

## Chairman's Welcome

**S**nowdrops are out; Spring is coming. All will be well. Those of you who came to any of the events on Sunday 26th November to commemorate the death 60 years ago of Major Alan Gordon, who gave a very well financially endowed Threave Estate to the National Trust for Scotland, could not have failed to be proud to be associated with his legacy. We had fascinating talks from Bill Hean about the setting up of the School of Gardening and from Colonel Sir William Mahon, Irish Guards about Major Gordon's military career - he was a very brave man. The service in St Ninian's Church was beautiful with tributes to Major Gordon from Amanda Herries on the Trust's behalf and from Patrick Little who spoke for the congregation - past, present and future - in gratitude for the legacy he left.

It was lovely to see so many members at the Winter Gathering at Threave House and it was particularly wonderful, I thought, to be singing carols with friends.

Our talks have all been well attended and there is only the AGM followed by the talk on Seaweed to go before we begin our Summer Programme.

## Our Forthcoming Events

**E**nclosed with this newsletter, you will find details of our summer programme, commencing on Monday 12 March with our AGM followed by Gavin Hardy "Seaweeds : everything you wanted to know and a lot more - including cooking tips!"

On Friday 13 April, we will host Gardeners' Question Time with a panel of experts - come with your questions and any specimens you wish identifying or diagnosing!

Our programme continues the gardening theme on Wednesday 16 May with a Bluebell Walk and Talk through the Carstramon Woods, followed by tea provided by your Committee. Please wear walking shoes and bring wet weather clothing.

On Wednesday 13 June, we will be hosting an Orchid Lunch at Colvend. A good ranger led walk to view the rare orchids followed by lunch in Clive and Faith Sinclair's charming home. The walk will be challenging. If you do not feel up to it you are very welcome to sit in Kirkland's lovely peaceful garden until the intrepid explorers return to join you for lunch! Strong boots, sticks and wet weather clothing.

We conclude our Summer Programme with The Galloway Fling on Saturday 7 July (please note change of date). We will meet at Anwoth House for a reception and canapés, then stroll down to the church for a sumptuous feast followed by uncomplicated reels! The dancing should be fun and there will be the opportunity to take the floor in more gentle dances in between the reels. Dress: Black Tie Scottish Style with as much Tartan as you can muster!

There will be a practice in the church the day before, Friday 6 July, starting at 5.30 so that we can all refresh our memories and get our toes pointing. Let us know on the booking form if you would like to come to the practice; we need approximately the right number of people to make up sets.

All these events will be great fun so do come and support them and please encourage your friends to come with you. Even if they are not members, hopefully they will realise how friendly we are and what a good and interesting time we have. And the whole point is to support the Trust in Dumfries and Galloway and also within the wider trust nationwide.

## Our Future Plans

**I** am particularly minded as your Chairman that the GMG should support the Appeal for Hill House, Helensburgh - the Rennie Mackintosh House whose fabric, despite huge efforts by the Trust, is crumbling under the onslaught of the weather. The plan is to encase the whole house within a transparent protective casing whilst repairs are made. Three-quarters of the funding is in place through grants, but the

## GALLOWAY MEMBERS' GROUP Newsletter Spring 2018

Trust is appealing for £1.5 million to complete the project. Your committee has agreed to make a donation of £1,000 towards this appeal.

We are hoping to help set up a way to help local schools with transport to take part in educational activities at Threave and our other properties, to help with a proposed archaeological dig at Rockcliffe and with items on Richard Polley's Wish List for Threave and Broughton House. We will make some additions to the playground at Threave so that children can be occupied whilst their parents relax over lunch in the charming Stables cafe!

### **How you can help**

**Y**ou can help GMG in the following ways: Please encourage your friends to join us as members of GMG – there is a Membership Form enclosed with this newsletter

Included with this Newsletter are nomination forms for the Committee as we will be needing two new members at the AGM.

Our secretary Gwen Shaw is retiring at the 2019 AGM having done 4 years in the position. It would be a huge help if one of you would volunteer to join us now with a view to taking over in a year's time.

If there is something or someone that you feel would be of interest to our members do let us know and we can arrange a talk or outing round it.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM and at our Summer Events.

Chairman Susie Ross

### **Treasurer's Report**

**W**e closed the year in good financial health with over £11,000 in the bank. The Committee felt that this money should be passed back to NTS. As a result, we were able to agree further donations to NTS of just under £7,000, leaving us with a still healthy balance in the bank. The Financial Statements will be circulated for approval at the

forthcoming AGM.

You may be aware of a forthcoming change in the legislation surrounding Data Protection, which will affect GMG. The legislation, known as GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), is effective from May 2018. GDPR emphasises that personal data is owned by you, the individual member, and not by GMG, and therefore we must ensure that we only use the data for the purposes for which you have given permission.

The information you have provided (on your membership or event booking form) is used by us for the following purposes:

- Administration of memberships
- Administration of events
- Communication of information to you about GMG and NTS through newsletters and email alerts
- Reclaim of Gift Aid from HMRC (if applicable)

Any personal data you provide is only used for the purposes stated above. We do not share information about you with any other third parties or non-regulatory bodies.

We have reviewed the legislation and have made some minor changes to the data we keep; as a result, we believe that GMG comply with the new legislation. You are entitled to receive a copy of the data we hold, and you can do this by writing to me at Lochbank, Buchan, Castle Douglas, DG7 1TH or by an email to me at ([richard.j.andrews@btinternet.com](mailto:richard.j.andrews@btinternet.com)).

Treasurer Richard Andrews

### **Lyon & Turnbull Valuation Day**

**A** date for your diary – Threave will be hosting a Valuation Day with Lyon and Turnbull – the well-known Scottish auctioneers – on Saturday 17 March at Threave Garden Visitor Centre from 11am to 3pm. Bring along your treasures to be valued by a team of experts – three items for £10. All proceeds to NTS Threave Garden. Terrace Café will be open for teas, coffees, scones and light lunches.