

 **Annual Members Meeting** held on Tuesday 28th March at 1900

via Zoom.

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|  | **Present** | Chair - Roger Cottis, Secretary –Rob Ware, Treasurer - Lindsay Thatcher, Eileen Armstrong, James Merryweather and Melanie Watt, Alan Drever, Tim Godfrey, Paddy Sherwell, Stephen Bungard, James Merryweather, Caroline Vawdrey, Dave Phillips, Dr Tom Stanton, Claire Boothby, David Ashford, Sara Stephenson, Dorothy Jackson, Martin Hynd, Vanessa Charles. |
|  | **Welcome:** | The Chair welcomed everyone and advised that the session will be recorded for minutes purposes and for online distribution. |
|  | **Apologies for absence:** | Peggy Semler, Peg Shaw, Alison MacLennan, Cathryn Baillie, Shona Irvine |
|  | **Minutes of AMM held on 1/03/2022** | These were approved by Eileen Armstrong and seconded by Stephen Bungard. |
|  | **Office Bearers’ Reports.** | Chair: Covid continued to restrict our outdoor activities. However, SSSI has continued to look to the future. The problems with the ROV have been addressed, but we await sea trials to test the changes, especially with the compass heading GPS system.Having lost the survey boat pontoon we have managed to secure funds to invest in a mobile pontoon with its own mooring, which will greatly assist with the safety issues.Since the closure of Struan primary school Eileen & Lindsay are still supporting the same teachers, but now with the Ocean School at Dunvegan.To enable us to consider outdoor projects we do need volunteers across the age spectrum, but especially a younger element who could gain valuable experience. Possible Wildflower Meadows & E-DNA projects.We have obtained funding from the Coastal Communities Network to conduct long-term temperature monitoring surveys of marine molluscs and their environment using **‘robolimpets’**.  These are artificial limpets made from resin and contain tiny temperature loggers made by Electric Blue in Portugal.   Working in partnership with two other community run groups: Knoydart Climate Action and Friends of Loch Hourn, the units will be deployed in the springtime at chosen sites, four sites in each area.  For Skye and Lochalsh the sites are Ord, Loch Bracadale at Struan, Loch Dunvegan and Loch Long at Dornie.  The other sites will be in Loch Hourn and Loch Nevis.  This project will feed results into Newcastle University and be shared with MarClim, an International Climate Change Surveillance project and NatureScot.  We have also assisted Vanessa Charles and Martin Hynd in obtaining Gramper GPS systems. The units rise to the surface which will enable accurate location data to be gathered when recording marine species. Breakish Windfarm consultation with response to Scottish Government. Together with Bob McMillan, Skye Birds, one of our members, we produced a report on migrating birds, which illustrated how concerning a windfarm proposal can be on an historical migratory route.Lindsay has continued her badger sett surveillance and this year we have seen activity suggesting cubs were born in January. James Merryweather has now created the new SLEF and SST-T YouTube channels and these will be added as a News Item on our website and Facebook page. Treasurer: Lindsay Thatcher gave a brief report on SLEF’s financial status and the links below show the income and expenditure for the FY ended 31st March 2022.<http://bit.ly/3FZymxZ>Please note that this report is for y/e 2022 and not 2021 as stated.<https://bit.ly/3zfZB3K>It was noted that much of SLEF’s and SSSI’s income is marked as Restricted Funds that have been earmarked for specific projects. One such example is the figure of £3,600 which is held specifically for marine litter projects and/or for a support vessel. This follows a donation from former residents of Skye. The £3,600 is being held on behalf of a Skye marine litter group (name?) until they resurrect their plans to purchase a support boat for their activities.Secretary: Rob Ware said that this was his second Members Meeting having become the secretary in May 2021. We now have around 100 members and supporters in SLEF, all of which receive our quarterly newsletters via Mailchimp. There is generally around 55% read rate for our electronic publications which for similar sector organisations is good. We try to encourage younger people to become members or supporters but if any names are on our database that wish to unsubscribe please let us know. Finally, sincere thanks to all of those who have contributed articles and photographs for the newsletters and if you would like to add a piece for the next edition please get in touch.   |
|  | **To elect the Trustees.** | Roger Cottis, James Merryweather, Lindsay Thatcher, Rob Ware, Eileen Armstrong and Melanie Watt had earlier affirmed their intention to stand again as Trustees for the coming year and these were all ratified by proposal and seconding. Roger Cottis agreed to continue as Chair and James Merryweather agreed to continue as vice-chair of SLEF.  This was agreed unanimously. |
|  | **To appoint an Independent Financial Examiner.** | Sarah Stephenson was reaffirmed as SLEF’s Independent Financial Examiner which was unanimously approved by members. |
|  | **AOCB.** | 1. Stephen Bungard spoke about the new UK Plant Atlas 2020 which can be found [here.](https://plantatlas2020.org/) Stephen has kindly agreed to contribute an article on this topic for the early summer newsletter.
2. James Merryweather asserted again that SLEF needs to attract young people, both to its membership and board of trustees.
3. David Ashford advised that Lochalsh Youth Community Trust is hoping to engage a youth worker with the support of Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust.
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Presentations:

Dr Tom Stanton from the University of Loughborough gave an enthralling presentation of his work on the study of marine litter.

You can see this at the following link.

[**https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/4z00hauxuav27na6znuys/Intro-to-50-years-of-litter-on-Skye.pptx?dl=0&rlkey=6x0n5pzsmzqniqlnjo3kl6fnu**](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/4z00hauxuav27na6znuys/Intro-to-50-years-of-litter-on-Skye.pptx?dl=0&rlkey=6x0n5pzsmzqniqlnjo3kl6fnu)

Claire Boothby from the Bat Conservation Trust presented on the new NatureScot ‘Species on the Edge’ initiative.

You can see this at the following link.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/wrszzurvnizp6fi4qm8he/Scottish-Bat-Workers-Conference-2023-1.pptx?dl=0&rlkey=opmj24iv492950yc8zmaueznx>

To watch the recording on Zoom of the 2023 Annual Meeting click the link below from Google Drive.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UKvhgiUzm79v6b6BAIZkN4hvUZu_SHjo/view?usp=share_link>