

The Alice McCosh Trust Newsletter

Autumn 2016

2014-15 AWARD HOLDERS

ANDREA M. BARDEN

Andrea undertook surveys in Northern Cyprus during 2015 to investigate if two different types of habitats, specifically field margins and riparian margins supported similar levels of butterfly diversity throughout the year.



Lycaena thersaon (Lesser Fiery Copper)

Andrea's preliminary results suggest that in the spring butterfly species richness is similar in both locations, however as summer progresses species richness in field margins declines. In contrast species richness in riparian margins increases during summer months. The full results will be published later in the year and will include conservation management approaches.

2015-16 AWARD

The Alice McCosh Trust was able to make two awards again. There were over 30 strong applications and the successful candidates are:

- Lee Raye for expenses associated with translation of *Scotia Illustrata* from Latin into English; and
- Rafiq Kasim for field work to study Leopards in the Okavango Delta.

We look forward to hearing from these two successful applicants later in the year.

NATASHA PHILLIPS

Natasha spent the summer in Italy in the Portofino Marine Protected Area attempting to catch ocean sunfish (*Mola mola*) to determine their diet using non-destructive techniques. Despite previous records showing hundreds of sunfish each year, the 2015 summer season had the lowest numbers in living memory.



Natasha was, however, able to obtain essential data for her PhD and aims to publish her results in the near future.

2016-17 AWARD

Applications for next year are now open. The closing date is the 30th November 2016 and the successful applicant will be announced early in 2017.

CARDS FOR SALE

Christmas cards and blank notelets of three different designs (Gecko, Mouse and Butterfly) can be ordered on The Alice McCosh Trust website.





PAST AWARDS

The Alice McCosh Trust was first registered under the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator in 2006. It was established in order to perpetuate Alice's name and encourage talented, energetic youngsters to pursue the things that Alice loved during her life.

The Trust made its first award in the 2007-08 financial year. Since then the Trust has made further awards each year including the two described above. The following is a summary of the other projects that The Alice McCosh has been supporting over the years in memory of Alice.

- Alexis Pridmore, from the University of Aberdeen, spent three months in Zambia collecting extensive ecological data within the Kasanka National Park focusing on biodiversity, parasitic burden and habitat ecology of dry season bats.
- Marten Lewis, from the Darwin Centre, co-ordinated three summer clubs for children, aged between 5-16, to learn about the natural history of the Pembrokeshire coast.
- The St Thomas More School took school children to North Wales in September 2010.
- Alex Pickwell, from the University of Lincoln, carried out surveys to examine the preferred habitat conditions of the Norfolk hawker dragonfly, and the possible effects of increased salinization.
- Christopher Tranter, from the University of Leeds, spent some time in Panama and collected 68 different species of ants. Ultimately he was hoping the information will be used in helping understand how life history changes can lead to differences in parasite and pathogen pressures and how social insect species have adapted to these risks through investment in disease resistance.
- Susanne Masters, from the University of Kent, undertook fieldwork in southwestern Turkey, looking at threats to wild orchids such as land use changes, habitat loss and collection for consumption.
- Annette Fayet, from the University of Oxford undertook fieldwork amongst Manx shearwaters, a seabird, in Pembrokeshire, Wales. The research involved attaching miniature GPS trackers to both adult birds and juveniles, and tracking their movements over the sea as they foraged for food. The results are fascinating, showing that some birds travelled hundreds of miles over a period of a week or two.