

# CNS



## **CARDIFF NATURALISTS' SOCIETY**

Founded 1867

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Cover photo by Linda Kahar see page 8

## PRESIDENTIAL AMBLINGS

It was a shock to see the saline lagoon at the WWT centre at Llanelli. Apparently the lagoon retaining wall had been breached by recent high tides leaving it dry at low tide. The reserve staff were relaxed about the situation as they reported that it happened at a quiet time for migratory waders and wildfowl. Hopefully the wall is now fully repaired. A more pleasant sighting was the 200 Godwits in another lagoon.

We have all seen photographs of unusual locations for bird nests. An old boot, hanging baskets, on traffic signals. However my best sighting this year was inside a street lamp column in Dinas Powys. A blue tit managed to find a crack and was happily nesting within the electrical wiring space. Let us trust that there are no shocks to the fledglings!

One of my last duties as an Assembly Member was also one of the most enjoyable. Bruce invited me to ‘inspect’ the planting of a new orchard in Wenvoe. At a Society meeting he explained the past economic importance of orchards to local communities. Unfortunately many small orchards have been lost. The trees were planted in the corner of a field by a team from Bridgend College with the generous permission of the farmer. The students who perhaps had never enjoyed their education experiences appeared to welcome a week out of college undertaking activities in the fresh air. The apples trees are old varieties, often with Welsh connections, will have a benefit for the local bio diversity. It would be wonderful if we could encourage the planting of more orchards. As my garden can’t cope with full sized trees I had previously planted half a dozen trees in pots. It was great to be told that this constitutes an orchard.

Both Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Councils are considering draft development plans for their areas. These plans will set out future land use for at least the next ten years. Cardiff especially is faced with demands for many thousands of new homes. In the Vale many land owners have made bids for their fields to be allocated for housing. It may be appropriate for the Society to take an interest in the important matters that could have a significant impact on wild life on our door steps. The Vale Council’s web site provides further information detailing each site under consideration.

Chris Franks

## FIELD MEETINGS September 2011 to February 2012

Saturday 17th September

Start time 10.00am

Parc Tredelerch

4-5 hours (lunch optional)

Cardiff Naturalists are helping out Cardiff City Council by surveying Parc Tredelerch for plants in particular but anything else we spot whilst we are there. We have some existing records from earlier visits to this site but hope to add to these with this visit. We also plan to visit in Spring 2012 to see what early flora and fauna are about. All welcome whether experienced or new to wildlife. If time permits we may move on to the sidings at East Moors which we visited two years ago. Meet at car park off Lamby Way at grid ref. ST 21932/78382. Mobile on the day only 07901 707 300

Sunday 8th January

Start time 9am.

Cardiff Bay

All day (packed lunch)

The annual birdwatch led by Linda and Rob Nottage starts at Channel View this year to look at birds in the bay. We shall walk as far as St Davids Hotel and back. We may move on to another location later such as Forest Farm or Roath or Bute Park. Start at Channel View Leisure Centre where there is free parking both at the water's edge and by the Leisure Centre (OS ref: ST 18161/74339 or postcode CF11 7HB). This is in Jim Driscoll Way, off Avondale Road just west of the Clarence Road Bridge. Mobile on the day only 07901 707 300

Saturday 25th February  
Start time 10am

Ogmore  
All day (packed lunch)

A geological walk led by Steve Howe up Pant Norton to Pant-y-slade then Ogmore-by-sea and back. Part of the route is covered in Steve's book 'Walking the Rocks' co-authored with Geraint Owen and Tom Sharpe. Start at the free car park (NOTE: not Ogmore Beach car park) on the right hand side (alongside the river) of the B 4524 half-way between the Pelican Pub and Ogmore Beach at SS 8741/7625. Mobile on the day only 07901 707 300.

Please attempt to get to the start of the event in plenty of time so that we stand a reasonable chance of doing any admin and getting away on time.

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#### EDITORIAL

After being the Editor for about 10 years I am looking to find a replacement. If any member would like to take on the roll please don't hesitate, contact either myself or a member of council.

We have been considering whether to have three instead of four issues of the newsletter per year, some of the advantages would be a more consistent size of newsletter, as most Field Meeting reports are in the summer months. It would also save costs, mostly on postage, Email would be cheaper again but few members seem willing for this.

The AGM is on the 21st September, if you have any views on this perhaps you could express them at the meeting.

**COPY FOR THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER BY  
NOVEMBER 17TH PLEASE Ed.**

## INDOOR MEETINGS --- AUTUMN 2011

The Autumn series of evening lectures for 2011 will follow as listed on the programme and the website. All will start at 7.30pm beginning on Wednesday 21st September with the AGM followed with a talk by Paul Bowden on Oman.

The next lecture will be on Tuesday 27th September with a visit by Dr David Llewellyn, Valley's Regional Park Co-ordinator who will talk on the South Wales valley's, right on Cardiff's doorstep. The valleys have changed almost beyond recognition in the last few decades. Find out how the area has changed, what the Valleys Regional Park is doing to enhance and protect the natural and cultural environment of the valleys, and learn more about the natural delights waiting to be discovered by visitors to the area.

Our next meeting is on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October with a visit by Dr Benoit Goossens, Cardiff University School of Biosciences. The Danau Girang Field centre is a new collaborative research and training facility owned by Sabah Wildlife Department and co-managed with Cardiff University. It was set up in 2007 and it opened in July 2008. It is situated in lot 6 of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary in Sabah Malaysia and is surrounded by a mixture of lowland dipterocarp forest types, in a matrix landscape with significant human impact, including villages, small scale agriculture and oil palm plantations.

In contrast our next talk by Cate Barrow on Wednesday 19th October will be Butterflies of UK as photographed over this season, including some rare and interesting species. Plus underwater photos from Fiji, Maldives, Australia and New Zealand as part of tours completed in 2010 and 2011 everything from minute nudibranchs to 8ft Bull sharks photographed off the coast of Fiji.

Our fellow members Margaret and John Samuel will provide the next lecture on Thursday 3rd November the subject Northern Territories and Queensland . This is their fifth trip to Australia, but first to Darwin Kakadu Litchfield National Park. They also travelled to Queensland visiting places new to them and some old favourites.

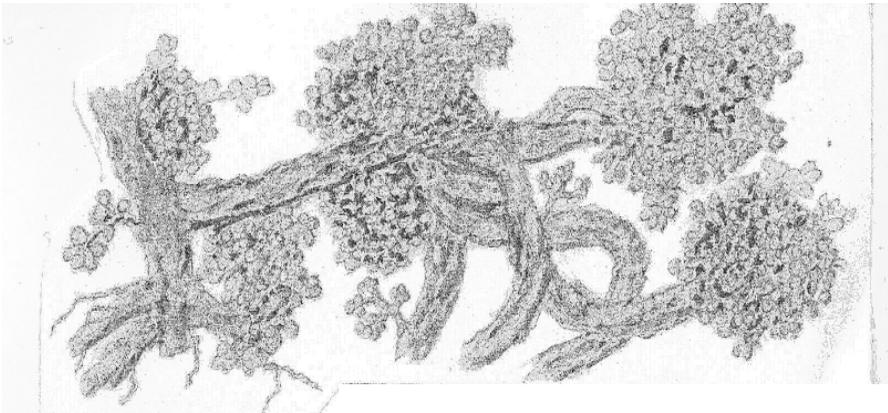
The penultimate evening on Monday 28th November will be a talk by PC Mark Goulding Wildlife and Environmental Crime Officer South Wales Police. The lecture will be on the role of a wildlife officer and the work carried out, some case examples will be referred to. The subject matter and imagery used could be upsetting.

The last evening will be the Xmas Bash with a provisional date of Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December and the content to be arranged (planned to be as interesting as last year).

Meetings are arranged to be held at lecture theatre room D106 UWIC Llandaff Campus Western Ave. Llandaff Cardiff. However, this has still to be confirmed. Members please ask at the Main building reception where a notice and signs to the lecture theatre will be placed.

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## PUZZLE PICTURE



What is it ?  
Answer on page 13



A nest of 3 Baby Squirrels fell from a tree in Llanishen, two were thrown from the nest when it fell but a third was still in the nest. When we moved the leaves from around the nest the third baby began to cry which the mum heard and came rushing to collect them. She picked them up one by one. First she took the little one that was crying, then she came back for the one in the photo, (see cover photo Ed) the third had been thrown clear of the nest, she had not noticed it the both times she had been down. She returned and kept looking around the area until she eventually found the last baby, and then disappeared up the tree and didn't return.. Whilst she was looking for the third you could hear the other two in the tree crying for their mum.

Linda Kahar

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## FIELD TRIP TO PENWYLLT

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011



Quarry at Penwyllt

of old red sandstone, limestone and millstone grit – the flora varying accordingly with the herb-rich limestone area contrasting with the bilberry and heather-dominated acidic millstone grit moorland. A section of limestone pavement is of particular interest – possibly better known in the Yorkshire Dales where the local dialect has contributed the words ‘clints’ for the surface slabs and ‘grykes’ for the fissures between them. It is the grykes that offer special growing conditions for plants in an otherwise inhospitable environment.

The botany started well for within a stone’s throw of the car park was a clump of Mossy Saxifrage, *Saxifraga hypnoides*, that would have done justice to the finest rock garden. Wandering further into the quarry we found the carnivorous Common Butterwort, *Pinguicula vulgaris*, and the



*Ctenicera cuprea*



Lily of the Valley

predominantly pink version of Common Milkwort, *Polygala vulgaris* – the blue version more common on the moors. A few Welsh Poppies, *Meconopsis cambrica*, nodded in the breeze but less appealing was the Cotoneaster which threatens to smother the area.

From there we moved into sheep country with the inevitable consequence that the only flower to be seen was Tormentil, *Potentilla erecta*, although a striking click beetle, *Ctenicera cuprea*, was wandering by the path. The weather was too cool and blustery to encourage insects to be out and about

although a few Garden Chafers, *Phyllopertha horticola*, were found sheltering in the vegetation. However the floral diversity changed

dramatically as soon as we entered the fenced-off area of limestone pavement, the botanical jewel in the crown of this National Nature Reserve. Lily of the Valley, *Covallaria majalis*, was spread generously throughout the site sharing the grykes with Common Meadow Rue, *Thalictrum flavum*, and Sanicle, *Sanicula europaea*. The delicate Mountain Melick, *Melica nutans*, posed



Mountain Melick

in smaller numbers in the fissures whereas Hairy Rockcress, *Arabis hirsuta*, stood proud on the surface.

A relative rarity is Hairy Greenweed, *Genista pilosa*, with a couple of well-established clumps splashing yellow over the green vegetation and grey of the limestone. The ‘hairy’ derives from the noticeable hairs on sepals and pedicels and a hairy stem. The leaves tend to be hairy when new but hairless when mature. The weather was not very benign so we then retreated to a sheltered area near where Andy was going to take us underground.



Hairy Greenweed

Access to the caves is normally reserved for experienced cavers so this was an opportunity for the majority of us non-cavers to witness the subterranean views that we could only guess at on the surface. A short scramble brought us to a generously-proportioned cavern shown in the photo with all the standard features such as stalactites – even a couple of bats, probably *Myotis sp.*

From here the old tramroad took us down to the silica brick works from where we could also see the limekilns across the valley. Penwyllt's industrial heritage started with the demand for quicklime from the mineral processing of the lower Swansea Valley and there were 15 kilns at one point. The Penwyllt Dinas Silica brick company came later, opening in 1865, and did not close until the late 1930s. You can still see bricks lying on the ground, not to mention a wall constructed of them with the company name stamped on them.



Down under

Bruce McDonald  
Photos by Andy Kendall and Bruce McDonald

## FIELD TRIPS IN BRIEF

### Coryton Roundabout – Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> June

Although we have done this walk for several successive years as a contribution to Biodiversity week, it never fails to attract good numbers of both members and the public alike. We had fine weather and a plethora of orchids, locating, yet again, the Common Spotted Orchid variant, *Datylorhiza fuchsia* var. **rhodochila**. Much has been written about this in previous issues of the newsletter. Suffice it to say that searching Google with words like ‘orchid’ and ‘rhodochila’ brings up Cardiff Naturalists web pages at or near the top. Having found it at this site for many years, it will be interesting to see if it turns up elsewhere in South Wales. Initially noted by Mary Gillham here some decades ago **rhodochila** first became ‘official’ in 1991 when D. M. T. Ettliger wrote an article in *Watsonia* (**18**, 307-309) in which he noted ‘the leaves more heavily spotted, the labellum marked with a broad central reddish-purple area with paler edges in place of dots and small lines. In extreme examples the leaves are suffused on the upper surfaces with purple and the whole labellum is a rich dark purple without a pale margin’. As noted, last year, more active management of the site is showing increasing benefits year by year as more of the scrub is removed and grassland returns with its attendant orchids.



Spiked Star of Bethlehem

### Wenvoe – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June

The weather was again benign as we wandered around some lanes east of Wenvoe. The main attraction was to see the Spiked Star of Bethlehem, *Ornithogalum pyrenaicum*, which

revealed itself on cue along a traffic-free lane to the north of Greave Farm. Typically 80-120 spikes can be found growing from within the hedgerow on both sides of the road at what is, as far as we know, its only site in Wales. First recorded in the early 1990s it is a mystery why it should be here but it is clearly happy growing at this spot and well-established over a 200 yard stretch.

### Hailey Park – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July

It has been a pleasure for several years now to team up with the Friends of Hailey Park and offer a public walk which includes that rarest of species – young children. A couple of sweep-nets, some small specimen pots, a colourful check-list of butterflies and moths to tick off and a dozen or so young persons is a recipe guaranteed to ensure two hours of lively, if at times, chaotic fun. For the more studious ecologist Hailey Park throws up some interesting species including recently the Essex Skipper, and both Purple and White-letter Hairstreaks. We also took a look at some Helleborines. The Broad-leaved, *Epipactis helleborine*, had gone over but two examples of another had us puzzled. There were no flowers and the consistently narrow leaves were alternate rather than spirally arranged. We would hope to report a positive ID in a future issue of the newsletter.

Bruce McDonald  
Photo by Bruce McDonald

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## Answer to puzzle picture on page 7

It is the surface roots of Alders, richly supplied with woody nodules containing nitrogen-fixing bacteria– *Frankia alni*  
(Monochrome photocopy of coloured painting)

Mary Gillham

# FIELD TRIP TO GLAMORGAN HERITAGE COAST

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2011



Descent to Cwm Bach

The day started ominously with steady drizzle. Rob and Linda had had to withdraw and only 4 members had booked places on the minibus. However when Paul Dunn from the Heritage Coast Centre who knows the area better than anyone offered to join us things were looking up and armed with Linda's brief on what to look out for and where to find things we set off from Nash Point.

Within 200 yards we noted our first prize – the Tuberous Thistle *Cirsium tuberosum*, in flower on the banks of the Iron Age hill fort and its associated pillow mounds. This is one of very few good sites for the plant, particularly as the specimens here are relatively pure – elsewhere hybridisation is diluting the gene pool. The relative shelter of the valley soon gave way to the more exposed cliff-top and our progress was impeded by gusts of wind interspersed with the odd gale.



Tuberous Thistle

We battled on and were soon rewarded by a Peregrine fly-past. For some distance we enjoyed watching the adults manoeuvring effortlessly whilst the juveniles rocked along with a lot less panache. Choughs put in several appearances demonstrating considerable aerial agility and Fulmars could be seen both nesting and occasionally launching off the cliffs – they are now nesting here in greater numbers than Herring Gulls. Later on a Kestrel hovered just about 15 feet above our heads, totally



Field Pennycress

focussed on its potential prey which may have been disturbed by our movements.

A chance find by Paul on a field margin turned out to be, after some consultation with our field guides, Field Pennycress, *Thlaspi arvense*. The cliff-top edges were punctuated with splashes of colour. The pinks of Common Mallow, *Malva sylvestris*, the reds of Nodding or Musk Thistle, *Carduus nutans*, and the whites of Wild Carrot, *Daucus carota ssp carota*.

Cwm Mawr is probably the floral jewel in the crown of this stretch of the coast with good numbers of Common Spotted Orchids, *Dactylorhiza fuchsia*, the occasional

Pyramidal Orchid, *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, and a generous sprinkling of Clustered Bellflower, *Campanula glomerata*, another local speciality. On the top path we had a plethora of Hypericums. Bold clumps of Tutsan, *Hypericum androsaemum*, were interspersed with



Clustered Bellflower

Imperforate St Johns Wort, *H. maculatum*. Then the orange glow of Slender St Johns Wort *H. pulchrum* and finally the relatively vigorous Pale St Johns Wort, *H. montanum*, a species that was new to many of us – look out for the black dots on the leaf edges.



Pale St Johns Wort

This was not a day for insects and apart from a solitary Meadow Brown the only other invertebrate on the move was a grass moth which Roy Perry identified as *Crambus perlella*. Later, Hilary found a very dead and dessicated but clearly recognisable Lesser Stag Beetle which are often found in the Heritage Coast Centre woodshed. Lunch was taken

sedately in the walled garden of Dunraven House with Medlar to one side and Mulberry the other. Despite the inauspicious start it had been a good trip with something of interest for everyone.



Lunch and map time in the Walled Garden

Bruce McDonald  
Photos by Hilary Perry and Bruce McDonald.

# FIELD TRIP TO PANT-Y-SAIS FEN & THE TENNANT CANAL

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July



The Tennant Canal

after the site was gradually filling up with rubbish.

We knew we would get some excellent botany with our leader, Charles Hipkin, but there were plenty of other delights on this beautiful, hot summer's day. First to the Englishman's Hollow – better known as Pant-y-Sais Fen – a spur off Crymlyn Bog and an important fenland site. The reserve was, unusually, compulsorily purchased following a campaign by local people

The main car park just beyond Jersey Marine gives access to a boardwalk which is worth taking but because of vandalism no longer permits access to the Tennant Canal. We retraced our steps to leave the car park heading left to get to a second, newer, boardwalk which takes you to the canal which we followed north/east. In the afternoon we drove into Jersey Marine where you can walk along the canal in a south/westerly direction.

The Tennant Canal is named after George Tennant who between 1817 and 1818 constructed a canal that would link the rivers Tawe and Neath. The section from Swansea to Aberdulais is lock-free and a delight to walk along with abundant and varied wildlife along the way. As Charles delivered his introductory comments some Redpolls flew overhead but it was heads down to see who could first locate the Spotted Medic, *Medicago Arabica*, with its blotched, trifoliolate leaves. Next a series of wetland plants – Marsh Bedstraw, *Galium palustre*, Greater Spearwort, *Ranunculus lingua*, and Water Horsetail, *Equisetum fluviatile*. Further on another classic stream-side plant, the Lady Fern *Athyrium filix-femina*, lurked among the reeds. More damp-loving plants revealed themselves obligingly at regular intervals; Marsh Lousewort, *Pedicularis palustris* stood up taller and more robust than its common cousin; Cross-leaved



Marsh Lousewort



Slender Cotton Grass

Heath, *Erica tetralix* and Marsh Cinquefoil, *Potentilla palustris*. Sharp-flowered Rush, *Juncus acutiflorus*, was a less common find, distinguished from *articulatus* by its relative lack of articulations. Charles noted that many marshy plants have hollow stems reflecting the growing substrate – Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil, *Lotus pedunculatus*, having hollow stems but another useful ID clue being the visibility of the secondary hairs on the backs of the leaves. And then a relative rarity – Slender Cotton Grass, *Eriophorum gracile*, which distinguishes itself from *angustifolium* by having fruits supported by an angled stem and minute bristles rather than smooth stems.

From there on to the second boardwalk but our route alongside the road took us past a stretch of waste ground with a fine selection of self-sown flora. Charles commented that Hoary Mustard, *Hirschfeldia incana*, was now one of the most common yellow crucifers in the South Wales area and nearby were several Evening Primroses, these being the Small-flowered variety, *Oenothera cambrica*, an introduced alien with a lack of red stripe. Also noted was *Calystegia pulchra* which we thought sounded most attractive but the field guides subsequently reported as the somewhat less glamorous Hairy Bindweed.

The second boardwalk generated further interest. Smooth Hawksbeard, *Crepis capillaris*, provided Charles with an opportunity to mention some key characteristics of the yellow dandelion-like flowers which can cause so much confusion to the uninitiated. Solid or hollow stems, branched inflorescences, hairy leaves all figure in the equation. Catsears with dandelion-like leaves, Hawkbits with forked hairs – we scribbled

furiously but most of us are still waiting for the great enlightenment. It was with some relief that a more recognisable plant, Pale Toadflax, *Linaria repens*, came into view.



Blunt-flowered rush

Then a speciality of the area – Blunt-flowered Rush, *Juncus subnodulosus*, also articulated but with paler tepals and alongside the canal Slender Rush, *Juncus tenuis*, our only alien rush. By way of variation we considered some galls, Linda Nottage locating examples of the Cigar Gall, *Lipara lucens* on Common reed – at bottom of photo. Also in the photo are (assumed) top left *Eriophyes laevis* on Alder and

*Pontania* sp. on Willow, probably *bridgmanii*. There were also plenty of rusts and fungi on various host plants.



Various galls

The canal also offered a variety of fauna. Emperor Dragonflies, Broad-bodied Chasers and Blue-tailed Damselflies could be seen on the canal whilst Dark Green Fritillaries patrolled the towpath. The jewel in the crown of this part of the canal is the Fen Raft Spider, *Dolomedes plantarius*,



Dark Green Fritillary

discovered here in 2003. Originally identified in 1956 at Lopham Fen on the Norfolk/Suffolk border and then on the Pevensey Levels in 1988 this was only its third site in Britain. And we saw several of them mostly balanced photogenically on lily pads. However, this needs some qualification. Identification of the two species of Raft Spider, the other being *fimbriatus*, is complicated and



Fen Raft Spider



Raft Spider

used to require microscopic examination. None of us had brought our DNA fingerprinting kits with us - more to the point we were in no mood to get our feet wet. So our assumption that this was probably the Fen Raft Spider was based on the facts that this was exactly where it has been found in the past; *plantarius* is more likely to be found on canals, *fimbriatus* on wet heaths and upland mires; and *fimbriatus* has greater colour variation and a broader stripe. The photos show just how similar they are, the one on the left from the Tennant Canal on the day, the one on the right from a field trip to the Somerset Levels.



Crab Spider



Pawprint of young otter

At the other extreme Linda Nottage noted the delicate Crab Spider patiently waiting for its next ambush opportunity on Birds Foot Trefoil. And finally, fingerprinting of a different sort. The indentation on the concrete shown in the photo has been attributed to a young otter who recorded him or herself for posterity with a neat pawprint on the unset material. Another great day out with Charles; we returned with our brains full and our quest for new sightings well satisfied.

Bruce McDonald      Photos by Bruce McDonald and Margaret Samuel

# FIELD TRIP TO PARC BRYN BACH

16<sup>th</sup> July 2011



Clover-rich

This excursion to near the Heads of the Valleys road started inauspiciously with the local rangers deciding at the eleventh hour that they were too busy to honour a commitment to give us a quick tour of the site. With minimal literature on site – they had run out of leaflets in English – and little background information on the otherwise encyclopaedic internet there is not much we can say

about the origins of this park other than that it is 340 acres with a 36 acre lake.

The weather forecast was pretty dire and the elements were proving that they had read and understood the script so we sheltered in the café and watched the Mallard and Mute Swans being tossed about in the gales whilst the Whomping Willows thrashed around enthusiastically as if they were auditioning for a Harry Potter film. But on finding out that the other group in the café were about to set off to do the Welsh Three Peaks in 24 hours we concluded that a gentle amble round the lake was within our capabilities.

The Park presents itself as suitable for the outdoor enthusiast with bike trails, keep fit stations at regular intervals and a camp-site. The first impression is that wildlife is incidental but this is misleading as we soon found out. Within a couple of hundred yards we came across wildflower meadows covered in assorted clovers but with good sprinklings of Common



Monkey Flower

Spotted Orchid, *Dactylorhiza fuchsia*, Southern Marsh Orchid, *Dacty-*

*lorhiza praetermissa* and Goatsbeard, *Tragopogon pratense*. On the margin of the lake were several clumps of the Monkey Flower, *Mimulus guttatus* which seems to crop up regularly in the Valleys close to water and a



*Taphrina alni*

nice stand of Branched Bur Reed, *Sparganium erectum*. Of course by now the rain had stopped, the sun came out and we were soon stripping off our Sou'westers as the temperature soared.

We proceeded at a snail's pace principally because the track was covered with diminutive froglets, most less than a centimetre long and blending in perfectly with the tarmac

colouration. A nice find was the gall on Alder catkins, *Taphrina alni*, characterised by a tongue-like growth, red, pink or purple in colour, projecting from the female catkin. This was very rare in the 1940s being found only in Cornwall but is now widespread in Britain. Unlike many of the common galls we noticed that are caused by wasps, mites and midges, this one is down to a fungal plant pathogen with the spores spread by the wind.

Wildlife is acknowledged by a series of interpretative panels around the lake and had the weather been less inclement (it started raining again as we completed the circuit) it would have been good to have explored the readily-accessible moorland and reclaimed tip areas adjacent to the park. Overall we were pleasantly surprised by what we saw on the day – the park is worth a visit, easily accessible and with good facilities.

Bruce McDonald  
Photos by Bruce McDonald

## Obituary - Graham Duff (1939-2011)



It is with great sadness that I have to announce that Graham died on Thursday August 18th 2011, after a lengthy fight against cancer. Those who knew Graham will remember a 'gentle giant' with a lovely West Country accent and superb mutton chop side burns. He was a long-standing member and active supporter of the Cardiff Naturalists' Society making contributions in many ways. He sat on the society council but was perhaps best known for his tireless technical support at the indoor meetings. Graham was also an accomplished nature photographer, a skill he acquired relatively recently and he entertained members of the society with vibrant talks from the trips he and Margaret had made around the globe.

Graham was also a long-standing member of the Glamorgan Bird Club. He attended many field trips and indoor meetings, as well as giving talks on his photographic trips in the UK and abroad. Graham designed the replacement Arthur Morgan hide at Kenfig National Nature Reserve, arranged supply of the materials from his own hardwood timber merchant firm that he ran in the Vale and organised the building of the hide. Graham was very diligent in keeping records of wildfowl counts on Roath Park Lake and helping out with the British Breeding Bird Survey annually.

Graham was one of the founding members of the Glamorgan Wildlife Photographic Club and we have run the club together over the last 6 years, with the help of several other members. Graham was instrumental in developing the programme to its current successful format and his dogged determination led to the launch of the club website late in 2009. This now contains a database of almost 600 photographs taken by club members, almost a quarter of these taken by Graham himself. I have worked closely with Graham over these last 6 years and he has contributed a tremendous amount to running the club, it will be strange for him not to be there.

Graham was also an active member of the local Cardiff Group of the RSPB and local groups of the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, contributing widely to nature conservation and the overall appreciation of wildlife.

Graham, you will be greatly missed for these reasons and many others, and for just being you. I'm sure all those in the society who knew Graham will wish to convey their heartfelt condolences to Margaret Morgan.

Paul E. Bowden  
Friend and Colleague  
August 2011