchids, were illustrated and Dr North indicated that many of these plants are endemic to this island. The Greek and Roman archaeology of the Paphos area also made fascinating listening. The northern sector, the area Dr North found the most botanically rewarding, was next on our agenda and again we were thrilled by the variety and abundance of the wild flowers brought alive to us by Dr North's obvious enthusiasm for the plants and the country.

## CHRISTMAS NIGHT 15th December

This ever-popular date in the Society's calendar was attended by over fifty members. The Speaker on this occasion was Police Superintendent R. McMillan whose subject was 'The Law and Wildlife'. The Superintendent outlined the nature of the protection given to wildlife in this country, stressing that all wildlife is entitled to some protection under the law but, as would be expected, the more endangered species are entitled to more rigorous protection. For example some species of birds may not be killed by anyone, some may only be killed outwith a 'close season' and some may be trapped and killed under licence, e.g. for countryside management reasons, by authorised persons. Cruel methods of trapping and killing are not permitted by anyone under any circumstances.

The Superintendent concluded a very interesting speech with a series of slides illustrating some species and the nature of the threat to them. After the formal part of the evening the Members were invited to partake of tea and cakes provided by members.

## NEW YEAR AT TENTSMUIR

A goodly crowd turned up on 2nd January for this annual chance to exchange New Year greetings with fellow members and enjoy a nature ramble and quiz. Jane and Pam organised the quiz, and Brian and Jenny attended the barbecue and dished out the hot mulled wine, while keeping a weather eye on toddler grandson Paul.

As usual, marks were craftily awarded for large bags of litter, ensuring a good clean up of the beach and surrounding areas! After a great deal of counting and recounting, Doug and Steve reluctantly conceded that they were the winners - reluctantly because this meant they must organise the next New Year's event!

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## BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS 19th January

Well-known Society Member and Hon. Vice-President, Dr Derek Robertson, came along to share with us his vast knowledge and enthusiasm for 'Butterflies and Moths'.

Many species of these beautiful insects are found locally; some species overwinter while others are summer migrants. Butterflies are day flying and tend to have bright or striking colouration; many species also have 'eye spots' to deter predators. Derek's beautiful butterfly slides included, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Red Admiral**, **Painted Lady**, **Orange Tip**, **Dark Green Fritillary** and **Green Hair Streak**, all found locally. Derek also mentioned the unusually frequent sightings last summer of the beautiful migrant **Clouded Yellow** butterfly. A novel way of calming these and other active species, difficult to photograph in the field, is to place them in the fridge for short periods, then replace on to a suitable flower where they will remain still enough to be photographed!

Moths are mainly nocturnal and therefore tend to be less brightly coloured than butterflies. Exceptions to this are the day flying **Cinnabar** and **Burnet Moths**. Many moths are 'masters of camouflage' like the **Marbled Beauty**, almost invisible against a lichen covered stone, and the **Angle Shades Moth** which is almost impossible to see among autumn leaves. Other interesting moth species included the furry **Kitten Moth**, with it's striking 'cat's face' markings, the **Satin Plume Moth** which has feathery plume-like wings and the beautiful **Elephant Hawk Moth**, often found at Barry Buddon.

After mating, butterflies and moths lay their eggs on a host plant. The eggs soon become caterpillars which grow rapidly, shedding their coats several times before becoming pupae. After a period of time, usually 2-3 weeks, the adult form or imago emerges. The adult must spend some time roosting while pumping fluid into it's wings to inflate them.

Derek also brought along some mounted specimens for members to look at after the lecture, including some large blue **Monarch Butterflies** from Canada. These have occasionally turned up in western areas of Scotland, presumably having 'hitched hiked' on boats etc!

## MEMBERS' NIGHT 2nd February

Jim Cook compered the showing of the Photographic Competition entries. He commended the high standard of entries which included slides of Rare Plants, Clubmoss, **Silverdale** wildlife, Butterflies, Caterpillars, Fungi and Rockpools, (British), and Burren wildlife, Cyprus arable weeds, and Bulgarian wildlife, (Foreign). Entries in the print section were :- Fly Orchid, Butterfly Orchid, Horsetails, 'Morning Mist in Strathmore' and 'Stranger in the front room' (Toadstool in a Rubber Plant pot!) The judges, once again, were Mr Tony Campbell (photography) and Dr Derek Robertson (wildlife content).

The winning entries were:-

### THREE SLIDES PHOTOGRAPHED IN THE BRITISH ISLES DURING 1992

- 1st - Gordon Maxwell (Butterflies)
- 2nd - Alban Houghton (Plants Growing West)
- 3rd - Margaret Duncan (Fungal Highlights)

Continued/...

THREE SLIDES PHOTOGRAPHED ABROAD DURING 1992

Winner - Dorothy Fyffe (Bulgarian Memories)

ONE POSTCARD-SIZE PRINT OF BRITISH OR FOREIGN WILDLIFE 1992

Winner - Jenny Allan (Horsetails at 'Sands of Forvie')

Mr Brian Allan was "Master of Ceremonies" for the remainder of the evening when the following members' slides were shown:-

Mr Gordon Maxwell	- Wildlife around Dunkeld
Mrs Doreen Fraser	- Silverdale Weekend & An Eclipse of the Moon
Mr Bob McCurley	- Birds Plants & Butterflies
Dr Alban Houghton	- The Burren
Mrs Marjory Tennant	- The Canadian Rockies
Mr Brian Allan	- Cyprus Plants
Mr Jim Cook	- The West Coast of Scotland - from a canoe!
Mrs Joy Ingram	- The Grand Canyon & Beyond

Brian Allan proposed a Vote of Thanks to all contributors.

THE WILD ORCHIDS OF SCOTLAND  
16th February

Sid Clarke, Senior Photographer at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, and our very own Brian Allan, came along to provide us with a spectacular show of Sid's orchid slides which were all photographed in Scotland. There were lots of anecdotes about the duo's extensive orchid hunting, often in remote and outlying areas of Scotland, (see also Page 24), which formed the basis for their forthcoming book 'The Wild Orchids of Scotland', published to coincide with the World Orchid Conference held in Glasgow this April.

There are 28 species and 8 sub-species of native wild orchids, along with several hybrids, presently found growing in Scotland. Sid divided the lecture into typical orchid habitats, including woodland, grassland, duneland, moorland, alder/willow scrub, and areas of limestone pavement. Highlights of the evening included the amazing Helleborine species, *Epipactis youngiana* and *E. leptochila* var. *dunensis*, which have colonised old coal bings south of Glasgow, and the showy brick red Dune Early Marsh Orchid, *Dactylorhiza incarnata* ssp. *coccinea*. The only truly Scottish endemic species is *Dactylorhiza majalis* ssp. *scotica* found only on one strand of machair on North Uist.

The book entitled 'The Wild Orchids of Scotland' is produced by the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh and published by H.M.S.O. It is A4 size, hard-backed and contains 120 colour photographs, one painting, a species key and several line drawings. The book will cost £24-95 and will be available for sale on or after 10th of April at the new book shop at the RBG as well as most other prominent bookshops.

Brian has offered to deliver copies, personally signed by himself and co authors, to members of Dundee Naturalists' Society. Please send orders with remittances by 5th April to Brian. (Cheques payable to RBG Edinburgh).

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## THE WILDLIFE OF BORNEO 2nd March

This, the last lecture of this year's winter season, was to attract one of the largest turnouts of the year, with almost 80 members and friends anxious to hear our own Adam Ritchie describe a recent adventure holiday he and wife Ann sampled in Borneo.

The trekking holiday was in three parts starting in Sabah, formerly North Borneo and finishing in Sarawak. Adam firstly set the scene by showing various slides of life in the capital of Sabah, Kota Kinabalu, before describing an arduous climb of the island's highest mountain, Mount Kinabalu (13,455ft.), situated within an area now thankfully a nature reserve, Kinabalu National Park, thankfully, since in other areas of this island much indiscriminate logging is taking place. The trek started at about 4000ft and involved a climb of 5000ft in one long day. Starting in dense tropical rainforest we were thrilled with the slides of numerous unusual wildflowers including a rare endemic **Kinabalu Balsam**, *Impatiens platyphylla*, and three species of the unique **Pitcher Plant**, where leaf tips have evolved to form a jug like structure into which insects fall, to be then digested to increase the plant's nitrogen intake. Two of the **Pitcher Plant** species illustrated were *Nepenthes villosa* and *N. tentaculata*. Many **Orchid** species were also described from this area including the delightful **Mountain Necklace Orchid**, *Coelogyne papillosa*.

As the climb continued we were transported the easy way up to the next vegetation level, the cloud forest, where the dominant plants were **Rhododendron** and **Tea-tree** species. Three **Rhododendron** species of note were *Rhododendron fallacium*, *R. stenophyllum* and *R. buxifolium*. Here too were many smaller plants, familiar but not easily identified. However one was familiar, the **Borneo Eyebright**, *Euphrasia borneensis*.

After resting at about 11,000ft. after that first long climb, it was up at 3.00am, in pitch dark to climb the remaining 2,500ft, over mostly bare rock, to the summit before descending the full 7,500ft to the base camp an arduous but exciting day, which left even super-fit Adam and Ann exhausted but exhilarated.

The second and third parts of the holiday were slightly less arduous when the intrepid pair ventured deep up country in both Sabah and Sarawak in fragile looking long boat canoes. It was here that much of the logging operations were to be seen at first hand and also where the highest amount of tree felling per square mile in the world is maintained. Surely a sorry statistic.

On the plus side, by staying in long houses with the indigenous tribal peoples, the **Murut** and **Kadazan**, Adam and Ann were able to witness at first hand how these isolated tribes were adapting to western style culture. In turn, Adam's slides and commentary left us well pleased to have sampled this form of 'holiday' but without the hardships of strenuous walking, **Tiger Leeches** and other creepy crawlies, and the need to come home from holiday for a well earned rest!.

## JOAN THOMSON MEMORIAL CANCER FUND

The Sponsored walk in September from Easthaven to Auchmithie, organised by Jim Cook, has along with donations from members and other groups and individuals, raised £1000 for the above fund in memory of Joan Thomson.

The money raised was allocated to two deserving cancer charities, the **Macmillan Nurses for Cancer Relief** and the **Ninewells Cancer Research Appeal** and thanks are extended to everyone who helped to raise this excellent amount

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**' BEST CAPTION' COMPETITION**



Photograph reproduced by courtesy of The Courier, DUNDEE

This photograph appeared in the 14th October 1992 edition of The Courier along with an article about our first winter lecture, 'Mushroom Magic'. It shows, from left to right, well-known Society members, Brian Allan, Margaret Duncan and Jim Cook enthusing over the fungi exhibits

The Bulletin Editor obtained permission to reproduce the photograph in the Bulletin as a basis for a **BEST CAPTION COMPETITION**. So those of you who are good at inventing slogans etc should 'put on your thinking caps' and enter this competition.

Simply write your caption, plus your own name and address, on a postcard or sealed down envelope and send to:- Dundee Naturalists' Society, Caption Competition, 18, Grangehill Drive, DUNDEE DD5 4RH.

Only one entry per member will be accepted.

Dr Derek Robertson has agreed to judge the competition and the prize will be awarded to the person who sends in the most appropriate caption by the closing date, 30th April 1993.

The single prize is a copy of the 'FIELD GUIDE TO MUSHROOMS OF BRITAIN AND EUROPE', (Helmut and Renate Grunert), which provides a comprehensive photographic guide to fungi identification in the field.

Entrants should be fully paid up members of Dundee Naturalists' Society

# CARSEGOWNIEMUIR QUARRY RESERVE

## ANNUAL REPORT 1992

Welcome fund-raising responses, to support further developments at the Quarry, were received from:

1. Mr & Mrs R T McLeod who composed and promoted a tree quiz which raised £39.
2. Dundee Tree Group who sent a cheque for £50. (The Group also visited the quarry on 18 July).
3. Mr J K Cook, who raised £37 from recycling aluminium cans.
4. Miss D Fyffe generously offered to host another bumper plant sale. Her great Quarry plant sale in 1987 launched the project in the beginning. (The date for this year's sale has been changed to **Saturday 29 May 1993**.)

The biggest expenditure of effort this year was the building of Exclosure 2. The muscle power of Jim, Doug, Neil and Alastair went into this project. Massive strainer posts were dug in, supporting wires strained, and wire netting dug into the ground with the aim of excluding rabbits and deer from this small area. When finished, the plan is to plant it with juniper and birch, and leave space for ground flora to develop. It will be interesting to find out what will grow given a chance.

76 Seedling trees from Mr F French, raised to sapling size in our nursery, were planted during the year, and an extra 20 rowans supplied by the Youngs.

Extreme weather conditions were notable events this year. On 30 December a work party (one of 20 this year) had a wonderful day photographing the effects of hoar frost. Apart from cutting down a large willow overhanging Pond 2, this visit turned out to be more for pleasure than work.

In March 1992 and January 1993 water levels rose four feet above normal. Frog spawn was introduced to Pond 3 by the Youngs in March and had to cope with fluctuating water levels. 100 tadpoles were seen on 29 May but no signs seen since. Contrasting drought conditions in June saw us watering some new trees which were showing distress.

A new bird box (built by Doug with materials from Brian) was erected on the big sycamore.

A belated effort was made in July to pull up flowering ragwort before it seeded. Surrounding fields have been sprayed so we must make a better effort in 1993 against this notifiable weed.

Some of the original (1986) posts have succumbed this winter in gales, allowing wire circles to be blown off with some losses to rabbits.

A short-bladed scythe, acquired by the Youngs, enabled us to attack willowherb with vigour to clear paths to our trees in the summer - particularly in time for the Tree Group visit. Unfortunately our enthusiasm was not matched by the scythe and it gave up before we did. Some hedge clippers were also demolished on site. Tools are tested to destruction at the Quarry: so far our workers have survived rough treatment!

Some memorable sightings of the year were: 20 northern marsh orchids, blewit mushrooms, kidney vetch, cowslips, violas, ladies' smock, bird cherry blossom, marsh marigolds, 1 newt, an ermine stoat, a charm of goldfinches, bullfinches, long tailed tits, pochard and tufted duck.

SUBCOMMITTEE: Mrs M G Duncan, Mr A J Fraser, Mr J K Cook

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## FIRST YEAR'S IMPRESSIONS OF A NAT

Just a year ago I mentioned to my sister I was considering joining 'The Ramblers Association' as a means of getting out and about. Her instant reply was, "Why don't you join the Nats?"

After reading all the bumph etc she subsequently supplied me with I thought "Why not?"

During the ensuing winter months my view of the natural world was expanded by wonderful talks on such diverse subjects as Urban Wildlife in Dundee, to Botanical Exploration of East Nepal, trips to Southern Spain and Portugal, to wildlife in someone's back garden! All the meetings were visually enhanced by truly breathtaking slides of every aspect of nature.

Winter, which is certainly not my favourite time of year, seemed to pass more pleasantly with visits every other week to the 'Tower' to listen and feast my eyes on earth's bounty.

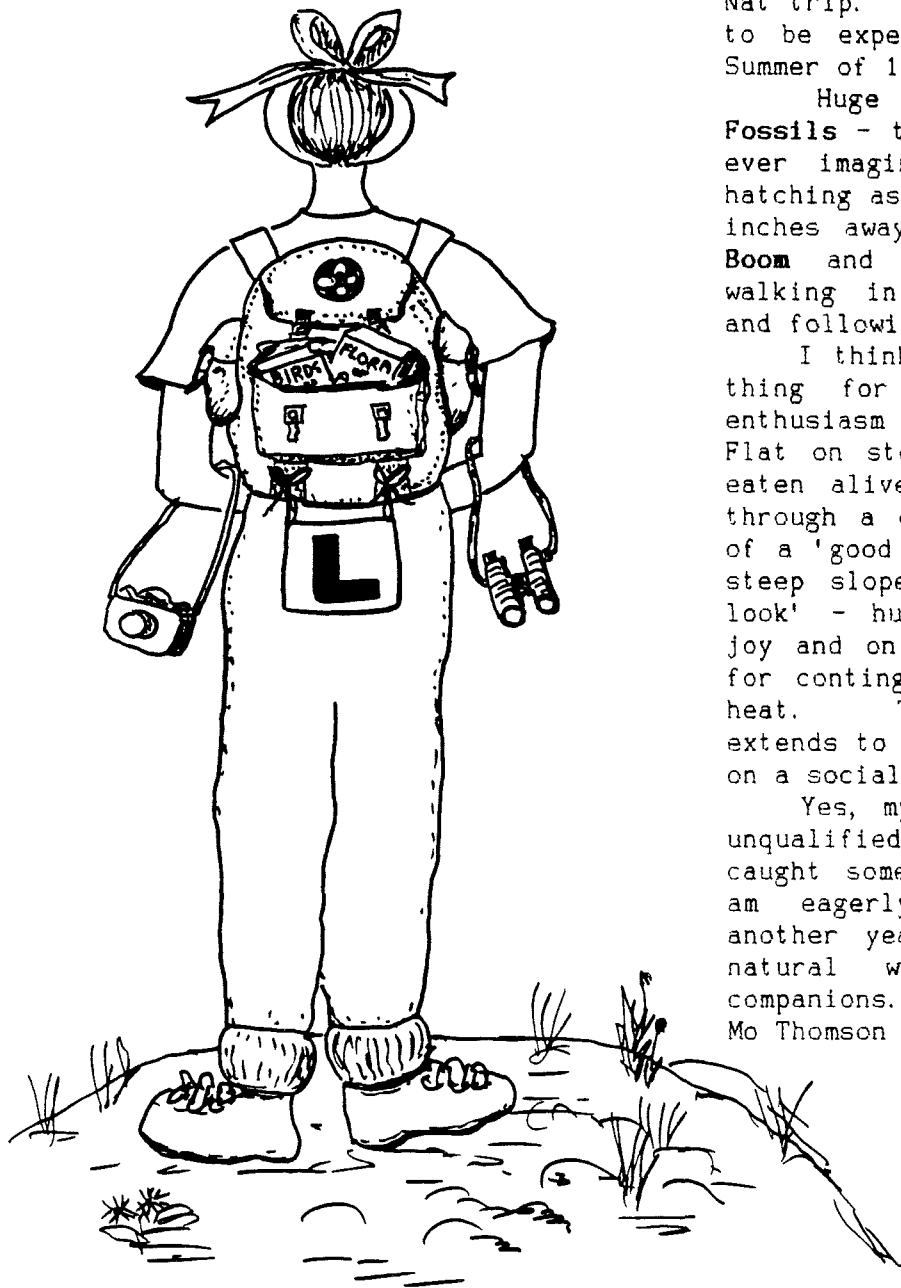
May arrived. Time for my first Nat trip. What sheer delights were to be experienced by me over the Summer of 1992.

**Huge Parlour Palms** and **Giant Fossils** - the largest I could have ever imagined! Sea birds' eggs hatching as I watched a mere twelve inches away. Hearing a **Bittern's Boom** and seeing a **Fly Orchid**, walking in the Caledonian Forest and following the Tilt Trails.

I think the truly overwhelming thing for me is the boundless enthusiasm of other Nats Members. Flat on stomachs-soaking wet-being eaten alive by 'mozzies', peering through a camera lens in the hope of a 'good shot'- climbing up/down steep slopes just to get a 'good look' - hugging a tree for sheer joy and on a very warm day asking for contingency plans for tropical heat. The friendliness even extends to the bus driver who sings on a social evening.

Yes, my first year has been an unqualified success - and I have caught some of the enthusiasm and am eagerly looking forward to another year's exploration of the natural world with such good companions.

Mo Thomson



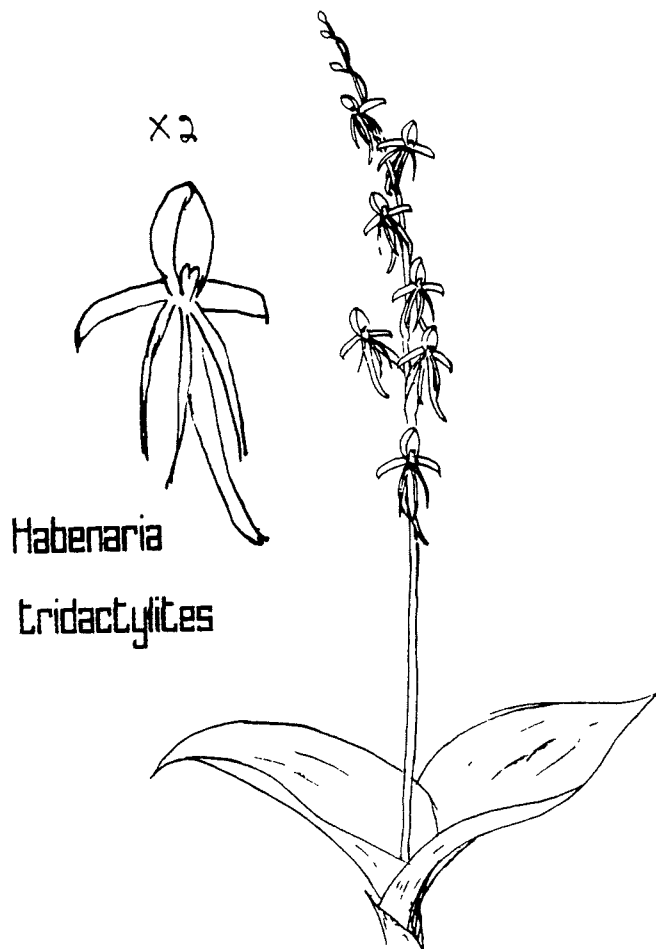
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## A TALE OF TWO ORCHIDS

The phone rang. "What are you doing the week before Christmas?" A guarded "Why?" and then - "How about Tenerife to look for the *Habenaria*?"

So off we went, the three of us, to find this funny little green Orchid with the lip split into three long fingers, hence the botanical name, *Habenaria tridactylites*. It grows in northern Tenerife, flowering during December and January, never plentiful, often at the edge of dark laurel forests, a quiet plant, rather difficult to spot. But knowing the right people is always a help, and we had been given directions to an easy, accessible site.

We made a bee line for it on our first day and there it was, exactly where described, beside the road, and in good light. A silent, intense photographic session followed, with puzzled stares from passers by. A few miles further along the road, we stopped to admire a yellow flowered *Aeonium*, and close by, there was another clump of *Habenaria*! Too easy. No sweat. We had been very lucky.



That left the rest of the week to explore this island of contrasts. We could be lazing by the pool in the morning and later that same day, walking in snow at 2000m in Las Canadas, the vast caldera of the volcano Teide, where eruptions over thousands of years have created a weird and wonderful landscape. A sunken crater floor, smooth as sand and the same colour, was partly encircled by rocky cliffs where the light caught the blue, green, rust or grey of their different minerals. Elsewhere, a waste land of viciously sharp cinders and long flows of pillow lavas looked as though they had cooled and solidified only yesterday. Among the older more weathered rocks, dried bushes of *Retarua* and *Adenocarpus*, both relatives of the *Brooms*, were straw coloured in the winter sunshine, but would soon be covered in white or yellow flowers. Silver seedheads of *Echium* would have been bright scarlet with their summer blossom. Rock crevices gave shelter to a mauve **Wallflower** *Cheiranthus scoparium* and a white **Marguerite** *Argyranthemum teneriffae*, and towering over all at 4000m was the snow capped summit, where the **Teide Violet** lay hidden, waiting for the spring.

In the deep gorges that cut into the lower slopes as they run down to the sea, we saw more of the unique flora of the Canary Islands; sole survivors of plants from a bygone era; their contemporaries have long since been wiped out in other parts of the world. Deep into one gorge, among jungly undergrowth, the beautiful **Canary Bellflower**, *Canarina canariensis* hid its large orange bells under the leaves

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There was another **Orchid**, which should have been in flower at this time, a very rare species, only recently rediscovered, and only known from one or two places on Tenerife. No help with this one, and the available information was pretty scanty. Could we find it? We pin pointed a likely spot, and gave it a try, walking along terraces of former cultivation, among the *Euphorbia* bushes, and (very) **Prickly Pears**. No we couldn't. No we didn't, pull off the double. We couldn't have pronounced it anyway. You try saying *Barlia metlescicsiana*!

Doreen Fraser

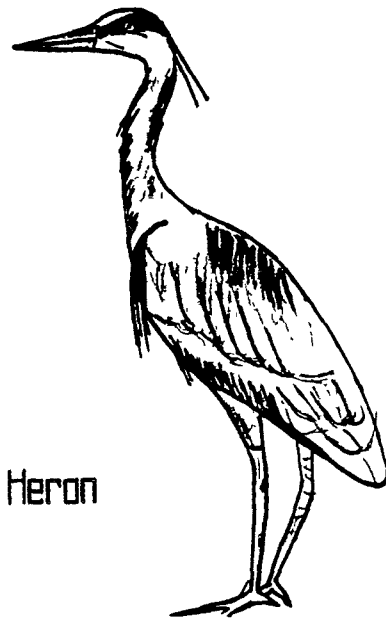
### LETHAM FEUARS' GREEN Flower Power - then & now

Letham (Angus) Feuars' Green is a 6 acre marginal strip of semi-natural grassland on the south side of the Vinney Burn (incorrectly called 'Water' on the OS map). It is a remnant of common land managed by the Feuars' Committee on behalf of the village.

To find it, go down East Hemming Street from the village square, turn right for 200 yards, enter by the pedestrian gate to the right of the Blunt Neuk road bridge (map ref: NO533486) and cross the burn on the footbridge. This low-lying bridge was easily swept away by the awesome power of the burn in spate on March 31st 1992 (almost April Fools' Day!).

I have seen a **Kingfisher** perching on the reinstated bridge. More commonly, a **Heron** may be seen flapping away or possibly a **Dipper** or a **Grey Wagtail**.

The power of the Vinney was used to the full 200 years ago in the boom years of Letham's cottage linen industry by no less than 6 water mills. The remnants of the Feuars' Mill dam can still be seen. The old dipping pool created by the dam was used for retting the cultivated **Flax**, *Linum usitatissimum*, before the water-powered mill processed the fibres for spinning and finally weaving on hand looms.



Heron



Flax

The *Old Statistical Account* of 1791 noted that "There is excellent burn trout..... which are however much destroyed by the watering of flax." Today's agricultural pollutants are fertilisers and pesticides which run off the well drained arable catchment area. Yet after a couple of weeks without rain the burn is reduced to a trickle when water is extracted for irrigation! Faulty septic tanks are another threat.

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The water quality now may not be perfect but Trout still feed on plentiful invertebrate larvae and water birds feed and breed too. The water quality was assessed by the local WATCH (junior SWT) group and found to be 'Good', but not 'Great' since some pollution occurs.

The main habitat of the Green is the unimproved grassland. 'Unimproved' means that it has not been fertilised or ploughed and reseeded for many years, if ever. It was used as low intensity cattle pasture. As the *Farming and Wildlife* (FWAG) literature says: "The old grassland plants are now becoming more and more uncommon as they cannot compete with vigorous grasses and are destroyed by ploughing and fertilising. The future of many Butterflies and Insects is linked to the survival of unimproved grasslands, so fragments which remain should be managed to ensure their long term survival."

However, threats to grasslands and wetlands are as old as agriculture itself. The '*Flora of Angus*' (1981) mentions that the nearby "Restenneth Moss where George Don had found *Scirpus hudsonianus*, (a wetland sedge illustrated on the back of the Flora in it's only British station), was dug over for marl during Don's lifetime leading to the plant's extinction by 1804"

Though the Green does not have national rarities, more notable old grassland plants include: **Meadow Saxifrage**, *Saxifraga granulata* - 230 spikes in 1991; **Bulbous Buttercup**, *Ranunculus bulbosus*; **Yellow Rattle**, *Rhinanthus minor* and a few spikes of **Northern Marsh Orchid**, *Dactylorhiza purpurella*. **Bumble Bees** and **Butterflies** appreciate the **Meadowsweet**, *Filipendula ulmaria*, and various **Umbelliferous** species at the damper west end. The burn itself is very colourful in late July with two 'incomers'; ie **Monkey Flower**, *Mimulus guttatus* and **Himalayan Balsam**, *Impatiens glandulifera*, plus the native **Water Mint**, *Mentha aquatica*.

The burn and marsh are mainly self regulating habitats. Meadow maintenance is the main task as set out in the Management Plan drawn up by a diverse sub-committee in 1990. Richard Ninnies of *Scottish Natural Heritage* (SNH) wrote the plan and surveyed the plants with Ian Ford



Meadow Saxifrage

The plan states that: "The growth of grasses and herbs must be removed every year, either by grazing or mowing; otherwise a few of the more vigorous grasses will become predominant, in the process eliminating many of the finer, flowering herbs." Continuation of the traditional grazing would have been the most attractive option, but livestock cannot co-exist with picknickers and walkers (often with dogs) who enjoy the Feuars' Green. The remaining option is to take an annual crop of hay in August when the herbs have flowered and set seed. Diverse plant communities do well with this approach, whereas intensive 'improvement' eliminates them.

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The UK2000 Montrose SWT team did their best making hay in this year's exceedingly wet September. I agree with Richard that cutting with a forage harvester followed by hay making and baling would be more useful and efficient. As yet, I have not found anyone with a harvester and baler who is willing to cut the bumpy meadow. Though herb-rich hay is much valued elsewhere, a labour/financial subsidy is required to make the hay-making budget balance.

I will deal briefly with some other challenges. In 1989, the western end of the Green was mistakenly planted with native species trees. Alder, ash and willow were good choices, but the apparent nature conservation ploy subverted the real conservation value of the native meadow. Volunteers replanted the trees along the burn and boundary dyke in 1991.

In 1991 raw sewage was discharged into the marsh by the old dam. The storm relief overflow responsible has since been blocked off. Interestingly, the marsh filtered and purified the sewage and it has since been thoroughly scoured by spates. Snipe appreciated the sewage puddle as a feeding area. Answers on a postcard please: 'Snipe like ????'

Scrambler bikers have recently started to career around the paths mown through the meadow. The bikers do not think that their activities are a dangerous and noisy nuisance to other users, nor that they are destructive to the Green. A rhetorical question is often used to defend the indefensible: "Anyway, isn't the Green common land?" ie "it's mine to destroy as I like and to hell with other users". A bike-proof gate (if there is such a thing) and information signs may stop this abuse.

The Green has always been a great place for kids to play. It is very close to the village school and is used for picnics and nature walks. The WATCH group have surveyed the water and the banks of the Vinney in the first 2 years of the *National Riverwatch* project; the Vinney catchment area is the study topic for 1993. Jim Cook presented the Green's wildlife in his Radio Tay Show, '*Nature Watch*', in 1992.

Apart from better grassland management future developments should include a survey of the grassland insects. Also an interpretative leaflet which explains the historical and wildlife history of the Green is a fairly urgent requirement to spread the word that 'THE GREEN IS GREAT!'

Alban Houghton, Feuars' Committee member

Further acknowledgements:

*The Feuars of Letham*, Ishbel Kidd

Adult Training & Community Service who built the footbridges, picnic tables, drystone dykes and carpark - cutting of meadow paths too.

Grant aid: CCS, SNH, Rural Tayside Community Award.

## IN SEARCH OF SCOTLAND'S ONLY ENDEMIC ORCHID

Sid and I sailed from Uig on Skye to Lochmaddy, North Uist over the Minch which, contrary to our expectations, was as still as the proverbial mill pond, and we secretly hoped this unusually placid water was to be a good omen for our search to find the only true endemic Scottish orchid, a very rare sub species of a type of **Marsh Orchid**. During the relatively short crossing we were to be entertained by the aerobatics of the many **Gannets**, **Guillemots** and **Puffins** which dived and swam around the boat. We were also to see the occasional **Manx Shearwater** speeding to its burrow high on Hallival, the highest peak of Rhum. These birds all seemed strangely out of place in this calm wind and waveless world.

Continued/ ..

Even in mid June, the scatter of houses that make up the ferry port of Lochmaddy, appeared uncommonly quiet following our disembarkation and we searched in vain for a friendly Bed & Breakfast. We seemed to have driven miles, and were ready to pitch tents, or even sleep in the car, and the thought, not to mention the bite, of the west coast midge, was a worry, when we happened on a house with a large blue sign proclaiming B & B. The fact that it was almost 11.00 pm. or that three species of orchid were to be seen growing in the 'garden' had very little bearing on our decision to stop; we were only too glad to have stumbled upon 'civilization'. We were to find that the household spoke only the Gaelic but our charming hostess, Mrs MacDonald, despite the late hour, obliged by speaking English and welcoming us in that soft lilt which is so characteristic of the Outer Hebrides.

We had a fair idea as to where to start looking for this unique orchid and had been told it occurred in some numbers, but nothing prepared us for the sight that was to greet us when we finally located the area of machair which is home to this fascinating endemic. The sights and sounds of the Hebridean machair are one of life's true experiences which I am sure will not dim with time. The carpet of typical machair flowers was the first thing that we both found fascinating, but only when we were recording in detail the associated plants, did we realise the true diversity of this unrivalled habitat.

As we continued to study and photograph the orchids in question, the sounds then took over and again these were something not readily forgotten. There was the gentle sound of the waves only a few yards away on the other side of the shifting dunes which act to shield this fertile grassland. We could hear the drumming of Snipe constantly crossing and crossing again over our heads and the eerie call of a worried Dunlin who, in full breeding plumage, who was trying to divert us from her chicks, no doubt lying low in the longer grass.

The focus of our quest, *Dactylorhiza majalis* ssp. *scotica*, was so completely different from any other orchid we had seen, it was hard to believe that North Uist is the only locality for this species. It's short dumpy stature and it's conspicuously blotted leaves surely set it apart from any of the other closely related marsh orchids. We found that *D. majalis* ssp. *scotica* preferred only the areas of machair which were not too damp, yet not as dry as the small hummocks where *D. purpurella* was dominant. The wetter areas also had a species which seemed more suited to these slightly altered conditions, *D. incarnata* ssp. *coccinea*, was favouring these damper spots.

But why is this rare orchid restricted to two strands of machair on North Uist, and not more widespread on similar habitats throughout the Hebrides? This question and many more must, for the time being, remain a mystery. As more work is carried out on this species and the other closely related species, we may then be able to throw some more light on this puzzle.

Brian Allan

## IN THE FAST LANE

Have you ever wondered how many plant species you can identify at the roadside as you flash past? The list is surprisingly large and is a good test of identification speed. Passengers - but not drivers! - can spend a fascinating time trying to record the plants and other wildlife they see. And at the very least, keeping your eyes on the verge staves off car-sickness.

Kestrel are very well-known to favour the open verges of motorways and are easily spotted but few of the grasses and other low-growing species can be identified at motorway speeds. Instant identification, and lots of confidence, is the key to success. One advantage - or disadvantage - is that there's no

Continued/...

going back to check! So, who can prove you wrong?

At lower speeds, and beside richer un-mown verges, you may be able to pick out many more species. They can be grouped by speed:

60 mph plants - only large and obvious specimens can be identified. Trees, Oak, Ash, Beech, Sycamore and Pine are fairly easy, as are a few large and showy species of flowers. Meadow Crane's-bill, Hedge Bindweed and Red Campion are obvious enough but only when in full flower. The white Umbellifers tend to be a little difficult but Broom and Gorse are easy. If the verge is wide and clear enough you may be able to spot Primroses or even Cowslips, but they need luck.

40 mph plants - Butterbur, Ox-eye Daisy, Hedge Mustard, Cow Parsley and Sweet Cicely are all possible, sometimes even just the leaves. The smaller plants are still too difficult.

30 mph plants - Bluebells and Few-flowered Leek can just be distinguished, and even a few of the larger grasses, Cock's-foot, Fox-tail and Smooth Meadow Grass. Greater Stitchwort and Herb Robert, Dandelions and Daisies and Bush and Tufted Vetch tend to be fairly easy to identify.

But if you want to be a good botanist, why not go for a walk?  
Jim Cook

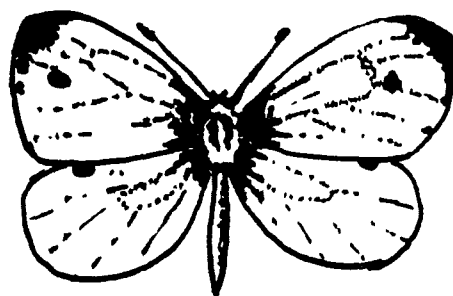
## BUTTERFLY DAYS

1992 was a good year for butterflies. This is what inspired us to spend more time than usual looking for them and recording them.

There is much to be said in praise of looking for butterflies. Except perhaps for a field guide, no equipment is needed - not even a butterfly net - only patience. It is indeed a fascinating occupation and one which can be indulged in, even by those of us for whom walking distances seem to have grown longer, and hills and mountains higher. The sort of day most likely to be rewarding is the sort of day to tempt one out of doors anyway, bright or sunny with not too much wind, and the places to find them are often places of much natural beauty, gardens, nature reserves, or where there is a profusion of wild flowers.

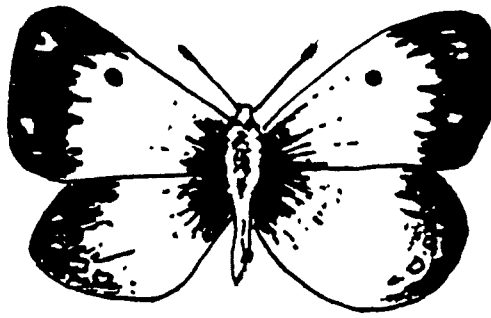
You find that the more involved you get in this pursuit the more butterflies you seem to see. Quite often we have seen walkers stride close by us, unaware of the beautiful insect we were watching. Two of our most outstanding memories are:- the sight of many hundreds of Green Veined Whites at Arbroath and seeing dozens of Red Admirals on a Buddleia at Kellie Castle in Fife.

To any of us who have struggled trying to identify grasses or wild flowers, identifying butterflies is a much simpler problem. There are far fewer species to cope with, so field guides for butterflies can be compact and light in weight.



Green-veined White

Continued/..



Clouded Yellow

Identification is usually fairly positive, even for a rarity such as **Clouded Yellow**, which appeared locally, this year, the first time for many years. But two of our commonest butterflies can sometimes be hard to distinguish, the **Small White** and the **Large White**.

You may need more than one book to get a complete description of some species, upper and underside wing patterns and occasionally pattern differences between male and female. A very recently published book, well laid out in families, is "Green Guide Butterflies of Britain and Europe", by Robert and Rosemary Gooden.

There is more to recording butterflies than merely the pleasure of seeking and viewing beautiful insects. Just as the distribution of lichens can be used to help the mapping of atmospheric pollution, in a somewhat similar way knowledge of the decline of butterfly populations can provide a measure of habitat destruction.

"Butterfly Conservation", based at Colchester, is an organisation which aims to help effect the slowing down or ending of habitat destruction, thus reversing the decline of British butterflies and other wildlife.

1992 was an unusual year for butterflies. 1993 may be quite different.  
Bob and Margaret Philip

## MIGRANT BUTTERFLIES

Out and about - observant Nats can hardly have failed to notice that this has been an unusually good year for migrant butterflies. **Red Admirals** have been at least as common as the usually numerous **Small Tortoiseshells**. **Painted Ladies** have also been frequently seen, mainly in coastal habitats. But perhaps the rarest incomer this far north has been the **Clouded Yellow**, a number of which have been sighted in the Arbroath cliffs area. This strong flier is not easy to 'pin down', (metaphorically speaking), but after a number of unsuccessful stalks, I managed to get one on film 'for the record'.

It never ceases to amaze me that such apparently frail creatures can journey from Southern Europe and North Africa to reach these shores. Unfortunately they and their offspring cannot survive our winters and we must rely on another influx next year to brighten the local scene.

Another seldom recorded 'find' for Angus was the **Northern Brown Argus**, a resident species, which, as the name suggests is only found in Scotland and a few locations in the north of England. A small colony of the above was found in a locality not far from Dundee.  
Gordon Maxwell

Continued/

## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 1993

The competition categories are as follows :

One set of 3 slides on a theme of British wildlife photographed in the British Isles during 1993.

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 1993. **A prize of £5 will be awarded to the winner.**

2. Best individual postcard size print on a Wildlife Theme photographed during 1993, 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.

## PROBLEMS! PROBLEMS!

Dear Jenny,

On the last Naturalists' Outing last year I saw some wonderful flowers, but I cannot remember what they are called.

How can I improve my memory?

Imogen Thatt

Dear Jenny,

I live near a nature reserve which is visited frequently by groups of naturalists. I always think they are looking in through my window and I'm fed up. What do you suggest?

Annette Curtain

Dear Imogen,

My dear, I cannot imagine why you wrote to me unless you wish to increase your knowledge of plant identification. The Society has some excellent workshops and outings dealing with all kinds of plant identification. Why not join some of these sessions?

Jenny

Dear Annette,

My dear, Naturalists do like to draw together and investigate all kinds of interesting wildlife. They are a naturally inquisitive lot! Why not come and join them on some of these outings? Who knows? - You might enjoy it!

Jenny

PS Remember to write articles for the Bulletin about your experiences'

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**DIARY DATES  
DUNDEE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY  
WINTER PROGRAMME PROPOSED DATES**

1993  
October 19th : Lecture  
November 2nd : Lecture  
November 16th : Lecture  
November 30th : Lecture  
December 21st : Christmas Meeting

1994  
January 2nd : Barbecue  
January 18th : Lecture  
February 1st : Members' Night  
February 15th : Lecture  
March 1st : Lecture  
March 15th : A.G.M.

\*PLEASE NOTE - SOCIETY PLANT SALE DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO 29th MAY

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**SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST**

April 25th DAWN CHORUS WITH CHARLIE RIDDELL Balgavies Hide Car Park 5-00am  
May 8th PLANT SALE 1 Hazel Drive DUNDEE 10-00am - 4-00pm  
May 8th, May 23rd, May 30th, June 6th, June 26th, July 10th, August 7th &  
August 21st SERIES OF WALKS AND ACTIVITIES AT MONTROSE BASIN  
Contact Ranger, Rick Goater, Tel Montrose 76336  
May 22nd BRANCH AGM AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES - Arbroath Library -  
Lecture on 'Wildlife and Geology' by Margaret King - 10-00am  
A.G.M. Business Meeting - 12-00noon  
Afternoon walk to Arbroath Cliffs with Margaret King  
PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING PACKED LUNCHES  
May 22nd PLANT SALE, 75 Camphill Road, Broughty Ferry 10-00am - 2-00pm  
May 30th WILD FLOWER WALK WITH JIM COOK Balgavies Hide Car Park 1-30pm  
August 8th BARRY/BUDDON WILDLIFE WALK WITH STEPHEN FULFORD  
Meet at Monifieth Gate at 10-00am.  
Further details about SWT from Branch Secretary :- Miss A.H.M. Brain,  
Altnamuileann, 7 Lochmill KIRRIEMUIR.

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**DUNDEE TREE GROUP**

Sat 17th April : OUTING TO METHVEN WOODS Meet at 2-00pm  
Mon 19th April : MEMBERS' SLIDES AND ANNUAL REPORTS Meet at Society of Friends  
Rooms at 7.30pm  
Mon 26th April : OUTING TO DOUGLAS WOOD Meet at 7-00pm  
Mon 17th May : OUTING TO ALYTH DEN Meet at 7-00pm  
Sat 10th July : OUTING TO WEST WOODS OF ETHIE (BY ARBROATH) Meet 2-00pm

Further information about the Tree Group contact Bob McLeod, 65 Johnston Avenue,  
DUNDEE, DD38EY.

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30th May : CROMBIE COUNTRY PARK - ONE WORLD FAIR, Variety of stalls and  
barbecue. For more details Tel (02416) 360

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26th & 27th June . HOBBIES EXHIBITION AT CAIRD/MARRYAT HALLS  
Volunteers still needed to man D.N.S. Stalls. Contact Richard Brinklow

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# Dundee Naturalists' Society

## Instituted 1874



### SUMMER 1993 EXCURSIONS

#### Dalkeith Butterfly Farm/ Flotterstone Saturday 8th May

The Butterfly and Insect World has been a favourite with Dundee Nats for many years. It is housed in a large glasshouse which is landscaped with waterfalls, ponds and a large selection of unusual tropical plants. Butterflies from all over the world fly freely around in this area. Visitors can walk through and observe behaviour and life cycles at first hand.

Exotic insects, such as leaf-cutting ants, praying mantids, stick insects, giant beetles, and scorpions and tarantulas, can also be seen.

The whole concept is to show live insects behaving as naturally as possible, rather than boxes full of dead specimens. The cost over and above the bus fare will be adults - £2.55, Concessions - £2.15, children and accompanying adults - £1.55

After lunch we move on to Flotterstone reservoir and Visitor Center near Penicuik, for a gentle walk in the Pentland Hills.

#### Fowlesheugh - Saturday 22nd May

This area is one of the most spectacular sea-bird cliff reserves in our area and we will see a large number of specialist cliff nesting birds including Guillemots, Razorbills, Kittiwakes and other gull species.

These cliffs are dangerous, so great care must be taken and no unaccompanied children will be admitted.

#### Faskally/Dunmore/Tummel - Saturday 5th June

For this trip we will follow part of the network of paths which make up the Garry/Tummel Walk System. This network, between Pitlochry and Killiecrankie, provides a good low-level walk on the wooded banks of the Rivers Garry and Tummel and around Loch Faskally.

Lots of woodland and water with a variety of plant life, bird life, pond life and possibly even Red Squirrels.

#### Falls of Unich/Inchgrundle - Sunday 20th June

A fairly strenuous mountain walk about 10 to 12 miles in length. Starting along a relatively level track along the shore of Loch Lee, the path then climbs past the Falls of Unich and Falls of Damff. Round behind Craig Maskeldie, we skirt the peat hags that mark the watershed between Glen Esk and Glen Clova. Picking up the path that descends the Shank of Inchgrundle, we rejoin the track past Loch Lee.

The area is well known for its variety of mountain plants and also as a likely place to spot some of our more spectacular mountain birds. Of course, only those with the stamina to complete the circuit will be rewarded with the best views (providing the weather is good). However, careful study of the hillsides quite close to Loch Lee should reveal many interesting species.

#### Dalkeith Country Park - Saturday 26th June

This is a joint meeting with Edinburgh Natural History Society. The park is situated within an area of ancient oak woodlands and should be interesting in terms of plants, birds and insects etc. Leaders will be from the E.N.H.S.

### **Black Wood of Rannoch - Saturday 17th July**

The Black wood is one of the few truly ancient relicts of our original forest cover. It comprises open pine wood, (trees up to 400 years old) with birch and a little willow, alder, rowan, aspen and juniper, and a good ground vegetation. There is a chance of sighting a wide range of unusual plants, insects, birds and mammals, e.g. stonebramble, coralroot orchid, the rare azure hawk dragonfly, green hairstreak butterfly, wood ant, capercaillie, crossbill, lizard, slow worm, pine marten, otter, red squirrel.

The main walk, of approximately 4½ miles, will be from Blackwood Lodge, passing three fenced enclosures, established in different years, through managed and unmanaged compartments of the forest. The walk ends at Dall Shed (beside Rannoch School). A shorter route, on a picturesque Victorian-style waterside walk, can be started from here; (it is the last section of the long walk).

Remember the photo opportunities for really natural habitat shots.

### **St Monans - Elie - Saturday 31st July**

The short (2-3 mile) but interesting walk from St Monans to Elie is another favourite with members and is included by popular demand. Previously walked during spring and autumn, this time we have chosen mid-summer when the majority of the summer coastal plants will be at their best. Hopefully we will find the rare pyramidal orchid which has a long established colony near Elie.

Don't forget to bring your specs, as we will be seeking out the famous Elie rubies towards the end of our walk.

### **Craig a Barns to Deuchary Hill - Sunday 15th August**

Starting at Craig a Barns, north of Dunkeld, we follow the track through an extensive spruce plantation. Bird watchers may be rewarded with sightings of crossbill, siskin and possibly capercaillie. After Cally Loch, the path winds on towards Mill Dam where fit enthusiasts can continue to climb through moorland to the summit of Deuchary Hill. The less fit may wish to follow the downhill track to the Loch of Craiglush, situated near to Loch of the Lowes, there to rejoin the bus. Both roe and fallow deer frequent the woods and open grassy areas and waterfowl can be seen on the lochs. The round trip is around 6-7 miles. (Deuchary Hill climbers will add 4 miles to this).

There is a shorter walk to Cally Loch for those not wishing to undertake the full walk.

### **Mystery Tour - Saturday 28th August**

You will have to come along and find out for yourselves about this excursion!

Jim Cook has admitted only that the tour will take place in Fife, an area rich in wildlife and other interests. So why not join in and sample these Fife delights!

### **Lunan Bay walk and BBQ - 7th September**

Own transport is required for this event. However, the venue at Corbie Knowe is not at all easy to get to without instructions so some are included below:-

Take the minor road from Inverkeilor to Lunan village. At about a mile from Lunan village turn right to Newbarns Farm and continue for a mile or so along a tortuous track until you reach the beach where you can park your cars.