



**Perthshire Society of Natural Science - Scottish Charity No. SC012718**  
**BOTANICAL SECTION**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 20th April 2021**  
**Via Zoom**

Liz Lavery hosted the meeting on the PSNS Zoom Account.

- 1. Present – Alistair Godfrey AG, Faith Anstey FA, Brian Ballinger BA, Sheila Sadd, Sandy Edwards SE, Liz Lavery LL, Margaret Chapman, Eric Pryde EP, Alison Wilson, Colin McLeod CM, Clare Scanlan CM, Joanna Thomas JT, David Trudgill.**
- 2. Apologies - Jeff Banks, Burt Barnett.**
- 3. No AGM meeting was held in 2020. Minutes of the AGM 20 March 2019** were accepted as correct, proposed by Alistair Godfrey, seconded by Joanna Thomas.
- 4. Matters arising:**
  - No progress has been made writing a Flora of Perthshire or updating the Check List.
  - 2019 was very busy as the last year of recording for Atlas 2020.
  - There were no field excursions in 2020 due to Covid 19 limitations.
  - PSNS organised several talks via their Zoom account after January 2021. There were no Botanical Section talks in winter 2020/21.
  - Progress of the City Hall development is very slow. AG doubts that CPK (Culture Perth & Kinross) realise the full importance of the Library and Herbarium Collections. There are no plans for safe storage as far as we know.
- 5. PSNS Council business – Clare Scanlan, who is joining the Botanical Section as PSNS Council representative gave an update on recent Council meetings.**
  - **Talks:** PSNS ran a mini series of Curious Minds talks during winter 2020/21 on zoom. Plans are underway to restart Curious Minds talks in October and Tom Ryan is working on a draft programme. The form they will take will depend on restrictions in October.
  - **Subscriptions:** There were no subscription charges in 2020/21. Council has agreed to charge a flat subscription fee of £10.00 for 2021/22. This is a nominal sum to cover costs. Officially the PSNS financial year runs from April to April but subscriptions to Sections are usually collected at their first Winter meeting. Those present agreed that the Botanical Section will not make any additional charge this year. John Jessop will be emailing all members to ask for payment, preferably directly to the PSNS account by bank transfer.
  - **Website** is being revamped to make it more appealing. <http://www.psns.org.uk/> where you can see recordings of talks, explore an extensive archive and add articles, several on the theme of '40 years of change'.
  - **What is the best structure for the future of the PSNS Botanical and Ornithological Sections?** Covid 19 is a chance to rethink and make changes. Both sections would

like to broaden the areas of natural history covered by the society to include other groups e.g. algae, spiders, and attract people with a general interest in biodiversity, conservation, the environment and climate change. For the current year it was agreed to try and draw up a combined meetings list and consider further co-operation, with the possibility in future of combining into one broader 'Natural History' Section. This would have the advantage of reducing the need for two separate committees, but requires further discussion.

Some general discussion followed about the history of the various Sections in the Society. When the PSNS was founded in 1867 there were *no* Sections: the first was the 'Perthshire Mountain Club' in 1875, which survived until around WWI. The Photographic Section is the earliest *surviving* Section, formed in 1889, although it lapsed for a period and was re-established in 1908. At various times there were also a Junior Section and a Geological Section (1972-92). Of the other surviving Sections, Archaeological formed in 1948 (in 1961 that Section's scope was widened to include historical subjects); Botanical in 1957; and Ornithological in 1963.

**6. Treasurer's report JT** - Joanna Thomas presented accounts for 2019-20 and 2020-21, they are copied at the end of these minutes. There was no income from subscriptions or teas in 2020, the only addition being interest. All monies have now been transferred from TSB to a Santander bank account. LL thanked JT for producing these excellent accounts in such difficult times and Alistair Godfrey for his assistance doing this. The accounts were accepted as correct, proposed by Liz Lavery seconded by Alistair Godfrey.

**7. Issue of Bulletins CM - Bulletin No. 42 -2019** was delivered to all Botanical section members despite lockdown during summer 2020. Colin McLeod has compiled a Covid edition recounting members' experiences botanising during 2020, **Bulletin No. 43 - 2020** which he has published on the website

<http://www.psns.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Perthshire-Society-of-Natural-Science-PSNS-Botanical-Section-Bulletin-43-20202.pdf> .

Printed copies will be posted to the 2 Botanical Section members without email addresses. AG thanked CM for all his work compiling these two Bulletins.

**8. Field Meetings 2021 Eric Pryde (EP):** There were no field meetings in 2020. At the moment only 6 adults from 3 households are allowed to meet outside and 15 for non-contact sports. BSS (Botanical Society of Scotland) and BSBI (Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland) have produced provisional field meeting programmes. Whether these run or not will depend on Covid restrictions in place during the summer. It was therefore decided not to publish a formal Botanical Section field meetings programme on the PSNS website in 2021. If anyone wants to lead a field meeting they can invite Botanical Section members to attend by email on a first to respond basis, limiting numbers to those permitted on the date. Risk assessments will be prepared for each meeting as usual with adjustments for Covid regulations.

**9. Secretary's remarks:** LL thanked the committee and members for all their support over the past year. She will liaise with the Ornithologists to develop a programme of talks for 2021/22 to cover a broad range of natural history topics.

**10. Election of Committee** - the committee was elected en masse, proposed by Margaret Chapman and seconded by Brian Ballinger, see below.

**11. Suggestions from members: None.**

**12. AOCB: None.**

Meeting closed 20.47 hrs.

The AGM was followed by a very inspiring talk by Dave Trudgill about his wonderful orchid meadow at New Mill, near Blairgowrie and 'orchid populations in Scotland'.

**PSNS Botanical Section Committee elected for 2021/22**

Chair: Alistair Godfrey

Secretary: Liz Lavery

Treasurer: Joanna Thomas

PSNS Council rep: Clare Scanlan

Field Meetings Secretary: Eric Pryde

Bulletin Editor & NatureScot rep: Colin McLeod.

Committee Members in addition to above: Faith Anstey, Brian Ballinger, Sandy Edwards, Martin Robinson, Leslie Tucker, and Mark Tulley.

Committee members who are Vice-county Recorders for the Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland: Sandy Edwards (Vc85) Fife; Liz Lavery (Vc87) West Perthshire; Alistair Godfrey and Jim McIntosh (Vc88) Mid-Perthshire; Martin Robinson (Vc89) East Perthshire; Mark Tulley (Vc90) Angus and Brian Ballinger (Vc106) Easter Ross.

BSBI Vice-county Recorders as advisors only: Jane Jones (Vc87) West Perthshire and Clackmannanshire; Robin Payne and Theo Loizou (Vc90) Angus.

<b>P.S.N.S. BOTANICAL SECTION</b>			
<b>ACCOUNTS 2019-2020</b>			
	<b>INCOME</b>		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>
Brought forward balances at 1 Apr 2019	£	£	£
Flora account	2,691.50		PSNS subscriptions: 21@£17 357.00
Current account	599.00		Speakers 103.75
Savings account	1,748.26		Secretary's expenses 21.00
Cash in hand	27.28		Cheque paid from TSB 10th Apr 2019 20.00
		5,066.04	
			Carried forward balances as at 31 Mar 2020
PSNS subs: 20@£20+11@£3		433.00	Flora account 2,701.50
Teas & Donations		90.50	Current account 725.00
Bank interest		14.60	Savings account 1,752.86
			Cash in hand 216.03
			(Debt due) 293.00 5,102.39
		<u>5,604.14</u>	<u>5,604.14</u>

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ACCOUNTS 2020-2021**

		INCOME		EXPENDITURE
Brought forward balances at 1 Apr 2020	£	£		£
Flora account	2,701.50			
Current account	725.00			
Savings account	1,752.86			
Cash in hand	216.03			
(Debt due)	293.00			
		5,102.39		
Bank interest		21.91		
			Carried forward balances as at 2 Apr 2021	
			Flora account	2,716.11
			Current account	745.00
			Savings account	1,760.16
			Cash in hand	196.03
			(Debt due)	293.00
		<u>5,124.30</u>		<u>5,124.30</u>

Liz Lavery April 2021.