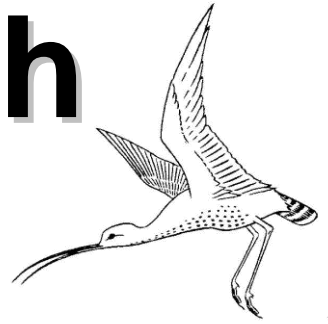


Loughborough Naturalists' Club



www.loughboroughnats.org



Reed Bunting and Badger © Jim Graham; Common Blue Butterfly and Southern Marsh-orchid © Steve Woodward.

Annual Report 2016

LOUGHBOROUGH NATURALISTS' CLUB

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 2016

President Mr P H Gamble

COMMITTEE

Chairman Mr S Woodward

Vice-chairman Vacant

Mr S Musgrove *

Mr L Purnell *

(* appointed by Committee)

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

Mrs H Graves

Mr L Purnell

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 I Silcock

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The editions of *Heritage* covering 2016 were packed with many sightings, as usual. The summer's weather was fairly good – yet my impression was that insect numbers were low, especially butterflies, grasshoppers, crickets and wasps. In the Annual Report for 2012, former Chairman Eric Webster complained about the dismal summer, and hoped that invertebrates would recover – well it seems to me that they have still not done so. A few Club members (too few) are busy with botanical fieldwork for *Atlas 2020*. This has emphasised that wild flowers in the wider countryside (outside of nature reserves and SSSIs) have become very scarce, except for the few, like Hogweed, Cleavers and Nettle, that thrive in our nitrogen-enriched environment and smother all the smaller plants. As naturalists, we need to keep an eye on what is happening and publish our findings (and try not to get too depressed) in the hope that decision-makers who influence our environment will eventually wake up and address the problems.

We have, once again, been able to enjoy a good variety of lectures, publications, wildlife walks and other events, thanks to the committee and other supporting members who put in the effort to make it all happen.

Heritage involves a few people in quite a lot of work – no sooner is one edition published, than we have to start on the next. The editorial team of Jim Graham, Helen Ikin and myself would love to hear from anyone who could boost the team of writers (see the *Heritage* Editor's Report).

Original records for *Heritage* continue to present a storage problem – and I wish to thank members who are looking after their share. Enquiries have been made about more secure storage, but the problem remains unresolved.

Speakers in 2016 have included local enthusiasts, such as Val Williams on Mustelids, as well as national experts such as Paul Waring on caterpillars. My thanks go to Doreen Webster for arranging the programme. Half-time refreshments are very much enjoyed by members – we do appreciate the volunteers who toil behind the counter: Janet, Janet, Mike, Audrey, Gillian, Phill, John, Barbara and Cynthia (I hope no-one has been missed).

I would like to record my thanks Les Purnell for “standing in” for me on a couple of occasions when I have been unable to chair the meeting. Also to Membership Secretary Graham Fisher who, although not exactly overwhelmed with new memberships, does have to work hard to extract subs from certain long-standing members!

The Wednesday morning walks continue to be well-supported, in both summer and winter. Cloud Wood on 13 July was particularly memorable – I have not seen as many nets being waved for a long time! There is always something new to see, even at regularly-visited sites like Watermead – where Hawthorn leaves were out in February! Once again, thanks are due to Peter Gamble for leading most of the walks and sharing his encyclopaedic knowledge of wildlife.

The Bradgate Park Wildlife weekend in 2016 was blessed with better weather than last year. Several members manned the Club's exhibit and led guided walks. Sue Graham's organising skills were crucial to the success of this event.

We are kept up-to-date with news and events by Sue and Jim Graham, the former through the Newsletter and the latter via the web site. John Ward, our Honorary Treasurer has kept our finances in order – and keeps a watchful eye on the ever-rising costs of insurance and postage. Eric and Doreen Webster have kindly made available their “Committee Room” for our quarterly meetings during 2016, and Sue skilfully turns our ramblings into coherent minutes. Many thanks to them all.

Steve Woodward

SECRETARY'S REPORT

It seems incredible that yet another year has passed, whilst the wheels of the LNC Committee have been whirring away behind the scenes, ensuring that everything has been running as smoothly as possible for the membership.

I consider it a pleasure and a privilege to work with such a knowledgeable and friendly team and owe my gratitude to them all for their continuing support in my role as Secretary of the Loughborough Nats.

It would also be very remiss not to mention all of the wonderful members that make up the Club and their unwavering enthusiasm for the Natural World. It is always heartening to see so many attending our Indoor Meetings and there are always good numbers of members that participate in the Wednesday Morning Walks. This is particularly encouraging in an ever advancing digital age, where ease of access to virtual information is beginning to threaten the very core of first-hand learning and practical skills in the field, not to mention the enjoyment of simple socialising between individuals with common interests.

For a club like ours to keep going, it does need fresh input from time to time and we were delighted first of all to welcome Stuart Musgrove onto the Committee briefly as Vice-chairman. Stuart generously offered his time and support albeit that he lived in the south of the country and the Committee will be eternally grateful for his help throughout this difficult time.

Les Purnell subsequently came forward and kindly volunteered to take on the role of Vice-chair. From April 2017 therefore, Les will be our new Chairman and I wish him well and look forward to working with him as the Club goes forward. I would however just like to thank Steve Woodward wholeheartedly for his support and excellent Chairmanship over the past two years.

Without wishing to re-iterate the various acknowledgements in Steve's report, there is one person, who above all deserves our admiration and gratitude. This is none other than our President, Peter Gamble. There is no doubt in my mind that Peter is the best all round naturalist in the county and we are very fortunate indeed to have him steering the LNC ship, with such passion and commitment, based on a lifetime of enthusiasm, keen observational skills and knowledge. His willingness to share this with others is exemplary and has inspired many others, including myself, along the way.

It only remains for me to end with a familiar line - please keep your records coming in and as ever, any articles for the Newsletter and *Heritage* are always most welcome.

Here's to another successful year for the Club!

Sue Graham

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

We are very grateful to those who have already renewed their membership for 2017 - to date we have received the subscriptions of 77 members. If you are amongst those who have so far overlooked your renewal, we hope you will forgive this reminder that your subscription is now overdue. Rates remain unchanged since 2013 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 2016, we also gained four new member and we numbered 101 'paid up' members by the end of the year - only slightly down on the previous year. Sadly, we were also informed during the last year of the death of three of our long-standing members.

If you require any assistance or have a query regarding your subscription, please contact the Membership Secretary, Graham Fisher (tel: 01509-890077) who will also be pleased to receive your cheque etc., either by post or at one of our indoor meetings.

Graham Fisher

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2016

For the year ended 30th November 2016, the Club's expenditure exceeded income by £178.72

Income for the year amounted to £1,811.56. Subscriptions totalled exactly £1,000, entrance charges to indoor meetings raised £204.37, the tax refund on gift-aided subscriptions amounted to £172.50 and the sale of various books including some sold at the Recorders Conference brought in a very welcome £373.14

Expenditure for the year amounted to £1,990.28. The main items of expenditure were:

Speakers' fees	£454.00
Printing Heritage	£314.40
Postage for Heritage	£237.22
Printing the Annual Report	£73.00
Postage for the Annual Report	£162.76
Insurance	£273.75
Hire of room at Quorn for meetings	£210.00

Without the proceeds of the sale of books, the deficit for the year would have been £551.86 and it might be necessary to consider raising subscriptions to reduce the deficit.

As at 30th November 2016 the balance available on the General and Reserve Accounts was £2,279.27 and the balance of the Publications Fund was £6,441.93.

I would like to thank Ian Silcock of Ashby-de-la-Zouch for auditing the Club's Accounts.

John Ward, Treasurer
28 March 2017

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year ended 30 November 2016

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<u>General Fund Income</u>		
Subscriptions	£1,000.00	£1,094.00
Miscellaneous Sales	£373.14	£165.20
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	£172.50	£211.25
Entrance Charges	£204.37	£218.36
Donations	£1.50	£176.50
Legacy		£100.00
Interest National Savings Acc	£60.05	£66.28
	<u>£1,811.56</u>	<u>£2,031.59</u>
 <u>General Fund Expenditure</u>		
Affiliations & Subscriptions	£98.00	£58.50
Speakers' Fees	£454.00	£172.00
Donations	£25.00	£105.00
Hire of Room, Meetings	£210.00	£240.00
Postage Heritage	£237.22	£167.11
Printing Heritage	£314.40	£307.05
Postage Annual Report	£162.76	
Printing Annual Report	£73.00	£79.00
Postage Miscellaneous	33.39	
Printing Miscellaneous	£72.26	£64.07
Insurance	£273.75	£218.55
Equipment	£36.50	£232.39
Web Domain		£8.99
	<u>£1,990.28</u>	<u>£1,652.66</u>
	<u><u>£178.72</u></u>	<u><u>£378.93</u></u>
Deficit		Surplus

Balance Sheet as at 30 November 2016

	<u>2016</u>		<u>2015</u>
<u>General Fund</u>			
Cash at Bank	£556.28		£795.05
National Savings Investment Acc	<u>£1,722.99</u>		<u>£1,712.94</u>
	£2,279.27		£2,507.99
<u>Publications Fund</u>			
Cash at Bank	£98.78		£98.78
National Savings Investment Acc	<u>£6,343.15</u>		<u>£6,293.15</u>
	£6,441.93		£6,391.93
	<u><u>£8,721.20</u></u>		<u><u>£8,899.92</u></u>
<u>General Fund</u>			
Balance as at 1 December 2015	£795.05		£482.40
Surplus for year			£312.65
Deficiency for year	<u>£238.77</u>		
	£556.28		£795.05
<u>Reserve Fund</u>			
Balance as at 1st December 2015	£1,712.94		£1,696.66
Add net interest for year	<u>£10.05</u>		<u>£16.28</u>
	£1,722.99		£1,712.94
<u>Publications Fund</u>			
Balance as at 1 December 2015	£6,391.93		£6,341.93
Add Net Interest for year	£50.00		£50.00
Transfer to General Fund			
	<u>£6,441.93</u>		<u>£6,391.93</u>
	<u><u>£8,721.20</u></u>		<u><u>£8,899.92</u></u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Balance Sheet as at 30th November 2016

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<u>General Fund</u>		
Cash at Bank	£556.28	£795.05
National Savings Investment Account	<u>£1,722.99</u>	<u>£1,712.94</u>
	£2,279.27	£2,507.99
<u>Publications Fund</u>		
Cash at Bank	£98.78	£98.78
National Savings Investment Account	<u>£6,343.15</u>	<u>£6,293.15</u>
	<u>£6,441.93</u>	<u>£6,391.93</u>
	<u>£8,721.20</u>	<u>£8,899.92</u>
 <u>General Fund</u>		
Balance as at 1st Dec 2015	£795.05	£482.40
Deficiency for year	<u>£238.77</u> Surplus	<u>£312.65</u>
	£556.28	£795.05
 <u>Reserve Fund</u>		
Balance as at 1st Dec 2015	£1,712.94	£1,696.66
Add net interest for year	<u>£10.05</u>	<u>£16.28</u>
	£1,722.99	£1,712.94
 <u>Publications Fund</u>		
Balance as at 1st Dec 2015	£6,391.93	£6,341.93
Add net interest for year	<u>£50.00</u>	£50.00
	<u>£6,441.93</u>	<u>£6,391.93</u>
	<u>£8,721.20</u>	<u>£8,899.92</u>

EXAMINERS REPORT

I have examined the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet of the Loughborough Naturalists Club for the year ended 30th November 2016 and I have concluded they represent a true and fair view of the books of account of the Club.



I. SILCOCK
RETIRED CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

ASBY
21st February 2017

CLUB ACTIVITIES DIARY

INDOOR MEETINGS

- 9 January Fear No Weevil; Beetles and Beetling, presented by Graham Finch
13 February Life Around the Seashore, presented by David Goldsmith
12 March Extinctions, Reintroductions and Aliens, presented by Nigel Slater
9 April AGM followed by Members' Short Talks and Exhibits
10 September All About Caterpillars, presented by Paul Waring
8 October A Botanist in the Western Cape, presented by Ian Whitehead
12 November Mustelids, presented by Val Williams
10 December Life of the Badger, presented by Gerald Hall

OUTDOOR MEETINGS

Wednesday Morning Walks

- 6 January Cademan Wood and Moor
3 February Birstall Gravel Pits
2 March Bradgate Park - North-west Section
6 April Dishley Pool and River Soar & Meadows
4 May The Outwoods SSSI near Woodhouse Eaves
8 June Mountsorrel & Rothley Commons and Buddon Wood South
13 July Cloud Wood SSSI near Breedon-on-the-Hill
3 August Beacon Hill Country Park - Native Tree Collection
7 September Cossington Meadows Nature Reserve
5 October River Soar and Grand Union Canal at Quorn/Barrow
2 November Beacon Hill Country Park - Summit Area
7 December Watermead Country Park North – Reedbed nature Reserve

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

HERITAGE REPORT

We are grateful to the members and friends who have contributed records during the year – *Heritage* can only exist if members send in records.

Thanks go to: Peter Gamble, Howard Bradshaw, Eric Webster, Jim Graham, Baz Forgham, Tony Onions, Graham & Anona Finch and Helen Ikin, who write up the reports.

We still have a shortage of leading articles so we would like short articles on any Natural History subject. Please try to write something, even controversial subjects are acceptable.

Your comments and suggestions about Heritage would be welcomed.

How would you feel if Heritage came out just twice a year instead of four times?

We still need writers for the other groups – galls, fungi, bryophytes, etc. You do not have to be an expert and it is a good way to learn about your subject.

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

Michael B Fewkes (d. 4 December 2015)

Although Michael died in December 2015, we did not learn of his death until 2016. Michael spent the early years of his life in Quorn living with his parents and younger brother in their house on Leicester Road which backed on to the Quorn House Park. He became a close friend in his teenage years and, in the company of the late Harry Clements, the three of us spent many happy hours searching for wildlife across the Charnwood Forest and especially closer to home on the Quorn House Estate, Buddon Wood and around Swithland Reservoir.

At this time, Spotted Flycatcher nested on the Fewkes house wall and Tree Pipit on the parkland at the bottom of their garden. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to find either species breeding in Quorn Parish these days.

Michael was a commercial artist by profession and during his married life, he and his wife Patsy, spent many years outside Leicestershire. Because his wife suffered often with illness, Michael was often restricted in pursuing his deep interest in Natural History.

Peter Gamble

Dorothy Jones (d. 8 May 2016)

Dorothy was a long-standing member of the Club who contributed many records from when she joined in 1965. She was known as a slightly formidable lady but was extremely nice once you got to know her. She was a teacher in the catering department at the Technical College in Loughborough.

She lived in Woodhouse Eaves for many years and the area around Broombriggs was one of her favourite places for walking her dogs.

Dorothy was a meticulous recorder with very clear handwriting and gave me a detailed map of the fields with the old field names. She was particularly interested in Amphibians and Reptiles and enjoyed writing up the notes for *Heritage* from 1975 until 2010.

Dorothy left a bequest of £2,000 to the Loughborough Naturalists' Club for which we are very grateful.

Helen Ikin

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the death of another other long-standing member and good friend of the Club:

Frank Foulds of Quorn (d. 24 Oct 2016).

Our thoughts are with all their families.