

# PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE

## NATURE SECTION

### Newsletter September 2022

The Nature Section is established. We have a working committee but more help would be very welcome. The key office holders are as follows:

Chairman: Ian MacGowan

Secretaries: Liz Lavery, Pamela Reynolds

Treasurer: Jeff Banks

We have a programme of talks, which follows at the end of these notes. It is an exciting and varied programme and I hope you will feel inspired to support it.

#### Tayside Recorders Day

Perth Museum on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept

Back to a real in-person event, the 14<sup>th</sup> Tayside Recorders' Day.

A free lunch is included this year so there will be plenty of time for blethering or just exploring the museum itself.

As ever there will be a varied programme

<https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022-Tayside-Recorders-Day-Programme-24-September-to-circulate-.pdf>

- including talks about butterflies, urban flora, bats, beavers, fungi, dragonflies and moths. There will also be talks about recording wildlife at Rewilding Denmarkfield, a National Biodiversity Network update and the launch of the new iNaturalist App.

Everyone is very welcome – no previous knowledge is expected! Please book as soon as possible - via the Eventbrite link [Tayside Wildlife Recorders' Day Tickets, Sat 24 Sep 2022 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#) if you can give a small donation (£1 or more) or via [TaysideBiodiversity@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:TaysideBiodiversity@pkc.gov.uk) if you would like a totally free place.

## Scottish Botanists' Conference

5th November , everyone with an interest in Botany is welcome.

<https://bsbi.org/scottish-annual-meeting>

### *Keep looking!*

*Possibly as a result of persistent easterly winds there seems to have been something of an influx of migrating Wrynecks. Having not seen one before, I was pleased to see 2 in the course of a few days*



### **Avian Flu**

Our wildlife has been severely tested this year and although we have escaped some of the extremes witnessed further south, few of us will have failed to notice some impact. Most noticeable for myself, was the impact of avian flu. Towards the end of last year I noticed the strange behaviour of guillemots swimming just a metre off-shore or congregating on the higher reaches of the Firth of Forth, but I avoided the sight of corpses being washed up. Not so this summer as I found many gannets on the beaches. Like many of us, I particularly like watching gannets; their clear white plumage, the power behind that business-like bill, and their diving technique. Fewer of us probably share my enthusiasm for Great Skuas, but these birds have also suffered from the infection so it was a welcome sight recently to see 6 in flight at the same time.

These incidents are clear for all to see; how much is also happening to the smaller species, bees, moths, beetles and other insects, and the hugh variety of plant species?

Jeff Banks

**Perthshire Society of Natural Science  
NATURE SECTION**

**Talks Programme October 2022 – March 2023  
In the Sandeman Room, AK Bell Library, Perth at 7.30pm.**

**2022**

October 26: “Rewilding & Beavers”

Louise and Paul Ramsay, Bamff Estate

November 16: “Seagrasses”

Richard Lilley, Project Seagrass, Firth of Forth.

December 7: **Zoom lecture** – “The Firth of Tay,” The birds and the Tay  
Estuary Low Tide Count of last winter.

Norman Elkins, SOC.

**2023**

January 11: “Perth – Biodiversity Capital of Scotland”

Dr Mike Robinson. CEO RSGS.

February 1: “Challenging Upland Futures, ”

Dr Rosalind Bryce, Director, Centre for Mountain Studies, UHI

March 1: “Insects and Pollination,”

Althayde Tonhasca, NatureScot.

March 22: AGM – Followed by

“Life in the uplands: Tanzania and Malawi,”

Martin Robinson.