

### **Extraordinary General Meeting**

It was gratifying to see such a good turnout for the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April, before Members' Night. It was even more gratifying for Council to receive unanimous support for its proposals to make necessary changes to the NATS Constitution in order to allow us to apply to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. David Adamson is proceeding with our formal application to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and we await his response.

### **Members' Night**

Thanks to the four speakers at Members' Night, three of whom were appearing for the first time. I think they provided an interesting and stimulating programme with a diverse range of topics, just what is required for an occasion like that. It might seem a little early to be considering Members' Night 2016 but it's always worth planning early. I will be looking for speakers later in the year but something you might keep in mind as our summer programme unfolds, is identifying a photograph or two for a, "photo gallery". This is something which has previously been a feature of Members' Nights and I think it is worth re-introducing it. Photographs may be from an excursion or of anything you come across of nature interest. More details to follow.

### **Journal**

I hope you feel as I do that this year's Journal has been of very high quality, with interesting articles, features and illustrations. Thanks to all contributors, technical helpers and the Journal Editor, Sarah Adamson. Sarah is already looking forward to next year's production and here's a "message from the Editor":

*"The NATS outdoor season is now well underway. It is time to start thinking about what you would like to submit during 2015.*

*I would particularly like to see some new author's names because we all have observations and ideas that would interest others. If writing something alone seems daunting I would like to suggest that members pair up to share knowledge and help each other in composing articles. This already happens in the background for various reasons, such as having expertise in different areas of natural history or not feeling comfortable with doing it alone.*

*Please feel free to add illustrations, sometimes just one or two pencil lines will clarify the description of a feature, maybe to show the tip of a leaf or the difference between two related species. Illustrations can be posted or photographed and sent online.*

*I expect to be out of action for a period of time, probably in the autumn. I would really appreciate it if articles could be written and submitted as soon as possible after excursions or meetings. Another good reason for promptness would be that while the memory of the day is fresh the detail is remembered.*

*Deadline 15th December 2015. If you plan to submit a non-excursion article please let me know in advance".*

### **Workshop**

In the last NATS News I mentioned the difficulties we were having with accommodation for workshops, Vogrie House no longer being available. Since then, David Adamson arranged for a workshop to be held using the Water of Leith Centre on Slateford Road. This was well supported and very successful and David felt the premises were entirely suitable. One disadvantage is that we have to pay for them! Council is keen to continue these popular events and is still looking at ways we might do this effectively and economically.

## Equipment

The new microscopes we recently purchased had their first airing at the workshop and proved very useful. As was mentioned in the last NATS News, microscopes are available for loan to Members when not required for events like this and further details may be obtained from Pauline King at [paulinehome@msn.com](mailto:paulinehome@msn.com).

The SWT reserve at Duddingston (Bawsinch) is a diverse and interesting site which is close to central Edinburgh but not as frequently visited as it deserves. Joanie McNaughton has asked me to mention that she holds a key to the reserve on behalf of NATS and Members are welcome to borrow it for access. Joanie can give you further details if you contact her at [joanmen\\_ed@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joanmen_ed@yahoo.co.uk)

Peter Leach  
President

*If you would like to know more about anything mentioned above, you can speak to any of the following members of Council at indoor meetings or excursions:*

*David Adamson, Noeleen Donachie, Elizabeth Farquharson, Pauline King, Peter Leach, Jean Long, Joanie McNaughton, Ian Schoolar, Rob Wallace, Katherine White.*

*This Newsletter is distributed to members by e-mail and a few printed copies will be available at Outdoor Meetings. If you know of a Member who can't access it in either of these ways, please consider printing them a copy.*