

Arboricultural Association  
Scottish Branch  
Meeting minutes  
Wednesday 14 January 2026, 18.30pm, Zoom



**Highlighting** indicates actions

Present: Simon Stuart, Mike Charkow, Ruthe Davies, Matthew Cooper, Mark Foster, Chris Knapman and Callum Braithwaite.

1. Apologies for absence: Ronnie Barker, Nick Porter and Thomas Brock.
2. Minutes from meeting October 8 – approved
3. Items
  - a. 2025 events
    - i. Field trip to Burghie was attended by a small group and went well. **SS** is going to write up the event for the magazine.
  - b. Ancient tree conference/AGM
    - i. CK reports that the Ancient Tree Conference is at an advanced stage of organisation. He has drafted a promotional article for the spring magazine. The programme has been drafted – an excellent speaker line-up and some art/photography. Afternoon speakers are Scotland-focused. Second day will be a field trip to the Cadzow Oaks at Chatelherault.
    - ii. AGM will take place concurrently on the following day. Hoping to book Dalkeith but this is not confirmed yet – **MCo** to confirm. Emma Gilmartin is a confirmed speaker and a second speaker is needed. **MF** will approach Will Hinchliffe for inspiration.
  - c. Transport to conference – **SS** will ensure this is advertised in good time.
  - d. TRAQ – MCo reports that the course is running in March and is partly booked but still has spaces.
  - e. Editor's report – NP absent but MCo has been in touch with him. **NP** will send an email about the Tom Hall award and a summary of the magazine entries. RD reports an article about the Merchiston and Greenhill Conservation Area in Edinburgh.

- f. Awards – there was discussion of potential recipients for the Tom Hall award and the Ken Martin award. **SS** and **NP** will arrange a call for nominations by email from HQ and potentially in the magazine.
- 4. Any other competent business
  - a. SS reports that he will work one more year as chair and then step down, and put out a call for a successor.
  - b. Spring event – SS put out a call for ideas for a March/April field trip – he is considering Howick Hall.
- 5. Date of next meeting
  - a. Next meeting agreed to be Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 18.30 on Zoom. **MCo** to send out invites