

HNHS WINTER OUTING 2015

The HNHS winter outing this year was held on Saturday 21st Feb with a visit to the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. Twenty members travelled through by bus, enjoying some lovely sunny weather.

We were given an introductory talk from Garden Supervisor Tony Garn about the John Hope Gateway building, which is the Garden's biodiversity and information centre and has an interesting sustainable design, including a green roof, wind turbine, water recycling and natural lighting.

Members were then free to explore the rest of the garden, including exhibitions on urban bees, photography competition and edible gardening in the Gateway building and paintings by Raoul De Keyser in Inverleith House. There were also the various glasshouses and the new Alpine House to see, and displays of spring bulbs.

The good weather was ideal for nature spotting - with the grey squirrels as entertaining as ever. Native plants flowering included snowdrop, primrose, hazel and gorse; while the cultivated plants in bloom included varieties of hellebore, crocus, viburnum, primula and rhododendron. Birds were quite active, with dunnock, wood pigeon, blackbird, chaffinch, blue tit, crow, mallard duck, moorhen and black-headed gull seen. A note from the garden staff recorded sightings from the previous two weeks with badgers, bullfinch, goldcrest, stock dove, sparrowhawk, great spotted woodpecker, wren, tree creeper, tawny owl, mistle and song thrush, goldfinch, greenfinch, siskin, redwing, heron and kingfisher recorded amongst others. On the way home, a flock of curlew (with some oystercatchers) were seen grazing on the pitch of the Inverleith rugby club at Ferry Road.

For more information on the Urban Bees project, have a look at:
www.urbanbees.eu

