

Loughborough Naturalists' Club



Privet Hawk-moth © Graham Finch; Spotted Flycatcher and Grass Snake © Jim Graham; Chalk Milkwort © Steve Woodward.

Annual Report 2014

LOUGHBOROUGH NATURALISTS' CLUB

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 2014

President Mr P H Gamble

COMMITTEE

Chairman Mr P Wilkinson

Vice-chairman Mr S Woodward

Honorary Secretary Mrs S Graham

Honorary Treasurer Mr J Ward

Meetings Secretary Mrs D Webster

Membership Secretary Mr G Fisher

Members
Mr J Graham
Ms H Ikin (Co-opted)
Mrs H Shacklock
Mr E Webster

OTHER OFFICERS

Heritage Editorial Panel
Ms H Ikin
Mr J Graham
Mr S Woodward

Librarian Ms H Ikin
Records Co-ordinator Ms H Ikin
Press Liaison Officer Mrs J Killingback
Honorary Auditor Mr K North

Club Representative

Peter Gamble represents the Club on the Loughborough University Holywell and Burleigh Woods Management Group and on the Friends of Charnwood Museum.

Affiliations

The Club is affiliated to the following organisations:

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, The National Federation of Biological Recording and Charnwood Museum.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I have reached the end of my two years as Chairman and as I said last year the time has passed very quickly. It is always a pleasure to chair the indoor meetings and again I should like to thank our Vice-chairman Steve Woodward for stepping in when I have been unable to attend. In these days when everyone seems to be so busy we are very fortunate that Steve has agreed to put himself forward to serve as Chairman for the coming two years and I am sure that you will all join with me in wishing him success. The Club will certainly be in safe hands.

We have had an excellent selection of interesting speakers throughout the year thanks to the hard work of our Meetings Secretary, Doreen Webster. One unique feature of Loughborough Nats meetings is that we break halfway for refreshments. This gives us an enjoyable social period of general discussion. However, it puts more pressure on the members who prepare the refreshments and I should like to say a big thank you to all of them.

Perhaps the outstanding event this year has been the long-awaited successful publication of the Golden Jubilee Edition of Heritage. It is a wonderful record of the life of the Club over the past 50 years. The record of change in the flora and fauna over the years is interesting but sad in terms of what we have lost. I most enjoyed reading the personal memories of members recalling the influence the Club has had on their lives. A huge well done and thank you to all those who have had a hand in the production of this splendid book.

My grateful thanks also to all the members of the Committee who beaver away behind the scenes ensuring that the Club survives. A special vote of thanks to our new Secretary Sue Graham for her hard work and pleasant efficiency.

The primary aim of the Club is recording and this continues to be furthered by the ongoing work on the Grace Dieu survey carried out by Helen Ikin and Steve Woodward. More chapters have been completed this year and we are currently looking for possible sponsors to aid publication.

Finally, I should like to thank all members for their help and support over the past two years. This has always been a very friendly and welcoming club and this is one reason why it has been so successful. Long may it continue!

Peter Wilkinson

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Although a few members failed to renew their membership in 2014, we continued to gain new members and we numbered 107 'paid up' members at the end of 2014, a small decline over the previous year. To date this year we have had 85 renewals, but if you are amongst those who haven't yet subscribed for the current year, please be reminded that your subscriptions are now overdue. Please also note that the rates were revised in 2013 to £12 for Full membership, £17 for Family membership (including additional person at the same address) and £7 for Senior membership (only available to existing Senior members). We would be grateful if you could check your standing order (where applicable) to ensure it is up-to-date, as we are still receiving some incorrect subscriptions, which causes administrative headaches!

Over half our members now 'Gift Aid' their subscription, so that we can reclaim the tax they have paid on their subscriptions for the benefit of the Club. If you have not yet done so and would like a Gift Aid form to complete, please contact the Membership Secretary (Tel: 01509-890077).

Graham Fisher

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The months have certainly flown by since I was elected as Secretary last April. One of the first things to say is how grateful I have been to Judy Johnson, former Secretary and to Peter Wilkinson, Chairman, for their guidance and assistance in easing me into the post.

It has been a packed but thoroughly enjoyable year, dominated of course by production of the eagerly anticipated 50th Anniversary publication. It is a credit to everyone who contributed to this and worked so hard to bring it all together. I think we lost count how many final versions there were before the absolute final one went to print, but happily it all worked out well in the end!

The Newsletter is now being co-ordinated to be published every quarter together with Heritage. As well as informing everyone of up and coming events, talks and walks, I am always happy to receive any news of interest from members to add to the variety.

The Club has enjoyed a good programme of speakers, thanks to Doreen Webster, with interesting and thought-provoking talks on a variety of topics from foxes, butterflies and beetles through to ferns, symbiosis and gardening.

The Outdoor Meetings, mostly organised and led by Peter Gamble, have gone down extremely well, with good numbers in attendance at every one, despite challenging weather conditions at times! We are always looking out for other members who might be willing to lead an Outdoor Meeting - 'every little helps' as the saying goes.....

The Cub has many outstanding qualities, but for me, perhaps the most endearing ones are its welcoming and friendly nature, the wonderment of the natural world that never ceases to inspire and amaze its members and the willingness of everyone to question freely and share their knowledge with others. This should surely provide a sound base from which the LNC can continue to thrive into the future and I feel privileged, albeit in a small way, to be a part of such a wonderful Club.

Sue Graham

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2014

For the year ended 30 November 2014, the Club's expenditure exceeded income by £2,384.07.

Income for the year amounted to £1,675.21. Subscriptions totalled £1,053.00, entrance charges to indoor meetings provided £193.50, sales of the 50th Anniversary publication raised £175 and the tax refund on gift-aided subscriptions amounted to £158.25.

Expenditure for the year amounted to £4,059.28. The main items of expenditure were:

Printing Anniversary Publication	£1,860.75
Postage Annual Report	£227.61
Postage Heritage	£414.09
Printing Heritage	£339.99
Insurance	£218.55
Hire of room for meetings	£240.00

However, the cost of postage for the Annual Report and Heritage was inflated by £354.77 in respect of the previous year's postage which was not paid until February 2014.

As at 30 November 2014, the balance available on the General and Reserve Accounts was £2,179.06 and the balance of the Publications Fund was £6,341.93.

I would like to thank Kevin North, for auditing the Club's Accounts.

Signed: John Ward, Treasurer, 25 February 2015

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year ended 30 November 2014

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	
<u>General Fund Income</u>			
Subscriptions	£1,053.00	£1,169.00	
Sale of Publications	£21.00	£194.44	
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	£158.25	£185.25	
Donations	£1.50	£1.50	
Entrance Charges	£193.50	£195.50	
Sale of Vegetables		£1.50	
Sales 50th Anniv. Publication	£175.00		
Int Nat Savings Account	£72.96		
	<u>£1,675.21</u>	<u>£1,747.19</u>	
<u>General Fund Expenditure</u>			
Affiliations & Subscriptions	£78.50	£58.50	
Printing Annual Report	£76.14	£87.01	
Postage Annual Report	£227.61		
Printing Heritage	£339.99	£346.10	
Postage Heritage	£414.09	£48.30	
Printing Miscellaneous	£60.67	£61.92	
Postage Miscellaneous	£34.89	£36.00	
Insurance	£218.55	£218.55	
Speakers' Fees	£60.00	£165.00	
Donations	£125.00	£60.00	
Hire of Room, Meetings	£240.00	£240.00	
Equipment	£57.27	£85.76	
Anniversary Expenditure		£50.00	
Printing 50th Anniv. Publication	£1,860.75		
Present – Judy Johnson	£106.83		
Arachnid Identification	£150.00		
Web Domain	£8.99		
	<u>£4,059.28</u>	<u>£1,457.14</u>	
Deficiency	<u><u>£2,384.07</u></u>	Surplus	<u><u>£290.05</u></u>

Balance Sheet as at 30 November 2014

	<u>2014</u>		<u>2013</u>
<u>General Fund</u>			
Cash at Bank	£482.40		£1,078.68
National Savings Investment Acc	<u>£1,696.66</u>		<u>£1,673.70</u>
	£2,179.06		£2,752.38
<u>Publications Fund</u>			
Cash at Bank	£98.78		£98.78
National Savings Investment Acc	<u>£6,243.15</u>		<u>£8,053.90</u>
	£6,341.93		£8,152.68
	<u>£8,520.99</u>		<u>£10,905.06</u>

<u>General Fund</u>			
Balance as at 1 December 2013	£1,078.68		£788.63
Deficiency for year	<u>£596.28</u>		<u>£290.05</u> Surplus
	£482.40		£1,078.68

<u>Reserve Fund</u>			
Balance as at 1st December 2013	£1,673.70		£1,661.63
Add net interest for year	<u>£22.96</u>		<u>£12.07</u>
	£1,696.66		£1,673.70

<u>Publications Fund</u>			
Balance as at 1 December 2013	£8,152.68		£8,112.68
Add Net Interest for year	£50.00		£40.00
Transfer to General Fund	<u>£1,860.75</u>		
	£6,341.93		£8,152.68
	<u>£8,520.99</u>		<u>£10,905.06</u>

	<u>2014</u>		<u>2013</u>
<u>Reserve Fund Income</u>			
Interest on National Savings Acc	£22.96		£12.07
<u>Publications Fund Income</u>			
Interest on National Savings Acc	£50.00		£40.00

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Loughborough Naturalists Club

(Registered Charity No. 510799)

I have audited the accounts on the foregoing pages in accordance with Approved Auditing Standards.

The Club, in common with others, derives its income from sources which cannot be fully controlled or verified until they are entered in the Accounting Records.

Subject to the above note the Accounts, in my opinion, give a true and fair view of the Club's financial affairs for the year ended 30th November 2014.



Kevin J North
Honorary Treasurer
L&RWT Charnwood Group

20th January 2014

CLUB ACTIVITIES DIARY

INDOOR MEETINGS

January 11th	Borneo, presented by Steve Woodward
February 8th	Symbiosis, presented by Ivan Pedley
March 8th	Gardening for Wildlife, presented by Chris Edwards
April 12th	AGM and Members' Evening
September 13th	The Natural History of the Red Fox, presented by Derek Warren
October 11th	British Butterflies, presented by Ian Gamble
November 8th	An Inordinate Fondness for Beetles, presented by Chris Terell-Nield
December 13th	Ferns in Leicestershire & Rutland, presented by Andy Lear

OUTDOOR MEETINGS

Wednesday Morning Walks

January 8th	Mountsorrel Common, Castle Hill and Broad Hill
February 5th	Birstall Gravel Pits
March 5th	Bradgate Park – Newtown section
April 2nd	Beacon Hill – Top section
May 7th	New Lount NR
June 4th	Cloud Wood NR
July 5th	Mountsorrel Marsh
August 2nd	Willesley Wood and Saltersford Valley, led by Peter Wilkinson
September 3rd	Cossington Meadows NR
October 1st	Swithland Wood and Puddledyeke
November 5th	Beacon Hill
December 3rd	Ulverscroft NR, led by Steve Woodward

Wednesday Morning walks were led by Peter Gamble except where stated.

HERITAGE REPORT

Thanks to all members who have sent in records during 2014, without you there would be no Heritage. We are grateful that your writing is legible (usually) and that you stick to the few rules that make the writers lives easier.

Thanks to the people who write up the reports – not an easy task when faced with several hundred records on dozens of sheets of paper as happens to Peter Gamble and Howard Bradshaw. What would we do without them?

We have a spreadsheet for people who prefer to send in records digitally and printed sheets are available at meetings or can be delivered if requested.

We have a shortage of leading articles so would appreciate it if any member would like to write something – you do not have to be an expert – an account of an interesting creature or plant in your garden would be good or your thoughts on local wildlife issues.

The editorial team have not yet “come to blows” and the system seems to be working. Do let us know of any ideas you have for Heritage and anything that you would like to see in it.

The Editorial Team

OBITUARY

Kathleen Elaine Gilbert – known to her friends as **Kay**

At the beginning of this year we received the sad news that Kay Gilbert had passed away on Christmas Day 2014 at the age of 93.

Kay, and her late husband Fred, were active and supportive members of the Loughborough Naturalists' Club.

In 1972, Kay became a full member of the Club and served as our Secretary from 1984 – 1988. Her time spent as Club Secretary witnessed the beginnings of special Club publications and unit surveys. Many hours were spent reproducing text and illustrations on early reprographic machines.

Kay was an active participant in all the activities of the Club, enjoying field work on Charnwood Forest and the more distant field trips that were part of our programme of events. She also enjoyed the wider social activities and was a particular supporter of our cross-channel links with *Le Societe des Amis des Sciences Naturelles de Rouen*.

Her account of our exchange visit to Rouen in the Annual Report of 1987 is a rewarding and humorous read and captures the happy memories of our exchange events.

Looking back over many years we can acknowledge all the hard work and time that Kay gave to the Club. Besides attending the committee meetings and dealing with all the associated secretarial duties, Kay was involved with many special social occasions, celebrations and exhibitions.

She gave her time generously to the Club and we offer our sincere condolences to her family.

Kate Ward 2015

