

Newsletter

Thanks to those who were kind enough to express an opinion about the first of these Newsletters, produced after the November Council meeting. The majority of respondents felt that it served a useful purpose, so here is edition two, with information on what is occupying Council at the moment.

SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

The Sub-Committee asked by Council to come up with proposals on how we might move towards SCIO status has met a couple of times since the November Newsletter, and produced a draft Constitution which meets legislative requirements but retains everything we feel represents the tradition and ethos of the NATS. A change of this sort will have to enjoy the support of Members and it is our intention to put our proposals to you at an Extraordinary General Meeting in the near future. These things take a while to organise but you should receive further details from the Secretary fairly soon. If you wish to know more, then please speak to any Member of Council.

Equipment

Many of you will remember the interesting presentation by Kathy Buckner at the 2013 Members' Night, when she illustrated wildlife in her garden with film taken with a trail camera (a movie camera with infrared lighting, in a weatherproof case). Kathy has moved house and feels she has no immediate need for the camera and has very generously donated it to the NATS. Having made extensive use of one of these cameras myself, I can recommend it as a way of secretly observing wildlife in the garden or further afield. It is necessary, of course, to locate it where it won't receive attention from the public!



We have also recently taken delivery of five new microscopes, which are now at Vogrie with the rest of our equipment. They will be used for Workshops but at other times may be available for loan to Members. For further information on the availability of the trail camera or any other equipment, please speak to Pauline King.

Workshops

The workshops run by Vladimir in 2014 were very successful and well attended but a problem has arisen with weekend access to the building at Vogrie. Efforts are being made to find suitable alternative accommodation and, if this can be resolved, we will circulate details through the website, Yahoo site, Facebook page and at NATS meetings. Council is very keen that these successful events should continue and we are making every effort to find a solution.

Members' Night

There have already been a couple of appeals for contributions to this annual event, which have resulted in some promising and interesting offers, but we could do with a further contribution. I'm sure there are Members who have photographs of an excursion or project which others would be interested to hear about, so please let a Member of Council know if you feel you could contribute. Help with IT and presentation is readily available!

NATS representation

It was mentioned in the last NATS News that Eunice Smith was retiring from her position of NATS representative on the Edinburgh Biodiversity Steering Group. She has been a member since its inauguration and at her last meeting was presented with a certificate of thanks for her long service. It is the only time I've seen Eunice speechless. Thanks Eunice.

Event

Watch out for further details of, "Scotland's Big Nature Event, to be held at Levenhall, Musselburgh, on 23rd and 24th May.

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 Indoor Meetings. If you know of a Member who can't access it in either of these ways, please consider printing them a copy.