

# Cambridge Natural History Society

Annual General Meeting. Saturday 18 June 2011.

## AGENDA

The President, Inigo Everson, welcomed everyone to the 2011 AGM.

### 1. Members Present

Inigo Everson, Monica Frisch, Henry Tribe, Jon Shanklin, Clarke Brunt, Simon Mentha, Deborah Marchant, Anna Bradnam, Lucy Cadbury, Brian Gardiner, Doris Gardiner, Anita Joysey, Kate de Courcy, David Seilly, Jean Sinclair, Toby Carter, Jane Bulleid.

### 2. Apologies for Absence

Charles Turner, John Holden, Ken and Val Joysey, Alex Dittrich.

### 3. Minutes of the AGM held on 12 June 2010 were taken as read.

The Minutes of the 2010 AGM

### 4. Matters Arising from the minutes

During the year David Barden had moved to Bristol to take up a new post and consequently had resigned as Treasurer. Council had agreed to invite Simon Mentha to take over. The meeting expressed its thanks to David for efforts in organising the accounts and wished him well in his new post.

Monica Frisch reported that little action had taken place with the Publications Sub-Group. She noted that publications were an effective way of disseminating knowledge to a wider public and welcomed suggestions from Members to achieve that aim.

It was noted that the Society's archives were housed in the Museum. Since a major re-organisation of the Museum was planned within the next year it was a high priority to ensure that Archives were properly stored and catalogued.

### 5. President's Report

The President (Inigo Everson) reported that the Society had had good year with a good programme of lectures during the winter months and diverse field visits throughout the year. The culmination of the year's activities was the *Conversazione*, which had just closed and

had included a diverse range of exhibits that had engendered lively and interesting discussion. Inigo thanked everyone who had helped with the organisation of all these activities.

He also expressed the thanks of the Society to Cambridge University Zoology Department and to the Anglia Ruskin University Life Sciences Department for making available facilities and providing support through the year.

#### 6. Membership Secretary's Report

Henry Tribe reported that membership stood at 250, approximately half of whom were Life Members. The Meeting noted that although the acquisition of two or three Life Members a year was sufficient to cover the operating costs of the Society it was probably not the most effective long-term strategy for ensuring a long term stable finance base.

It was noted that mailing of Newsletters and Programmes represented a significant cost to the Society and that Members should be asked to decide whether they needed a printed copy or would be happy to receive a version by email.

The President thanked Henry for his continued efforts with the Membership database and also to David Barden who had computerised the system.

#### 7. Programme Secretary's Report

Monica Frisch reported a slightly higher audience numbers for the lecture programme, ranging from 10 to 46 with an average of 29. The venue for the Spring lectures had changed to Lecture theatre MEL 001 at ARU and this had been seen as more convenient for the majority of participants particularly in view of the slightly larger audiences recently.

She reported that plans the Autumn programme was still in its early stages but welcomed suggestions for potential speakers and topics.

The President thanked Monica for continued efforts in this important activity of the Society.

#### 8. Excursions Secretary's Report

Jon Shanklin reported that numbers for excursions had continued to be low in spite of the participants finding much of interest. The meeting considered ways of increasing participation without coming to any definite conclusions beyond seeking the advice from the

membership. Arising from this, Members are urged to provide responses to the following questions:

- Where do you want to go?
- When do you want to go there?
- What sort of thing do you want to find?

At the meeting the following were localities were suggested as potential venues for special study:

- NW Cambridge University site (2012)
- Coton Footpath (2013)
- Milton Country Park (2014)

It was suggested that, in addition, consideration be given to Chesterton Sidings and the Guided Busway although it was recognised that special permission for access would be required and numbers may have to be limited.

Jon briefly reported on the submission of records to National Centres.

## 9. Treasurer's Report

Following the departure of David Barden to take up a new appointment in Bristol Simon Mentha had taken over as Treasurer. Simon presented the statement of accounts which with one minor amendment were adopted.

He noted that the finances were in a healthy state. This was largely due to a small number of Life Members joining each year. Bearing in mind that Life Membership results in single large payment this may not be the best way of maintaining a steady income.

It was noted that some officers had regularly 'subsidised' the Society by providing a number of small items at their own expense. It was agreed that it was perfectly in order for such expenditure to be reimbursed by the Society.

The President thanked Simon for taking on the responsibility of Treasurer.

## 10. Changes to Society's Rules

A number of changes to the Society's rules had been required. Jon Shanklin had prepared a draft revision which had been reviewed for its legal content by Jan Mentha. The revised version was circulated and adopted by the Meeting.

The revised Rules will appear on the Society's website.

## 11. Election of Officers

Charles Holden and Steve Hartley had indicated that they did not wish to stand for re-election this year. The President thanked both for their contribution to work of CNHS Council and the Society in general.

Current List of Officers: Inigo Everson (President), (General Secretary), Henry Tribe (Membership Secretary), Monica Frisch (Programme Secretary), Toby Carter (Vice President, Zoological Recorder), Jon Shanklin (Vice-President, Excursion Secretary), Simon Mentha (Treasurer), Charles Turner (Botanical Recorder), Ken Joysey (Archivist)

Current list of Council Members: Clarke Brunt, Anita Joysey, Elizabeth Platts.

The following had been proposed for election: Jean Sinclair, Deborah Marchant

The meeting agreed that all should be elected to Council for the forthcoming year.

## 12. Any other business

Tansley Centenary. It had been noted that this year is the centenary of the Tansley Botanical Tour of the UK, an important landmark in field botany and the then emerging topic of ecology. Several members had given some thought to marking this important event in a number of ways from local excursions to large scale co-ordinated national activities. Members were encouraged to come forward with suggestions for activities that might be included in the Programme.

Zoology Lawn and embankment. During last year's *Conversazione* visitors had been shown the floral diversity of the Zoology Dept lawn and embankment. This provided a useful introduction to many people of what can be found in a locality that superficially may appear uninteresting. It was noted that recently the area had been sprayed. This no

only removed a topic of interest to Conversazione but also appeared contrary to University policy on the environment.