



GLASGOW NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2013

David Palmar
(Newsletter Editor)

Next Newsletter Deadline
22 July 2013

GNHS is a Registered
Scottish Charity
Website: www.gnhs.org.uk/

Forthcoming Meetings

David Palmar

April 2013

Tuesday 9th - Graham Kerr Building LT1, University of Glasgow

6.30pm Tutorial: Scottish Spiders; Chris Cathrine

7.30pm Lecture: The woodlands of Bute, a historical perspective; Angus Hannah
(Jointly with Hamilton and Paisley NHS)

May

Tuesday 14th - Boyd Orr Building, University of Glasgow

6.30pm Tutorial: Auditing Glasgow's Biodiversity: ten (eleven) years on
Richard Sutcliffe and Richard Weddle

7.30pm Lecture: Hiding in plain sight: the work of Hugh Cott, artist and naturalist.
Isla Forsyth

June

Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd - Graham Kerr Building, University of Glasgow
Conference: "Natives, Aliens and Reintroductions: how does ecology inform wildlife
conservation in Scotland?"

The first day of the conference is a series of talks, and the second has workshops and excursions; there will be posters on display during both days. We are also planning a schools event, on June 14th which, together with many of our summer excursions, will address the same theme.

We are very pleased with the way the programme has turned out, and it should appeal to most GNHS members. The draft programme and a booking form are enclosed (or will be sent separately, for email recipients). These are also available at www.gnhs.org.uk/2013conference.html Further detail will be added as it becomes available. There will be further related events, during the Glasgow Science Festival (6th - 16th June).

As for previous conferences, we are asking if any members would be willing to offer accommodation to delegates on the weekend of June 22nd - 23rd, if this is requested? If so, please contact Richard Weddle.

These events are a joint venture between GNHS, Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Museums, Glasgow Science Festival, RSPB, SWT and others. It also forms part of

the festival marking the 100th anniversary of the British Ecological Society, and is partly funded by BES.

Excursions

Excursion suggestions are always welcome – Don't just say "I'd like to see that" please fill in the form below and send to Excursion Organiser - Morag Mackinnon

Summer Excursion Programme - Suggestion from.....

your e.mail phone no.....

Place.....Date best time to go?

Theme for excursion..... we can fill in the rest of the details needed later - just get your suggestions to me.

Meeting Place: Name plus map reference

Directions to meeting place: (making it clear if excursion returns to start point or not)

Public transport option if appropriate: Length of excursion: Terrain:

Bring: e.g. packed lunch; suitable footwear/clothing; sun cream; midge protection etc.

Points to Note:

- I. All Meetings or Excursions attended by Society members or their guests are entirely at their own risk and participants should follow any safety advice given by the leader.
- II. Please notify the leader in advance of your intended attendance, being sure to give them your phone number; and tell them if you have to cancel.
- III. Any costs involved with an excursion should be paid in advance (Cheques payable to GNHS) and if you have to cancel, the cost will only be refundable if a replacement is found.
- IV. If help with transport is required or if you can offer a lift please let the Leader know.
- V. Wear appropriate clothing/footwear.
- VI. The leader will advise you of the proposed route and any special precautions needed.
- VII. The leader has gone to some trouble to make this excursion possible and has taken into consideration the Risk Assessment in relation to the outing. **Please help by giving the leader a note with your name and address, and the phone number of a contact in case of emergency.** If you have any health issues which should be notified in an emergency do make them known too. I suggest that this can be done by filling in the form below and handing it to the leader at the start. You can then get this back at the end of the excursion and use it again.
- VIII. Keep in sight of the rest of the party. Keep an eye open for others and do not go ahead of the leader.
- IX. Enjoy your excursion and remember to send list of records to Richard Weddle

Emergency Information to give to Leader

Member's name

Address

Emergency contact name and phone number

.....

Health issues

.....

Summer Excursion Programme 2013 - Additional Information

We have tried to provide as much prior information as possible about excursions, so that it is easier when making arrangements to attend. Listed below are additional details not shown on the Excursion Programme Card.

Please contact leaders before the event to indicate your attendance and whether you can offer or would like a car space.

April 2013

Saturday 13th 11.00am Fungal Foray Dalbeth (Hopkirk's birthplace) joint with CAFG Meet at St. Peter's Cemetery car park (NS632627). Should the gates be closed for any reason then the meeting place will be at the main entrance on London Road (NS633629). Leader Dick Peebles. dick.peebles@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday 14th April - Photography Walk, Mugdock Country Park

David Palmar is running a wildlife-orientated photography walk at Mugdock Country Park (Not a GNHS event). Members may be interested in improving their photographic skills and having some exercise at the same time! It costs £20 for the day from 10am to 4pm. Booking is through Mugdock Country Park. Details are on www.photoscot.co.uk/info/Mugdock.aspx.

Sunday 21st 11.00-15.00 Loch Libo. Flowering plants, trees, bryophytes, insects, snails, birds. Meet at lay-by on the A736 beside Loch Libo at the NE end of the Loch, NS355588. Public transport: Stagecoach X44 Glasgow to Ardrossan goes along the A736. The excursion will return to the cars. Terrain: Paths around the north end and down the far side of the loch. The paths are not made up and may well be muddy in places but are not difficult to walk on. Bring packed lunch, waterproof footwear, clothing etc. Most ID will be around not in the loch! Leader James Milner-White.

Sunday 21st 11am Fungal Foray at Hamilton Low Parks joint with CAFG. Meet at car park immediately NE of the first roundabout as you enter Hamilton from the M74 (Junction 6). NS728555. Leader Graeme Walker.

Saturday 27th - Sun 28th Argyllshire Weekend staying Fri and Sat at Loch Sween Caravan Park. Saturday: Shore walk 11.00am, meet at Clachan, Bridge over the Atlantic PA34 4QZ. We will also look for beaver activity – Loch Sween area
Leaders: Morag Mackinnon and Mary Childs. We are planning to get to Loch Sween on the Friday to stay at the Caravan Park at Castle Sween PS31 8PT. We have one 3 bed caravan booked for the weekend Fri 26 and Sat 27th (approximately £20 per night). Bring your own food for breakfasts and packed lunch for Sunday. There is a restaurant/bar at the reception on site so we can eat there on Friday and Saturday if we wish. It would be appreciated if anyone wanting to stay makes contact soon, so we can book extra caravans if needed.

Saturday is one of the best tides this year. We plan to start our shore walk by 11.30am to give us a decent time before low water at 1.19pm. Meet at 11am have a coffee in the old Inn, the Tigh an Truish (PA34 4QZ) right beside the bridge, and have soup and baguettes later. We can then go south to Loch Sween and see what activity can be seen in the beavers' area.

Sunday is another opportunity to enjoy the woodland walks in the area and search for beaver activity.

Bring: Wellies needed for shore walk and it could also be wet underfoot looking for beavers. Warm clothing, camera, binoculars and collecting bucket. We will have identification books and sampling trays. Midges we hope will still be dormant!

Sunday 28th April: 11am Fungal Foray Daldowie Woods joint with CAFG. Meet at the car park beside Park Rangers offices NS674619 and not the crematorium car park which lies around 350 m to the East. Leader Robin Jones.

May

Sun 12th 10.30am River Gryffe Lade Walk, Bridge of Weir to Craigends. Birds, Plants and Local History. Meet at Bridge of Weir main shopping car park (NS387657) Leader Alison Moss. Directions to Bridge of Weir main car park. A761 Brookfield - Bridge of Weir - Kilmacolm Road. Car park is marked with big P and is on right, travelling West through village.

Public transport - hourly bus service from Buchanan St. Nearest railway station is Johnstone. Car sharing recommended Length 1.5miles each way. It will be possible to leave a car at Craigends if anyone wants to walk one way only. Terrain: Easy, but walking boots strongly advisable Bring: Packed lunch

Sat 18th 10.00am Seven Lochs Wetland Park Visit Froglife excursion. Meet at School Car Park (next to sports pitches), 100 Avenue End Road G33 3SW. (NS 64735 66975) to visit new 7 Lochs Wetland Project Leaders: Robert Williams (Froglife) and Scott Ferguson (7 Lochs)

Location: Conditions: Walking easy, although dress for all weathers and walking boots and wellies are highly recommended. A packed lunch is required as the walk is likely to carry on until around 2pm. Summary: This walk will be split into two halves. The first half of the walk will be spent looking at some of the work conducted as part of Froglife's Glasgow Living Water Project. The second part of the walk will be a walk and talk about the plans for the proposed Seven Loch Wetland

Park. 'Seven Lochs' is a plan to set up an new Country Park extending from NE Glasgow into N Lanarkshire - Hogganfield to Drumpellier.

Thursday 23rd 7.00pm Trees: Hogganfield Loch Meet at main car park on Cumbernauld Road. NS638673. Bob Gray.

June

Sunday 2nd 9.45am Falls of Clyde Peregrines - David Palmar; Plants - Alison Moss and Moths - Jo Davis. Meet at Car Park, Falls of Clyde, New Lanark Road. (NS647669)

Sat/Sun 15/16th Tree Weekend - Borders Traquair House, Innerleithen. Leader - Bob Gray. We're spoilt for choice; but Sir Walter Scott's plantings and heritage trees will loom large in the weekend's arrangements. Bryophytes and birds as well as woodland management techniques and the ecology and biodiversity of this iconic area of Tweeddale.

Sat/Sun 22/23rd Conference Natives, Aliens and Re-introductions

Sun 23rd Afternoon - Local Excursions; see www.gnhs.org.uk/2013conference.html



Peregrine Falcon by David Palmar (www.photoscot.co.uk/)

Thursday 27th 7pm Trees, Maxwell Park. Meet at west corner, St Andrew's Drive entrance. NS565629. Bob Gray.

Sunday 30th 10.00am Shore walk, Great Cumbrae. Meet at Largs Ferry terminal (or in Nardini's opposite from 9.20) Mary Child.

We will take only one car across and can drive everyone around to the north end of Cumbrae where we will be going down to the shore. Low water is at 12.10 so we should have plenty of time to find a multitude of exciting marine life. Bring wellies and a bucket if you have one. You might also like to bring a packed lunch, as (weather permitting) we will spend some time looking at what we have found after the walk.

July

Wednesday 3rd 7.00pm Botany "By Bothwell Banks". Meet at Bothwell Castle Car Park, G71 8BL. (NS688594). Leader John Lyth Jct 1A on M74 to Uddingston, follow Main St B7071 to Castle Ave

Wednesday 17 July (evening) - Botanical recording - Peter Macpherson.

Saturday 20th 10.30am Argaty Red Kite Centre, Doune. Wildflower meadow, Dragonfly ponds and visit to hide – Red Kite Feeding Station, led by Head Ranger Mike McDonnell. Meet just past Lerrocks Farm Cottages, Argaty, Doune FK16 6EJ (NN739030); duration TBD. George Paterson Cost £10. Book early
<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?=273842&Y=704102&A=Y&Z=120>

Travel North to the end of the M9, passing Stirling on your right. At the Keir Roundabout take second exit A9 for Perth. Just over 1 mile along the A9, take the first exit for A820, Dunblane and Doune. After 0.7 miles turn right at the signpost to Argaty and brown tourist board sign to Argaty Red Kite Viewing. (This is the second right turn.) The road forks immediately: keep to the left. Continue for just over 1 mile to a junction with a bungalow and bus shelter in front of you. Take right turn, signposted Argaty, Lerrocks and the Lundies - the road is marked as a No Through Road. Please drive carefully - this road is narrow and winding.

Continue for just under 1 mile, passing Argaty House, the former walled garden and negotiating a bad bend! You will come uphill through trees and then out on to the flat where you will see Lerrocks Farm in front of you. The road takes a left turn along the foot of the farm (do not take the private drive up into the farm) and the car park lies on the right just beyond the buildings. Park there and you will be met by the leader and ranger. Terrain possibly muddy. Bring: walking boots, waterproofs, midge repellent, binoculars, packed lunch.

August

Saturday 10th 10.30am Botany - Bowling Harbour. Meet at the overflow car park NS 452735. Leader Pam Murdoch. Explore the Harbour Basin itself and then walk through scrub/woodland to the Clyde, along the foreshore and back via the Forth and Clyde canal towpath. Bring packed lunch.

Directions: Take the A82 west. About 1 km after the Erskine Bridge junctions, take the deceleration lane on the L giving access to the A814. Turn R for Bowling. Once in Bowling take 1st lane on L, signed for Canal and Cycle Path. Keep L, straight ahead over speed bumps to overflow car park at the end by the canal. (The parking at the harbour itself is more limited) Alternatively take the train to Bowling and walk back through the village, under disused railway bridge, turn R following signs for Cycle path and Canal.

Saturday 17th 9.45am Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST); boat trip round Marine Conservation Area and over to the Holy Isle; limited to 12 on boat. Meet Ardrossan Ferry Terminal to get the 9.45 to Arran. Morag Mackinnon

This boat trip is subsidised by BES so is free to members. Max 12 for boat. Book early.

Be on the train at Central Station for the 8.34 to Ardrossan or meet for the 9.45 ferry to Brodick—cost £11.05 return. Arrive Arran 10.40 and get bus to Lamlash to meet Katie Thomson, Community of Arran Seabed Trust. 01770 600 656/0773 843 0831 <http://www.arrancoast.com/>. Old Haybarn, Park Terr, Lamlash. KA27 8NB for talk and shore scramble. Boat Owner Russell Cheshire will take max. 12 for boat trip round bay and Holy Isle. Return to get 16.40 or 19.20 ferry back. Arrive

Glasgow by train at latest 21.25. Bring packed lunch and warm and waterproof clothing.

September

Saturday 7th 10.30 am Spiders and other invertebrates , Ayr Gorge Woodlands SWT Reserve. Meet near bus shelter, Failford (NS459261) Share cars from Mauchline car park (NS496272). Leadera Gill Smart (SWT) and Chris Catherine.

10.30-mid afternoon. Grid reference for entrance from Failford village is NS459260. Parking is limited so car sharing strongly recommended. There is a free public car park in Mauchline (NS496272) if anyone wants to reduce car numbers further before travelling onward to Failford for 10:30. Excursion returns to start point. Directions to meeting place: A77 from Glasgow; A76 (T) to Cumnock; at Mauchline B743 to Ayr; Failford is approximately 4 km from Mauchline. Bus shelter is opposite Failford Inn.

Public Transport option if available: Buses from Ayr are half hourly and take about 30 minutes (www.transportdirect.info) Terrain: good paths but some steep slopes and long flights of steps.

Bring: Packed lunch, warm waterproof clothing, sturdy boots/wellies. If possible – hand lens, pooter, sweep net, collecting pots. Leaders Gill Smart (SWT) Chris Cathrine.

Sunday 8th 11.00 Fungal Foray Bothwell Castle Woods joint with CAFG. Meet at Bothwell Castle Car Park, G71 8BL (NS688594). See website/Newsletter for leader details.

'TEK' Equipment

Richard Weddle

As we are within sight of the next field-recording season – if indeed there is a break - it seems a good time to remind everyone that the Society possesses a number of items of equipment for the use of members. Many of these were purchased with the aid of a recent generous bequest from Thomas E Kinsey.

The list indicates that some items are 'in use'; this does not necessarily mean that they would not be available to others for a short time. However, there are also some items that have been purchased for particular research projects, and will not be available until the end of those projects. Items such as nets and sorting trays are sometimes needed for GNHS field excursions and other such events. GNHS Council do stipulate that requests to use items for any significant length of time should be supported by an outline of the project for which they are required, and that the results should be submitted for publication in *The Glasgow Naturalist*.

I should also point out that though the bat-detector is quite easy to use, it requires some training and experience to interpret what it picks up, and the Longworth traps can only legally be used by a trained and licensed operator.

If you'd like to borrow any item, contact me; or I can put you in touch with the current holder of the equipment.

Description	Availability	In care of
6 compound microscopes	occasional use	Hunterian Museum - Geoff Hancock
10 Longworth mammal traps	occasional use	Countryside Ranger Service
Batbox Duet bat detector	occasional use	Richard Weddle
2 Garmin GPS (basic)	1 in use	Ian McCallum, Richard Weddle
2 Garmin eTrex GPS	1 in use	Richard Weddle
Skinner moth trap (mains operated)	In use	Anne Orchardson
Heath moth trap (battery operated)	occasional use*	Richard Weddle
2 pond nets: large / small	occasional use	Richard Weddle
2 sweep nets: large / small	occasional use	Richard Weddle
3 butterfly nets	1 in frequent use	Richard Weddle
3 beating trays	occasional use	Richard Weddle
emergence traps (80)	most available	Richard Weddle
3 sorting trays	occasional use	Richard Weddle
4 remote video cameras	available	Richard Weddle
camera traps (3)	enquire#	Stewart White
data loggers	not available	Anna Muir

* there are additional Heath traps owned by Butterfly Conservation SW Scotland, which may be available for use by GNHS members.

may be available by arrangement

PhotoSCENE 2012 Natural History Photographic Competition

This year there was a vastly improved entry of 59 pictures, mostly of excellent quality, from 14 entrants.

Prizes were presented at the Natural History Photographic Night in February. Unfortunately a few entries had to be disqualified for not obeying the competition rules, in particular the requirement for a minimum size of 6 megapixels. Future entrants should seek guidance on this if unsure.

The prizewinners were:

4th Prize - Gillian Simpson for Tree Frog

3rd Prize Mandy Glass for 6 Spot Burnet Moth

2nd Prize – Sarah Longrigg for Grass of Parnassus with Red Soldier Beetles

1st Prize – Gillian Simpson for White-necked Jacobin Humming Bird (over)



PhotoSCENE 2013

An announcement will be made soon by email about this year's photographic competition.

Anyone who does not have an email address but would like details should contact David Palmar.

Excursion Reports

King's Park Fungus Foray, 20th October 2012

Robin Jones

The foray began at the north entrance to King's Park on a sunny morning. The first finds were "usual suspects" including *Stereum hirsutum* and *Xylaria hypoxylon* (candlesnuff) and as the leader's only other excursion to this park had only produced a few species, this insubstantial start gave no indication that by the end of the foray several pages would be filled in his notebook.

As we climbed over the hill and descended towards the lower park, we found fine, large stands of the clouded agaric *Clitocybe nebularis*, then the ear fungus *Auricularia auricula-judae* typically growing on elder. The oyster fungus *Pleurotus ostreatus* was growing from an old dead tree and as we reached the limes (*Tilia*) west of the house numerous attractive colonies of the beautiful translucent pink *Mycena pura* grew from the leaf litter, resulting in a stop for photography. Here too Morag found the "white Brain" jelly fungus *Exidia thuretiana*.

Moving south, the black sclerotia of ergot (*Claviceps purpurea*) were spotted on cocksfoot grass by Neil and the shaggy Pholiota (*P. squarrosa*) was growing from its most frequent host, an ash (*Fraxinus*) tree.

The grass in front of the main house and in particular, the standard trees growing there produced further finds. Near a copper beech were *Russula fellea*, *R. ochroleuca*, two deceivers *Laccaria laccata* and *L. amethystina*, the red-bleeding *Mycena haematopus*, the porcelain fungus *Oudemansiella mucida* and those with their nose close to the ground spotted the yellow, pale-tipped tongues of *Clavulinopsis luteoalba*, peeking above the sward.

Further species were added under oak, including the dark red *Russula atropurpurea*, the oak milk cap *Lactarius quietus* and *Mycena galopus* which also bleeds white milk, while a standard beech produced the furry white caps of *Coprinus lagopus*, the yellow clubs of *Clavulinopsis helvola*, *Lactarius subdulcis* and *Tricholoma scioides*.

A look under a group of yew trees near the park depot filled another page with species such as *Inocybe geophilla* var *alba*, the puffball *Lycoperdon pyriforme*, some large shaggy ink caps *Coprinus comatus*, the bracket *Grifola frondosa*, the wood blewit *Lepista nuda*, one of the honey fungus species *Armillaria gallica*, the weeping widow *Lacrymaria velutina*, *Melanoleuca cognata*, the fruity smelling *Gynopilus penetrans* and further good examples of *Clitocybe nebularis* and *Xylaria thuretiana*.

Our enthusiasm boosted further, we moved into the garden area where in the grass was found the parrot waxcap *Hygrocybe psittacina* and under a small yew, our third club fungus species *Clavulinopsis corniculata*. The walled garden added *Coprinus plicatilis* and an *Agaricus* sp. which was not pinned down. Finally near the house the fine yellow caps of *Gymnopilus junonius* were found on a stump.

King's Park had produced more species than we had dared hope for. But it was most likely due to the fact that it contains a variety of habitats and substrates in such a compact area. It will be well worth a future foray.

Fungus Foray, Kelvingrove Park, 28 October 2012

Robin Jones

A band of GNHS and Clyde and Argyll Fungus Group members met behind the Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery on what began as a dry day. The leader mentioned at a recent GNHS meeting that earth stars would be seen, which he knew because of a previous visit to the park. The band would not be disappointed!

The leader had first noted old, dried fruit-bodies of the earth stars, from the previous autumn, in the early summer and had considered them to be one of two possible species. Now with fresh specimens it was plain from the 'collar' around the 'puffball' centre that the species was *Geastrum triplex*.

However, it is worth remembering that the collar can be lost in old specimens making differentiation from the closely related *Geastrum striatum*, which also has similar microscopic features, difficult. When old and dry the central pore of *G. triplex* can attain an exaggerated striated look. Further, some old specimens had several circular holes in the peristome, possibly the result of insects, but making it at first uncannily like the rare 'Pepperpot' *Myriostoma coliforme*, which had at first caused a bout of unfulfilled enthusiasm!

The earth stars were present in large numbers, of differing sizes and stages growing amid leaf litter in the garden area and members cameras were soon given much use. There were also still some small *Bolbitius titubans* var *titubans* (previously *B. vitellinus*).

As we progressed along the Kelvinside, the rain made itself increasingly evident. A group of brown, white-stemmed *Cortinarius* sp noted and photographed previously were now less fresh, but still worth seeing, even though they had, like many of that genus, defied identification to species.

Several common species were observed, the most notable being some fine specimens of the clouded agaric *Clitocybe nebularis*. As we reached the Kelvin Way bridge the rain became severe and our spirits were somewhat alleviated by the largest *G. triplex* yet seen, growing right beside the bridge.

The group then spent some time looking at some fine specimens of *Pholiota squarrosa* on the bases of some *Fraxinus* trees, but could not be persuaded to go a few hundred yards further into the park where the leader knew even finer specimens could be seen. Instead, now soaked like the proverbial drowned rats, the leader called an end to the foray. Many members retreated to their warm and dry homes, while a group headed to the nearest hostelry, there to raise glasses to toast Hopkirk, as is our custom after C&AFG forays.

Letter from the Goldenland 4 A Centre of Excellence of Mistletoe?

Jim Dickson and Geneviève Lécivain

The French name for Mistletoe is Gui; the g is hard, the pronunciation being like the Scots gie, meaning give. One of the first things to strike a Scottish botanist in Franche-Comté is the abundance of Gui (*Viscum album*), a plant rarely noticed in Scotland where it is not native. There was a plant low down on the trunk of a Common Lime in Glasgow University campus (no longer there – Bob Gray). There is a bigger population in the middle of Edinburgh where some spread has taken place. Sparse other records have been made in Scotland. So that does not amount to much but here in Haute-Saône this parasite simply cannot be missed. All I have to do is walk down past the fruit trees to the end of Jenny's back garden and there it is on an old Plum tree. However, it is particularly noticeable on the many plantations of Poplars (Peupliers, the often planted *Populus x euamericana*, a hybrid of *Populus nigra*). These trees can be infested, as can Willows and Apple trees. The crown of an old Apple can appear more Mistletoe than Apple.

The hosts as seen by us in Haute-Saône are Apple (*Malus domestica*), Birch (*Betula pendula*), Black Locust (*Robinia pseudacacia*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Plum (*Prunus domestica*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Poplar (*Populus* spp), Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*), Willows (*Salix* spp).

Though short, this list makes the point that Gui grows on many different trees, as on Scots Pines in Tyrol but not in Scotland. In recent scientific papers no less than

27 different host trees have been found in central Warsaw and 59 species, cultivars and hybrids of trees are claimed as hosts in Croatia and Slovenia. Though here in Haute-Saône Poplars in general are very susceptible, it seems the commonly planted Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra* cv. *italica*) is resistant (photos 1 and 2). In Warsaw the Polish botanists noted 612 trees of *Populus x euamericana* but only one Lombardy Poplar with Gui.

It is easy to find Lombardy Poplar totally lacking Gui very close to other Poplars which in winter can look partly green because of the abundant growth of the parasite, as seen in Photos 1 and 2.



Poplars along the Saône canal Mear Chemilly, every one with Gui. November 2012.



At Poncey, six infested Poplars with, to the right, two Lombardy Poplars (with the upright branches) free of Gui. December 2012.

There is no Oak on our list (*Quercus robur*) though we have been told of one place where Gui grows on Oak in Haute-Saône. It seems rarely on Oak anywhere. So how come the druids with golden sickles could gather Mistletoe from Oak, as perhaps on Angelsey, an island where Gui does not grow now (if it ever did)? That story comes from Pliny the Elder. Is it fully trustworthy? We have our doubts, as they say.

However, our scepticism may be misplaced regarding a special interest in Gui by the British (and/or other Celts) because of a very remarkable, intriguing, recent archaeological discovery from Germany. At Glauberg in Hesse the excavators dug up a life-size stone statue of a "Celtic Prince" from about 500 BC. He sports a headdress shaped convincingly like an opposite pair of Gui leaves. The shape is right even to the two not being a symmetrically matching pair.

Next Newsletter - copy to David Palmar by 22nd July 2013 please.

Contributions by members – long or short - are particularly welcomed. Please send contributions by email, preferably as .rtf, .doc or docx (Word 2007) format. If you have time, please italicise taxonomic names, and use **Verdana** font, size **12 points**.

Photos are welcome – if you have taken a good one, please send it to David for inclusion in the Newsletter, especially if it illustrates an aspect of the work of GNHS, e.g. if it was taken on one of our excursions. If sending photos, please send jpgs under 100Kb each.