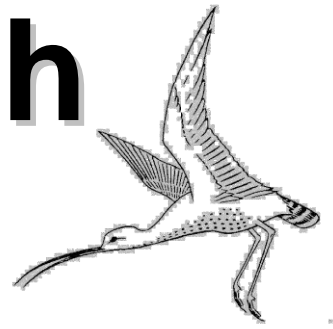


# Loughborough Naturalists' Club



Red Kite © Jim Graham; Green Dock Beetle © Graham Finch; Campanula glomerata and Speckled Bush-cricket © Steve Woodward.



## Annual Report 2015



## LOUGHBOROUGH NATURALISTS' CLUB

### OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 2015

President Mr P H Gamble

#### COMMITTEE

Chairman Mr S Woodward

Vice-chairman Vacant

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  
Mr P Wilkinson

#### OTHER OFFICERS

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

Librarian Ms H Ikin

Records Co-ordinator Ms H Ikin

Honorary Auditor Mr K North

#### Club Representative

Peter Gamble represents the Club on the Loughborough University Holywell and Burleigh Woods Management Group.

#### Affiliations

The Club is affiliated to the following organisations:

The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust and The National Federation of Biological Recording.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I have just returned from the Club's Wednesday morning walk to Watermead Country Park. It was heartening to see such a good attendance (15). We enjoyed a good variety of waterfowl and other birds in good light, thanks to the guidance of our leader, President and founder member, Peter Gamble. As has become customary, we finished off with lunch at a local eatery - these walks are as much social occasions as they are nature rambles. I would like to start by thanking the leaders of Wednesday morning walks (especially Peter) and to encourage other members to come along, or better still offer to lead a walk at a favourite spot.

Once again, Doreen Webster (Meetings Secretary) is to be congratulated on her choice of topics and speakers. The year ended with a superb presentation by Jack Perks on *Fish of Britain*. Please contact Doreen if you can recommend a good speaker for next season. I hope members approve of the Committee's decision to replace the wobbly old screen with a smart new one, thanks to the generosity of Bas Forgham - see Treasurer's Report. I know that members really do appreciate the refreshments at half-time, so many thanks to the several members who share the catering duties.

At several of the indoor meetings, I had the sad duty of announcing the death of members or friends of the Club: Muriel Smith, David Kightley, Marian Watson, Frank Pickering and Pat Evans. We will miss them. Unfortunately, this is an inevitable consequence of our "skewed" age distribution – younger people seem curiously reluctant to join societies.

Perhaps I am biased (being on the editorial panel) but I think our quarterly bulletin *Heritage* is one of the best periodicals about our local natural history. Helen Ikin gathers members' records and distributes them to the writers of the various sections. The section writers (acknowledged in the *Heritage* Editors' Report) skilfully summarise the records. The invertebrate sections are a particular strength of *Heritage*, as these "unpopular" groups tend to be dumbed down or neglected in many magazines. The end result is very attractive, thanks to Jim Graham's talents with desktop publishing software and camera.

Helen also scans the original records, which entails quarterly visits to LRERC at County Hall. The scans are secured on the County Council's computer system and taken home on a DVD. The originals are archived in the LRERC room at County Hall. This splendid arrangement, however, is about to come to an end, as County Hall has said that it can no longer accommodate our archive of original paper records. This amounts to five filing cabinets (a bit of housekeeping could reduce this to four). I am grateful to Sue Timms and Graham Walley at LRERC for trying their best to solve this problem, and to Helen for taking the initiative in searching for another home for the cabinets. Storage of precious archives like this is one of the roles of museums – or should be – but as we all know, they are being severely squeezed and so far none has found room for our material. We may end up asking members to put a cabinet in the corner of their lounges! They are tastefully rectangular and a very nice shade of grey.

LRERC's room will disappear completely (remember, it used to occupy a whole building at Holly Hayes), so the small natural history library must be dispersed. Some of these books will be donated to the Club for sale at the Recorder's Conference at the end of February 2016. It is unfortunate that this is necessary, but I would like to thank LRERC for their generosity.

The contributors of records for *Heritage* are listed at the back of each edition – without them we would have nothing to report and the Club would lose its *raison d'être*. Unfortunately, the list seems to be shrinking – *Heritage* depends on fewer and fewer active recorders. I cannot believe that most Club members see *nothing* each quarter! If you do not already submit records, then please help out. No particular format is compulsory and records of common garden creatures are just as welcome as rare ones. All that we ask is that you are clear about What, Where, When and Who; and that the different groups (birds, mammals, etc.) are on different sheets. If you are in any doubt, ask Helen or read her advice in previous editions of *Heritage* or on our website.

The Newsletter Editor, Sue Graham, gently reminds us about imminent meetings and other events and reports highlights of the Wednesday morning walks. To give the Club a truly global profile, Jim Graham maintains the Club's website: [www.loughboroughnats.org](http://www.loughboroughnats.org).

The Club was well represented at the wildlife event at Bradgate Park in the summer. Sue and Jim Graham did most of the work, assisted by various other members who set up and manned the exhibition or led walks.

I echo our Secretary's sentiments (see below) with regard to the sterling work of our officers and committee during my first year as Chairman – and especially to Doreen and Eric Webster for hosting the meetings.

**Steve Woodward**

---

### **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Thank you to those who have already renewed their membership for 2016. If you are amongst those who have so far overlooked your renewal, please be reminded that your subscription is now overdue. If you require any assistance or have a query, please contact the Membership Secretary, Graham Fisher (Tel. 01509 890077). Rates remain the same as last year at only £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).

Although a few members failed to renew their membership in 2015, we also gained one new member and we numbered 102 'paid up' members at the end of the year. This was a small decline over the previous year as sadly, we were informed during the last year of the death of three long-standing members.

**Graham Fisher**

---

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Another year has whizzed past, which for Jim and I has been punctuated by some wonderful trips abroad to Mexico, Costa Rica, Australia and most recently Sri Lanka. Whilst we have been most fortunate to experience foreign climes, scenery and some remarkable wildlife, we are also always happy to return to the UK and in particular to Charnwood Forest, which after all is where our roots really lie. The wealth of wildlife that we have on our doorstep never ceases to amaze me and to be part of the Loughborough Naturalists Club where like-minded members can enthuse and share their knowledge and experiences of this unique area is a real privilege.

It has been a particularly enjoyable year for the Club, packed with high quality talks and walks and of course our quarterly bulletin *Heritage*. The Club would however, be nothing without the loyal support of its members, but at the risk of re-iterating the Chairman's Report, the tireless efforts of your Committee should not be overlooked in helping to make LNC a continuing success.

One person who I feel deserves a special mention is the one who cheerfully meets and greets us at the Indoor meetings, relieves us of our subscriptions and works away behind the scenes the rest of the year to ensure that the Club's finances remain in good order. We are fortunate indeed to have such a good Treasurer in John Ward and his efforts are much appreciated by all. We are still keen to hear from anyone who might be willing to shadow John in completing the computerised financial returns for the Club – a little help would go a long way and would not be too onerous a task. So if any of our members could volunteer a little of their time, I'm sure that John would be very grateful.

Graham Fisher, our Membership Secretary, is another Committee Member who has done a fantastic job in keeping the membership up to date and in responding swiftly and efficiently to any changes along the way.

We were also delighted to co-opt Hazel Graves onto the committee and look forward to voting her on officially as a full member at the AGM in April 2016. Hazel's identification skills and knowledge of botany are impressive and her enthusiasm and participation at various events and on the Wednesday morning walks have been very welcome.

We are always happy to accept new ideas and offers of assistance and these two aspects came together particularly well in organising the Wildlife Weekend at Bradgate Park in July last year. It was really heartening to have so many LNC volunteers contribute to the planning and execution of this event and the fact that it was so well received by the public was testament to their enthusiastic, friendly and knowledgeable approach. Peter Tyldesley, Park Director has kindly invited us back for a second Wildlife Weekend on the 18th and 19th June 2016, and so the planning begins again!

Please keep your records coming and as ever, and any articles for the Newsletter are always welcome.

Thank you to Steve Woodward and everyone for your support in my role as Secretary and look I forward to another successful year for the Club.

**Sue Graham**

---

### **TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2015**

For the year ended 30 November 2015, the Club's income exceeded expenditure by £378.93.

Income for the year amounted to £2,031.59. Subscriptions totalled £1,094, entrance charges to indoor meetings raised £218.36, sales of various Club publications and miscellaneous items brought in £165.20 and the tax refund on gift-aided subscriptions amounted to £173.75. However, last year, in addition to the normal income, the Club received a legacy of £100 from our late member Miss M. E. Philip and a donation of £150 from our member, Mr. Baz Forgham. This was given by Mr. Forgham in memory of another late member of the Club, David Kightley, who had left a legacy to Mr. Forgham. As Mr. Forgham had previously signed a Gift Aid form for his subscriptions we were able to claim back a further tax refund of £37.50 on the donation. Our thanks go to the late Miss Philip and Mr. Forgham.

Expenditure for the year amounted to £1,652.66. The main items of expenditure were:

Purchase of a projection screen	£204.41
Hire of room for meetings	£240.00
Speakers' fees	£172.00
Donations in lieu of speakers' fees	£105.00
Insurance	£218.55
Printing <i>Heritage</i>	£307.05
Postage for <i>Heritage</i>	£167.11

As at 30 November 2015 the balance available on the General and Reserve Accounts was £2,507.99 and the balance of the Publications Fund was £6,391.93.

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

**John Ward, Treasurer**  
**4 February 2016**

## Income & Expenditure Account for the Year ended 30 November 2015

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<b><u>General Fund Income</u></b>		
Subscriptions	£1,094.00	£1,053.00
Miscellaneous Sales	£165.20	£21.00
Sales 50th Anniv. Publication		£175.00
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	£211.25	£158.25
Entrance Charges	£218.36	£193.50
Donations	£176.50	£1.50
Legacy	£100.00	
Int Nat Savings Account	£66.28	£72.96
	<u>£2,031.59</u>	<u>£1,675.21</u>
<b><u>General Fund Expenditure</u></b>		
Affiliations & Subscriptions	£58.50	£78.50
Speakers' Fees	£172.00	£60.00
Donations	£105.00	£125.00
Hire of Room, Meetings	£240.00	£240.00
Postage Heritage	£167.11	£414.09
Printing Heritage	£307.05	£339.99
Postage Annual Report		£227.61
Printing Annual Report	£79.00	£76.14
Postage Miscellaneous		£34.89
Printing Newsletters	£64.07	£60.67
Insurance	£218.55	£218.55
Equipment	£232.39	£57.27
Printing 50th Anniv. Publication		£1,860.75
Present – Judy Johnson		£106.83
Arachnid Identification		£150.00
Web Domain	£8.99	£8.99
	<u>£1,652.66</u>	<u>£4,059.28</u>
	<u>Surplus</u> <u>£378.93</u>	<u>Deficiency</u> <u>£2,384.07</u>

## **Balance Sheet as at 30 November 2015**

	<u>2015</u>		<u>2014</u>
<b><u>General Fund</u></b>			
Cash at Bank	£795.05		£482.40
National Savings Investment Acc	<u>£1,712.94</u>		<u>£1,696.66</u>
	£2,507.99		£2,179.06
<b><u>Publications Fund</u></b>			
Cash at Bank	£98.78		£98.78
National Savings Investment Acc	<u>£6,293.15</u>		<u>£6,243.15</u>
	£6,391.93		£6,341.93
	<u><u>£8,899.92</u></u>		<u><u>£8,520.99</u></u>
<b><u>General Fund</u></b>			
Balance as at 1 December 2014	£482.40		£1,078.68
Surplus for year	£312.65		
Deficiency for year			<u>£596.28</u>
	<u>£795.05</u>		£482.40
<b><u>Reserve Fund</u></b>			
Balance as at 1st December 2014	£1,696.66		£1,673.70
Add net interest for year	<u>£16.28</u>		<u>£22.96</u>
	£1,712.94		£1,696.66
<b><u>Publications Fund</u></b>			
Balance as at 1 December 2014	£6,341.93		£8,152.68
Add Net Interest for year	£50.00		£50.00
Transfer to General Fund			<u>£1,860.75</u>
	<u>£6,391.93</u>		£6,341.93
	<u><u>£8,899.92</u></u>		<u><u>£8,520.99</u></u>

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 2015.



Kevin J North  
Honorary Treasurer  
L&RWT Charnwood Group

22nd January 2016

## CLUB ACTIVITIES DIARY

### INDOOR MEETINGS

- 10 January Darwin & the Local Natural History Scene, presented by Tony Fletcher  
14 February A Rough Guide to Leicestershire Geology, presented by Andrew Swift  
14 March Farming and Wildlife, presented by Julia Hawley  
11 April AGM followed by Members' Short Talks and Exhibits  
12 September Peak District Wildlife, presented by Paul Hodson  
10 October Springtime in Provence, presented by Ian Gamble  
14 November Wildlife around Ashby, presented by Martin Vaughan  
12 December Fish of Britain, presented by Jack Perks

### OUTDOOR MEETINGS

#### **Wednesday Morning Walks**

- 7 January Plantations off Benscliffe Road, Newtown Linford  
4 February Birstall Gravel Pits  
4 March Sence Valley Forest Park, led by Bas Forgham  
1 April The Outwoods and Jubilee Wood  
6 May Cloud Wood Nature Reserve  
3 June Ulverscroft Nature Reserve, led by Steve Woodward  
1 July Hicks Lodge, led by Peter Wilkinson  
5 August Watermead Country Park North  
2 September Cossington Meadows Nature Reserve  
7 October Swithland Reservoir  
4 November Beacon Hill Country Park  
2 December Windmill Hill and Broombriggs Farm

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

## **HERITAGE REPORT**

We are grateful to all members who have sent in records during 2015 and we hope that you will continue to do so. The people who write up the reports are much appreciated; they usually meet the deadlines and rarely require reminding.

A few people are using the spreadsheet for digital records but printed record sheets are still available at meetings or can be delivered if requested.

We still have a shortage of leading articles so we would like short articles on any Natural History subject.

Sometimes *Heritage* comes out a bit later than we would like but we are all doing this in a voluntary capacity and it has to be fitted in with other commitments.

Do let us know if you have any suggestions for *Heritage* or if you are willing to take on any of the groups that, at present, have no writer.

**The Editorial Team**

---

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Update to Scans on DVD**

The DVD of the Club's Survey Reports, *Heritage* and Annual Reports has been updated. It is available to Club members free of charge (ask Steve or Helen), and to non-members for £10 (via the Hon. Secretary).

### **Older Club Publications**

These titles are still available at indoor meetings:

Groby Pool

Benscliffe & Blakeshay

Ulverscroft

Leicestershire Coleopterists

The Spiders of Leicestershire & Rutland

The Birdlife of Swithland Reservoir

DVD: Scans of Biological Records 1961-2010

---

## OBITUARIES

### **Patricia Evans (formerly Candlish), 1929-2015**

When Pat Candlish and her close friend Philippa Richardson joined the LNC at its inaugural meeting in 1960 it was the most fortunate circumstance, as both were to prove important members indeed. Pat served as Secretary for five years (1964-1969) and Editor for 16 years (1969-1985). When we eventually discussed what to call our newsletter, at the time of our 5th anniversary, it was Pat who suggested *Heritage*, which the Committee readily agreed to, it seeming to be so appropriate to sum up what we considered important: recording our local wildlife and the need to conserve it.

Pat's early interest in the natural world was probably fostered during frequent fishing trips with her father to Blackbrook Reservoir. Later on, many local people must have been aware of her through her regular Nature columns, which she wrote monthly for the *Coalville Times* (1966-1975), and then weekly for the *Leicester Mercury* (1975-1991). These often involved her in correspondence and her year-round observations and discussions must have informed and influenced many people across Leicestershire.

With a degree in Botany gained following her studies at Trinity College, Dublin (1947-1951), Pat's foremost interest was probably plant-life, though she also had a keen interest in much of the animal kingdom.

Apart from doing so much valuable work for the LNC, Pat was heavily involved from 1967, along with other local botanists, recording plants for the *Flora of Leicestershire*, published in 1988, of which she was co-editor with A L Primavesi. One of her most pleasant memories, when recording in the Ulverscroft Valley, was finding Herbert's Meadow, with its exciting flora, now a precious part of the Ulverscroft Nature Reserve.

She also worked for the NCC and as Field Ecologist for the Leicestershire Museums Service (1978-1991), carrying out numerous parish and other surveys, including those of the Grantham Canal, roadside verges, the Belvoir woodlands and all the woodland SSSI. Perhaps her most exciting discovery in this role was during her survey of the parish of Bottesford in 1978, a group of hitherto-unknown unimproved grasslands with green-winged orchids in abundance, now the Muston Meadows National Nature Reserve.

Pat was also concerned about wildlife conservation, and was a member of the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust's Council of Trustees (1975-1991); she served on the Scientific Advisory Committee (now the Conservation Committee) for many years and was a member of the Charnwood Lodge Management Committee.

Pat and Ian Evans were married in 1978 and for 13 years they lived in the village of Keyham, where they built an attractive and productive garden. In 1991, they retired to Nedd, a tiny settlement on the west coast of Sutherland, where they set to work creating a second garden. They had already started, on holiday in 1988, a tetrad survey of the flora of their parish, Assynt, which is rather larger than Rutland. But whereas Rutland is relatively flat, with good roads and plenty of footpaths, the same cannot be said of Assynt, as a quick look at the OS map will show. On the plus side, however, there is no law of trespass in Scotland, though walking there can be hazardous when deer shooting is taking place.

Pat and Ian spent 14 years surveying and recording the flora of this remote but beautiful area of mountains, moorland, coastland and offshore islands, with a friend who specialises in bryophytes, to produce their excellent *Flora of Assynt* in 2002; a Flora to be proud of indeed. Pat served as BSBI Recorder for West Sutherland from 1993, and up to the end of 2014 she and Ian had completed surveys of nearly half of its huge area, which stretches from Assynt to the Caithness border.

It is good to know that Pat was able to spend the later years of her life doing something that she enjoyed and was so good at, in a largely unspoilt environment.

**Peter Gamble**

## **David Kightley**

David was a long-time member of the Loughborough Naturalists' Club but kept on the periphery and was not known well by many. As a youngster he started his bird watching interest with a group local to his home town of Nuneaton, so having joined our Club, indoor meetings were difficult for him but he did manage the occasional coach trip in the early days and later a few visits when the Club met in the west of the county.

A telephone engineer by trade, he used to boast that he knew most of the members' numbers by heart! When working in the Coalville area he would often pay a visit to our house for a coffee and a chat. He never seemed to be downhearted and one could always have a light-hearted conversation with him. Although nothing was ever arranged we usually met at the Bird Fair when he would always ask about the welfare of the members he knew.

To all of us, his death on 8 March 2015 was an unwelcome surprise. His cheery personality will be sorely missed. Over the years he had a great interest in Hobbies (the birds), for this reason I have had a carved Hobby made which stands in my house as a reminder of happier times spent with him.

In 1988 David wrote the book "The Birds of Higham Grange" and presented a copy to the Club library.

**Bas Forgham**

---

## **Frank Pickering, 1931-2015**

After completing his National Service in the RAF, Frank's professional career included many years with the Electricity Board and also serving as a JP. He always had a keen interest in natural history and in the late 1940s to the 1950s could often be found camping at Eyebrook Reservoir at the weekends, pursuing his love of birdwatching. He was an active member of the Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society, holding the posts of Vice Chairman, Chairman and finally President in 2003. He was also a member of the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust and one of the volunteers with the Osprey monitoring programme.

Frank had an enduring passion for books. An extensive personal collection of exquisitely leather-bound editions, many on the subject of the natural world, was testament to his love and respect of the printed word.

His interests did not stop there however, becoming a member of numerous other organisations, including the Norfolk Naturalists, RSPB, BTO and Butterfly Conservation. He had a fascination with photography and botany and enjoyed travelling to many foreign destinations with his late wife, Christine.

He had many very good friends in the Loughborough Naturalists Club too and regularly joined us on the Wednesday Morning Walks which he thoroughly enjoyed.

Frank will be remembered always for his friendly, thoughtful and enthusiastic demeanour, actively engaging in forging good working relationships between wildlife organisations, tirelessly supportive of his friends and colleagues and above all, for being the perfect gentleman.

**Sue Graham**

### **Muriel Smith, 1923 – 2015**

We were sorry to eventually hear that Muriel had died on 22 June aged 91. Unfortunately we did not hear in time to be represented at the funeral which was held in Emmanuel Church in Loughborough on 9 July and even her friend and member Marilyn McLellan, who lived close by, was unaware that she had died until after the funeral had taken place.

Muriel and her late husband, Bert, were valued members of the Club, attending indoor meetings, Wednesday morning walks and joining us on some of our holiday abroad.

We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to Muriel's family over their loss at this sad time.

**Peter Gamble**

---

### **Marian J Watson, 1933 – 2015**

We were very sad to hear of the death of Marian on 28 November, though we were aware that she had not been well for several years and constantly suffered considerable pain in her spine. In recent years she had been looked after in the Cedars Residential Home at Rothley where she seemed contented, but more recently had moved to a home in Leamington Spa, to get additional care and to be nearer to relatives.

Until she had to move into care, Marian had lived on her own, since losing her husband, in a house with a large garden on the outskirts of Rothley where she enjoyed feeding the birds and observing the other wildlife.

Until her health deteriorated, Marian enjoyed joining us on the Wednesday morning walks and always used a notebook to record sightings of special interest and we were grateful to her for writing these up to include in the Club newsletter.

In addition to being an active member, she was also a member of the Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust and served on the Charnwood Group committee for a number of years.

During the funeral service at Rothley church, she was described as a quiet and private person and we can also add that she was kind and helpful and often suffered pain in silence.

**Peter Gamble**

It has been a very painful year with the departure of a number of our long-standing members and good friends. They will all be sadly missed. Our sincere condolences go to their families and friends.

