



The Perthshire Society of Natural Science
Reg. Charity No. SC012718

MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER and A.G.M. PAPERS

In previous years, the only members who saw the Agenda and other papers for the A.G.M. were those who actually attended the A.G.M. This seems a little unfair on those unable to attend, so, since I have e-mail addresses for many of you, I thought that I would send you the Agenda for this year's A.G.M. and last year's A.G.M. Minutes, plus a draft of the Treasurer's Report. I have included information about this year's Summer Outings at the end.

Should there be anything about which you are not clear or there is a matter you would like to raise at this year's A.G.M., please get in touch with me or the Secretary and we shall arrange to have it put on the Agenda.

This also means that if there is someone you would like to nominate to stand for election to the Council of the Society, please complete the form below and send it to me or the Secretary.

<p style="text-align: center;">PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE (Registered Charity Number SC012718)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOMINATION FORM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We, the undersigned, propose and second the nomination of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">as Member of the Council of the Society (NB The nominee must have agreed to his/her nomination)</p> <p>Proposer</p> <p>Seconder</p> <p>Date</p>
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This year's A.G.M. will take place at Perth Museum and Art Gallery at 7.30 pm on Friday March 18th.

The Agenda for the 148th Annual General Meeting, to be held at Perth Museum & Art Gallery, Perth, on Friday, 18th March, 2016, at 7.30 p.m.

1. Domestics
2. Welcome and Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the A.G.M. of March 2015
4. Matters arising from those Minutes
5. President's Report
6. Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts for 2015-16
7. Election of PSNS Office Bearers and Council :-

Nominations -

<u>President</u>	Dr Tom Ryan (year one of three)
<u>Vice-President</u>	David Bowler (year one of three)
<u>Past President</u>	John Lewington (year one of three)
Treasurer & Gift Aid Convener	David Perry - to be re-elected
Secretary	Jennifer McKay - to be re-elected

Council :-

Remove by rotation : Isabel Wardrop, David Hay

[NB Harry Petrie has already stood down due to poor health, and David Thistlethwaite has also stood down]

Replace with Dr Tom Ryan (nominated by John Lewington & Photographic Section)
 David Bowler (nominated by John Lewington & Council)
 Jeff Banks (nominated by Ornithology Section)
 Margaret Borland-Stroyan (nominated by Arch & Hist Section)

Museum Adviser : Re-appoint Mark Simmons, Curator of Natural History at Perth Museum & Art Gallery

8. Proposed Council for 2016-17
Joanna Thomas; Eva Bennett; Roy Craig; Alistair Godfrey; Colin McLeod; Jeff Banks;
Margaret Borland-Stroyan
9. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts
10. Summer Outings 2016
11. Any other competent business.

**Minutes of the 147th Annual General Meeting
The Museum, George Street, Perth
20 March 2015 at 1930hrs**

Office Bearers present: President - John Lewington; Treasurer - David Perry, Past President - Alan McKenzie, Secretary - Rhoda Fothergill

Total number of members present: 27

1. Domestic:

John Lewington read the Fire Notice. He explained that the Society had been advised that it was best practice to do so when only one attendant was on duty as the responsibility was shared with the person taking the meeting. John Lewington also said that Alan McKenzie had agreed to take the Minutes.

2. Welcome and Apologies:

The President, John Lewington, welcomed members to the 147th AGM of the Society. Apologies had been received from Jennifer MacKay and Rev. R. Higginbottom. No other apologies received.

Presidential Report: John Lewington

As we come to the end of the year, the Society is about to have one of the most major changes in its affairs, referred to in items 7 and 9 of the Agenda, namely the retirement of Rhoda Fothergill as Secretary of the Society after 47 years in the role. To say that she will be a big miss is the understatement of the last 47 years !

My first year as your President has been as challenging as I expected, but we have made it to the end of our 147th year, and look forward to entering our 148th. Membership of the Parent Body stands at 167, the Archaeological & Historical Section at 56, the Botanical Section at 40, the Ornithological Section at 21, and the Photographic Section at over 60.

Our Journal XX was published in November, but has not been our best seller so far.

The major challenge facing the Society and its Sections has been the fallout from the refurbishment of the Art Gallery & Museum, over a period of years, which displaced the Photographic Section to the Soutar Theatre.

The Office Bearers and Council are now in the process of negotiating a new agreement with Perth & Kinross Council, which will replace the earlier one dating back to 1931 between the Society and Perth Town Council, and which will confirm the Society's important place in the life of the community, especially in Perth Art Gallery & Museum, although the ramifications of the agreement have had an impact. The Photographic Section will now meet as before in the Museum Lecture Theatre every Wednesday, and the Archaeological & Historical Section will continue to meet on Wednesdays, but in the Soutar Theatre for all but one of their meetings. These changes have been agreed by the Photographic and the Archaeological & Historical Sections.

It is right to report that the Galleries in the Museum are now being used or developed as exhibition spaces, and therefore not suitable for meetings of large groups of PSNS members. I should add that our Library in the Museum will have to be re-wired at some point in the near future, thus closing it to our use, but acceptable alternatives will be organised. The Museum are aware that the Library must be available for our 150th anniversary year. And in a similar vein, the broken lock of one of the Library cupboards is to be replaced, and we have given permission that the table covers only be used when they have to be, rather than all the time, thus adversely affecting the fine look of the Library.

The Society and Perth & Kinross Council have agreed to meet quarterly to iron out any problems, and also to share information about our futures - this can only be good for the Society, since we are seen as "key stakeholders" in the Museum.

I am keen that the Society will be more able to act as one body rather than the Parent Body plus four Sections as it had become because of the refurbishment. Thus I want the Council of the Society to return to its former role as the decision-making body of the Council, and also the clearing house for information, rather than leave the decisions in the hands of only the Office Bearers.

One such item is the Summer Outings of the Parent Body and the Sections, so that as many members as possible know when and where they are, to enable them to attend :-

Parent Body Saturday June 27 to Kinneil House, Bo'ness
Arch & Hist Saturday May 16 to Monzie, Sunday July 5 to SERF Open Day, and Saturday September 19
 to Moredun

Botanical
Ornithological
Photographic

When I have all the dates I shall place a notice on the Society Notice Board in the foyer of the Museum.

There are many areas of the Society's work which will have to be examined after Rhoda retires, and I am keen that the work-load which she carried, willingly I know, be shared among the Council and Office Bearers.

Some of these are :-

1. the management of our Library;
2. the organisation of the Charles MacIntosh Memorial Essay;
3. communications with members, including whether we should produce a Newsletter;
4. the content of the Parent Body Talks programme;
5. the contents and updating of our web pages;
6. the editorship of the next Journal;
7. how we can expand our membership into the future;
8. catering.

Finally can I draw your attention to the funeral of David Bowler's father, which takes place on Tuesday March 31 at 1.00 pm at the Tayside Christian Fellowship, Paradise Place. David has been a tower of strength to the Society over many years, especially to the Archaeological & Historical Section, and he invites members to attend.

3. Minutes of the AGM March 2014:

Rhoda Fothergill, Secretary, stated that she did not have the Minute Book with her. She claimed that owing to renovation works at the Museum only a brief business meeting was held in March 2014. John Lewington confirmed that a copy of the Minutes would be obtained and placed as soon as possible on the Society Notice Board in the Museum.

[Note for Minutes to Item 3 above: A copy of the running order and President's speaking note from the AGM on 21 March 2014 is appended to these Minutes to demonstrate that correct procedures were in fact followed. Renovation works had no impact on the Society's use of the Museum on that date.]

4. Matters arising from Minutes:

Not applicable in view of above.

5. Secretary's Report for 2014 - 15:

Rhoda Fothergill, Secretary, apologised and said that she had omitted bring the Report with her. John Lewington confirmed that a copy of the Report would be obtained and placed as soon as possible on the Society Notice Board in the Museum.

6. Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts for 2014 - 15:

A copy of the Financial Statement for all accounts is attached to these Minutes.

David Perry confirmed that the accounts had been prepared and verified by the Society's Independent Examiner of Accounts, but had yet to be approved by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. There has been an increase of 7 members since 2013 - 14 but it is vitally important to attract more new and younger members to ensure the financial security of the Society. David Perry asked that all members should make the effort to fill out the Gift Aid declaration with their subscription form to enable the Society to benefit in full from the Scheme. The current Journal was supported by two donations amounting to £2100.00 but every effort must be made to sell more. The essay prizes for the annual Macintosh Memorial Essay Competition had been donated so no cost was incurred. The James Aitken Bequest shows a slight increase over last financial year due to interest received and no expenditure. Government stocks in both the Publications Account and the Macintosh Memorial Account had been redeemed on 1 February 2015 and 9 March 2015 respectively but the cash sums had not yet appeared in the accounts. David Perry confirmed that he is pursuing these amounts with Computershare which handles such transactions on behalf of the Government. The value of these stocks is restricted for investment purposes only but it is possible to apply to the Charity Regulator to spend the relatively small sums involved as revenue. David Perry confirmed he intends to do this.

There were no questions to the Treasurer's Report. Accepted unopposed.

John Lewington thanked David Perry for all his work over the year in keeping our finances sound across all of the accounts and that the Society was most fortunate in having him in this role.

7. Election of PSNS Council and Office Bearers:

President - John W. Lewington (year 2 of three)

Past President - Alan McKenzie (year 2 of three)

Nominations:

Treasurer - David Perry re-elected unopposed

Secretary - Jennifer McKay - elected unopposed

Council changes:

Remove by rotation: Dr David Thistlethwaite, David Bowler

Replaced with: Eva Bennett (nominated by Arch. And Hist Section) - elected unopposed

Colin McLeod (nominated by Arch. And Hist Section and Botanical Section - elected unopposed

Alistair Godfrey (nominated by Botanical Section) - elected unopposed

The extra nominee will fill the vacancy on Council. In addition, Dr David Thistlethwaite was elected unopposed as a co-opted Council Member with responsibility for updating the website.

8: Council for 2015 - 16:

Isabel Wardrop, David Hay, Joanna Thomas, Harry Petrie, Roy Craig, Eva Bennett, Colin McLeod, Alistair Godfrey.

No alternative nominations had been received for any of the above posts.

9. Appointment of Rhoda Fothergill as Honorary Life President of Society:

John Lewington said in recognition of the retirement of Rhoda Fothergill as Secretary after 47 years in the role, it had been agreed by Office Bearers and Council that she be awarded Honorary Life President of the Society. Her efforts and enthusiasm were recognised and John Lewington hoped that the award showed the appreciation of all members of her time and contribution. Rhoda Fothergill replied by saying that she had seen it as both a privilege and an enjoyment to serve the Society over the years. John Lewington presented Rhoda Fothergill with a framed certificate to mark the occasion.

10. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts:

Douglas Calderwood was proposed by David Perry and seconded by Graham Watson.

Appointed unopposed.

11. Summer Outings 2015:

John Lewington confirmed that the finalised details would shortly be posted on the Society Notice Board in the Museum but it was intended that the Parent Body visit Kinneil House, near Bo'ness on Saturday 27 June 2015. All members of Sections are also welcome to attend. The Arch. and Hist. Section have three outings arranged - Saturday 16 May 2015 to Monzie, Sunday 5 July 2015 to the SERF Open Day and Saturday 19 September 2015 to Moredun. John Lewington encouraged all members to fully support these outings. Dates for outings of other Sections would be available soon.

12. AOCB:

John Lewington said that it was important to improve communications between members across the Parent Body and the Sections and this would be an issue which, among others, would be addressed by the Council. Liaison and a heightened profile with other organisations in Perth and Perthshire would be helpful as would the production of a Newsletter, in which all Sections can participate and thus work more closely together. Hopefully this would be one way to encourage and increase membership and broaden the interest in the Society among others. This was welcomed by members present.

John Lewington thanked Alan McKenzie for taking the minutes this evening and at the recent Office Bearers' meeting, the P &K Liaison Meeting and the Council meeting.

Alan McKenzie thanked the President for all the work he had done over the past year, much of it behind the scenes, and said how fortunate the Society was to have a President with such enthusiasm and vision for the future. He said that the President's Report given at the start of the meeting was particularly encouraging to all members. All present agreed.

Close of formal business:

John Lewington closed the business of the 147th AGM and announced that there would be three short presentations by members related to the activities of their Sections.

Attached:

Minutes of AGM 21 March 2014 re Item 3 - please see below

Financial Statement of Accounts 2014 - 15

Re Item 3 above: copy for reference of AGM note 21 March 2014:

For file after meeting

PSNS AGM 21 March 2014 7.30pm Lecture Theatre, Perth Museum & Art Gallery

Order of business

Fire Notice - read to all present.

1. Welcome to our AGM.

Many thanks for your support of the Society by coming along to the AGM. I know it is "AGM season" for most societies, but your attendance here is vital in keeping our Society operating and it is the opportunity for you to play a part in its success.

2. Apologies: Graham Watson. No other apologies received.

3. President's remarks

I would like to give thanks this evening to a few people.

Firstly, our Secretary, Rhoda Fothergill, who works tirelessly behind the scenes - and in front of them - and who does so much to arrange and record the business of the Society and has supported the Council and myself so willingly throughout the year. Her knowledge of both the aims of the Society and a seemingly unlimited supply of excellent speakers ensures a varied and high quality programme each year, unrivalled by other societies, I am sure.

Our Treasurer and Gift Aid Convenor, David Perry, also puts in a great deal of work both with the day to day management of all our finances and ensures too that we obtain the best value from our Gift Aid applications. His financial advice is invaluable in keeping the Society solvent and enables it to do the things which keeps it running so very well. We much appreciate all his efforts and I am most grateful for all his support and help.

Many thanks too, to our Past President, Mary Cairncross, who demits office tonight and, with her fund of knowledge and experience, is a real asset to the Society. I thank her for her support and counsel during some of the many issues we had to deal with over the last year, and the three years before that - which of course included agreeing to do an extra year and for standing in for me on more than one occasion when I have been down south!

Thanks also to Dr David Thistlethwaite, for his work with our website and who has attended to the operation of the laptops and projectors for us and ensured that the speakers have had no technical problems! Many thanks, David, for what can be a challenging task and for making the President's life less stressful as 7.30pm approached each Friday! We hope that you can continue to support us in this role as a co-opted member of Council.

Finally, I would like to thank all Council Members for their support, including Roben Antoniewicz and David Thistlethwaite who retire this year, and welcome Roy Craig to the Council. I hope, Roy, that you find the experience rewarding and interesting.

I also hope those who are leaving have enjoyed their time on Council. Without a Council, we would not be able to run as effectively as we do.

Finally, I would also urge those of you with internet to keep in touch too, through our own PSNS website at www.psns.org.uk. We would be most grateful to have as many of your e-mail addresses as possible when you renew your membership in the autumn to allow quick and efficient communication with members. Our notice board in the Museum also carries much information, and is regularly updated.

I think as I hand over to John after the business part of our meeting I must just record that I have had a most enjoyable and interesting time as President and found it a privilege to fill that role over the past four years. I very much welcome John as our new President and hope that he enjoys the many aspects of the role - I can assure him of our full support both in Council and at all of our meetings.

Summer Outing: Finally, I must remind you all of the summer visit to Edinburgh on Saturday 10 May, when we will give an opportunity to see inside the Royal College of Physicians building and Leith Old Town Hall. Please collect an application form after this meeting and please tell other members that they

will be available on our Notice Board too. We would like to see as many members as possible to join us in what will be a most interesting visit, gaining access to two buildings, many parts of which are rarely accessible to visitors. I look forward to your support and seeing you there on the 10 May.

4. Business of meeting:

4.1 Secretary reads Minutes of AGM March 2013

Matters arising - no matters raised by members.

4.2 Report by Secretary for 2013 - 2014 (copy issued to members present)

Matters arising - no matters raised by members.

4.3 Report by Treasurer with Annual Accounts 2013 - 14 (copy issued to members present)

Matters arising - no matters raised by members.

4.4 Appointment of Accounts Auditor: current auditor appointed unopposed.

5. Election of Office Bearers and Council Members for 2014 - 15:

President: John Lewington proposed by President and Council, elected unopposed

Past President: Alan McKenzie (3 year term to 2016 - 17)

Secretary: Rhoda Fothergill - re-elected unopposed

Treasurer and Gift Aid Convenor: David Perry - re-elected unopposed

6. Council Members for 2014 - 15:

David Thistlethwaite (returning to fill Council vacancy and working with laptops and website)

David Bowler

Isabel Wardrop

David Hay

Joanna Thomas

Harry Petrie

Roy Craig

Richard Higginbottom

[all elected/agreed unopposed]

7. AOCB

No matters raised by members.

Presentation to Secretary by Alan McKenzie on behalf of Council and all members:

" I suppose, constitutionally, the following comes under the heading "Any Other Business" at this AGM but I have one or two points to mention that are far more important than being dealt with under that part of the meeting!

I have known Rhoda Fothergill since 1975, being one of the first people I met when coming to work in Perth and, like all of us, was immediately impressed by her enthusiasm and knowledge - and continue to be so!

I am sure that you will know that Miss Fothergill has been awarded the British Empire Medal - given for many years dedicated to the preservation of the history of Perth and its surroundings.

Her efforts have made a positive difference to the community and to our Society and, by building on her research and knowledge almost daily, she has become the true "local expert", sought out by a great many for information and help which she unfailingly gives, to the benefit of Perth and beyond - willing and modest help with no wish for publicity or acclaim.

I understand that the actual presentation of the medal is to take place later this year, but while we are all together tonight I would ask you to join me in congratulating Miss Fothergill on her most deserved award. However, there's more, as the saying goes. In addition to the British Empire Medal, we all remember some years ago that Miss Fothergill was also the recipient of the D K Thompson Award for services for the preservation of the history and the heritage of our area, further evidencing her ongoing enthusiasm and dedication to her interests which benefit a great many.

In terms of her work and support for the Perthshire Society of Natural Science, very importantly for us today, she has been our Secretary for many years and ensured that the life of the Society has remained vibrant and topical.

To have so many contacts from which to draw a seemingly never or rarely repeated series of lectures over the years is an achievement in its own right which I doubt has been bettered by any other Society in the country, and we have all benefited in many ways from her knowledge over the years. From the vast amount of administrative work she does behind the scenes to keeping a variety of Presidents on the straight and narrow - and I have to include myself in this! - guarantees that the Society functions both for

the enjoyment and education of members and plays a larger role in the life of the City and County of Perth.

We are, of course, not just acknowledging Miss Fothergill's dedication as Secretary. There is something else which we should not let pass by this evening.

We are tonight celebrating her 45 years in the role - a time which I know she would say has passed rewardingly, and I am sure has also been a time of great enjoyment and satisfaction.

In recognition of this I am now most happy on behalf of the Office Bearers, Council Members and members of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science to present our Secretary, Miss Rhoda Fothergill, with a small memento of this unique achievement and ask you all to join with me in giving her our very sincere congratulations."

(Present engraved glass bowl to Rhoda Fothergill - Harry Petrie to photo)

8. AGM Members' Presentation: I would now like to introduce two keen members of the Photographic Section - Perthshire Photographic Society - to give us their presentation, after which our new President, John Lewington, will give a short vote of thanks.

9. Vote of thanks from new President, John Lewington

10. Final remarks:

Please stay and join us all in a glass of wine, tea and coffee. Although it will be October before we meet here in the Museum again please remember our Edinburgh visit on Saturday 10 May and also the visits which the Sections will have organised during the summer.

ajhm/agm/250314

The Ornithological Section Outings, transport by car:

Wednesday 11 May (full day): Lochs of Kinnordy & Lintrathen; meet at Broxden Park & Ride @ 09:30

Wednesday 15 June (full day): Fowlsheugh; meet at Broxden Park & Ride @ 09:30

Wednesday 29 June (evening): Errol & Tay reedbeds; meet at Broxden Park & Ride @ 18:00, or

Presentations:

David Perry - "An Unrecorded Burgh Seal of Perth".

During research for his article in the latest Society Journal, David Perry discovered a previously unrecorded Perth burgh seal. He explained the design of the seals affixed to a charter by Lindores Abbey to Christian de Insula. An interesting issue concerning geographical location was that the reference to the surname contained in the charter may have been linked with the Inch at Perth or with Ely, East Anglia. The charter has no date but can be dated between 1244 and 1274. The seal David Perry illustrated on the left of the charter was the Abbey seal, with the Burgh seal on the right, the latter showing head of John the Baptist, the common seal of the Burgesses of Perth. Christian was buried at the Church of the Blackfriars, Perth. Another charter featured the Agnus Dei on the seal but in this case was not of Perth but of the Knights Templar of England. In 1673, Ayr also used the Agnus Dei in its coat of arms, a symbol normally associated with Perth. Finally, David Perry showed an illustration of the Seal of Perth from 1673 with an eagle rising behind the Agnus Dei, again the image associated with the then St Johnstoun.

Alistair Godfrey - "Don't Forget the Wife when Writing the Flora".

Members were taken through a "Flora Family Tree" starting with Linnaeus, who catalogued over 12000 species of plants and animals. He spent much time writing in Lapland and Sweden. Alistair Godfrey outlined the descending line through Linnaeus' work to the daisy - *Bellis perennis* L. which is the central emblem of the Society. The line continued through John Lightfoot, John Hope (Regius Keeper RBGE), Hooker's 1821 Flora Scotia, Hooker's gardener David Douglas (of Scone fame), Joseph Banks and finally Buchanan White's Flora of Perth in 1898, emphasising the strong link between Linnaeus in Sweden and Buchanan White in Perthshire through their common interests. A 6 year project to produce a new Flora of Perthshire is underway and Alistair Godfrey encourage all to support and join, if possible, in helping to make this a reality.

Moira Hutchison - "Outings Across Scotland".

Moira Hutchison described some of the outings of the Ornithological Section and in addition to the many birds they may see also benefited from some spectacular scenery in locations near to and far from Perth. The Bermudan Teal was an unusual sighting on Birnie Loch, Fife - probably escaped from captivity. A visit to the Isle of May was rewarded with puffin, terns, common guillemots and other cliff nesting seabirds. Wild flower meadows were also encountered and a hide with swallows nesting inside! Many other locations produced badgers and peregrine falcons, and a wide range of wild flowers, butterflies and moths. Moira Hutchison encouraged any interested member to join the Section on their varied and interesting outings where there would be something for everyone!

The President thanked all three speakers for a fascinating insight into their subjects and emphasised the value of such contributions in the drawing together of special interests to the positive benefit of all Society members, and in particular the illustrations each had used to support their presentations.

The meeting closed with refreshments.

Treasurer's Report to AGM, 18th March 2016

The accounts for 2015-2016 have been examined by the Independent Examiner, Mr Douglas Calderwood, and a copy is available. They have still to be submitted to the Charity Regulator for approval. Copies of the Financial Statement of Accounts have been circulated to members. The accounts for last year, 2014-2015, have been approved by the Charity Regulator.

In the General Account, from which the running costs of the Society are met, the year 2015-2016 has produced a surplus of £334.12. There was no printed syllabus this year. If there had been, the surplus would have been wiped out and a deficit incurred. There were two exceptional items purchased this year: a new laptop, costing £364.97, to replace one that was defunct; and a portable hard drive to contain the Society's digital archive held by Danscot, costing £64.99. This last means that we now hold digital copies of our journals printed by Danscot and of anything else printed by them for us.

One important matter of concern to the Society is the new organisation, Culture Perth and Kinross, which will take over the running of the museum and library from the 1st April. While this body will be initially funded by Perth and Kinross Council, it will be expected eventually to be independently funded from grants and its own revenues. Its own revenues will be primarily from hire of venues like this Lecture Hall. We must therefore be prepared to pay more for the hire of this venue and the Soutar Theatre. The Society's subscription has been held at £15 since 2005 and more than half of the sum raised by subscriptions is consumed by the venue hire, insurance and audit fees, although we have managed to reduce the latter by changing from a firm of accountants to an independent examiner, whom you will be asked later to vote to continue as examiner. If one adds in gift aid, these still take over half of our expenditure. To meet this eventuality of increased hire costs you will be asked later to approve the Council's proposal that the subscription be raised by £2 to £17.

There were 144 fully paid members of the Society during the year, a decrease of 23 on last year, although there has been one late renewal. There were 39 members who did not renew, two known deaths and one resignation on departure from Perthshire; these were offset by 20 new members. It is not clear why there was such a large drop in members, but it is clearly a matter of concern. Some elderly members of the Society may be reluctant or too infirm to come out at night. We must try and encourage new and younger members. One thing the Council of the Society will be considering in future is the use of Direct Debits for payment of subscriptions.

Gift Aid is still an important source of income for the Society and without it there would have been no surplus on the General Account this year. I would remind any of you who are eligible, that is who pays Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax, to fill out the Gift Aid form, even if you may think you have already done so.

The money has now been received in the Publication and Macintosh Accounts for the repayment of the government stocks that were formerly held in those accounts. Because both these investments were restricted funds, that is, the original donation was to be invested to provide income for spending rather than the donation to be spent, we are bound to reinvest the sums with the same purpose. However, since both sums are now negligible for investment purposes, we can apply to the Charity Regulator to reorganise the funds so that the money can be spent.

There was no Macintosh essay competition this year and the only movement in that account is the repayment of the stock.

The only movement in the James Aitken Bequest Account is the adding of interest and a transaction to keep the bank from freezing the account through inactivity.

I should like to thank the section treasurers and the President and members of Council for their help and support.

This year's Summer Outing, designed to attract members of all Sections and none, has been arranged for Barry Buddon Training Area in Angus on June 4th. The area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, an EU Special Area of Conservation as well as a Special Protection Area for birds under the European Birds Directive, as well as containing much of historical interest. The Outing will be led by Bob McCurley, who spoke to the Society in November last.

SUMMER OUTING 2016

Saturday June 4 Barry Budon Training Area

Depart 9.30 pm from Broxden Car Park

Return to Perth by 5.00 pm

Any queries to : John Lewington, 30 James Street, Perth PH2 8LZ;
Tel : 01738 620 375;
e-mail : jlewington8@googlemail.com

Please note that all Members, their relatives and friends of The PSNS attend excursions at their own risk, and that every reasonable precaution will be taken by the Society to ensure your health & safety.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU WILL NEED A PACKED LUNCH

Your name and telephone number and/or email address

Name.

Address.

.

Telephone No.

e-mail address.

Please return to as soon as possible to John Lewington at the above address, with your remittance of £ 16 per person, cheques made payable to " PSNS Summer Outing 2016"

The Botanical Section has arranged Outings as follows :-

March 19	Perth urban & natural habitats	Lesser South Inch car park at 1030
April 20	Pole Hill, Scone	tbc
April 27	Water of Ruchill, Comrie	Field of Refuge car park at 1000
May 14	Silver Glen, Ochils	tbc
June 15	River Tay at Murthly	Before Murthly Castle at 10.00
June 22	Cleish Lochs	tbc
July 13	Little Ballo	Forestry track at NO 269 348 at 10.00
July 24	Auchmithie	Corsiehill NO 135 235 at 1000

Bookings are essential for all of these Outings, via the Section President.