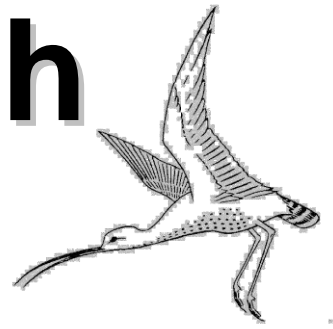


# Loughborough Naturalists' Club



[www.loughboroughnats.org](http://www.loughboroughnats.org)



Mandarin Duck © Jim Graham; Brown Hare, Common Lizard and Orange Foxtail © Steve Woodward.

## Annual Report 2017

## LOUGHBOROUGH NATURALISTS' CLUB

### OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 2017

President	Ms H Ikin
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	
Chairman	Mr L Purnell Mr P Wilkinson *
Vice-chairman	Vacant
Honorary Secretary	Mrs S Graham
Honorary Treasurer	Mr M Buckley
Meetings Secretary	Mrs D Webster
Membership Secretary	Mr G Fisher
Members	Mr J Graham Mrs H Graves Mr E Webster Mr P Wilkinson
<b>OTHER OFFICERS</b>	
<i>Heritage</i> Editorial Panel	Ms H Ikin Mr J Graham Mr S Woodward
Librarian	Ms H Ikin
Records Co-ordinator	Ms H Ikin

\*Peter Wilkinson was co-opted as Chairman by the Committee after the untimely death of Les Purnell in July 2017.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

I took over as chairman this year following the sad and unexpected death of Les Parnell. His obituary, together with those of several other members can be found elsewhere in this report. These losses are the inevitable result of the Club's age profile and unfortunately younger people are less inclined to join societies.

On a brighter note we continue to flourish in our own quiet way. Steve Woodward and Helen Ikin have completed their comprehensive study of Grace Dieu Woods. They have recorded data concerning 3,395 species of flora and fauna for the study area. Work is now proceeding on the writing up of the various groups and publication is eagerly anticipated. Another of their projects is an ongoing survey of Leicestershire Churchyards.

In spite of a shrinking band of members who send in records *Heritage* continues to chronicle the ever changing wildlife of our local environment. This work, carried on for approaching 60 years, will be probably the key legacy of the Club.

Thanks to the stalwart efforts of Doreen Webster we continue to enjoy an excellent programme of speakers during the winter months. In between his trips to foreign lands, Jim Graham does a splendid job keeping the website up to date.

Our thanks also go to Peter Gamble for organising the Wednesday Morning Walks over so many years. We are appealing for someone to take on this task now that Peter has had to relinquish it. These walks are thoroughly enjoyed and are justified on natural history, social and (given our mature years) health grounds.

Thanks also to the members who represented the Club at the annual Bradgate Park Wildlife event in the summer. Finally thank you to the people who organise the refreshments at our Indoor Meetings.

I have really enjoyed my second stint as Chairman but I wish it had been occasioned by happier circumstances

**Peter Wilkinson**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Another year has flown by for the Loughborough Naturalist's Club, with our members enjoying a packed programme of walks, talks and the regular *Heritage* publications and newsletters, keeping us all in touch with the amazing phenomenon that is our Natural World.

None of this would be possible without our loyal band of members, whose continuing support for the Club, interest and enthusiasm for nature and deep-rooted love of our local countryside, bind us together with a common purpose.

Our Committee continues to beaver away behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the Club and 2017 has been a particular landmark year of changes with the stepping down of Peter Gamble as President and Helen Ikin unanimously nominated to take over this role. Following the sad loss of Les Purnell, Peter Wilkinson also generously volunteered to be Chairman for the year and has again delivered an excellent term of office. Our much respected and long-standing Treasurer, John Ward, also stepped down last year, a role that is now in the capable hands of Mike Buckley.

Fondest thoughts and prayers must also go to a number of our Members, who passed away in recent months and whose obituaries can be found elsewhere in our publications. They will all be sadly missed, both as dear friends and for their wealth of knowledge of the Natural World, much of which had been acquired first hand in the field at a time when such information was not as readily available in guide books and of course through the Internet as it is today.

For the Loughborough Naturalists' Club to remain viable, we still need to encourage more people to join, with a keen interest in nature, an enquiring mind and a desire to share their knowledge, findings and ideas with others. We need more volunteers to come forward. There are still vacancies on the Committee including those of Vice-chair and Outings Convenor. We always welcome members to send in their wildlife records, no matter how many or how few, to contribute towards *Heritage* and thus also the records for the county. Our Saturday evening talks are varied and very well received and we would urge more of you to come along and meet your fellow members and enjoy the educational and social aspects of these informal gatherings in equal measure. The same goes for our Wednesday morning walks, which always provide something of interest en route for the expert and beginner alike.

So, my hope for 2018 is for the Club to continue to flourish with fresh input from our members to build upon its inspired and much valued foundations and ensure its survival well into the future.

**Sue Graham**

## **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Thank you to all those members who have already kindly renewed their subscription for 2018 in a timely manner. For those who may have overlooked this crucial task, we would be most grateful to receive your renewal at your earliest convenience. Rates remain unchanged again this year at £12 for individual full membership, and a further £5 for an additional family member at the same address. Senior membership at £7 remains only available to existing senior members. Please forward you subscriptions to the Membership Secretary or hand them to any of your committee members.

Gift Aiding your subscription allows us to claim back the income tax on your subscription and so helps us keep down membership rates. You only need to do this once, so if you haven't already done so then please consider if you are able to do this. If so, please request a declaration form from either the Membership Secretary or Treasurer.

Although a few members chose not to renew their membership in 2017, we have also gained four new members in the last 12 months and we numbered 94 'paid up' members by the end of the year - slightly down on the previous year. As such a long established club, retaining so many dedicated founder members, unfortunately we lose members from time to time. Sadly 2017 was a particularly difficult year, with eight long standing members passing away. As well as the personal loss, we have also lost the expertise of so many key members.

New members are of course vital to the future viability of our Club, so I am sure you will welcome them to our indoor meetings and walks. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining, then please tell them about the benefits of the Club and encourage them to consider joining us.

If you require any assistance regarding membership 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. Please also let us know if you change your address so we can keep our records up to date and ensure you continue to receive your regular newsletter and *Heritage* publications.

**Graham Fisher**

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2017

For the year ended 30th November 2017, the Club's income exceeded expenditure by £2,272.27. There is however, a total of £590.44 in bills still to be presented which will now be accounted for next year.

Income for the year amounted to £3,415.41. The vast majority of this was made legacy and donations. In particular we are grateful a £2,000 legacy the late Dorothy Jones. Subscriptions totalled £988, slightly down on 2016. Entrance charges to indoor meetings raised £192.00, also slightly lower than in 2016. The tax refund on gift-aided subscriptions has yet to be received and will show in next year's accounts.

Expenditure for the year amounted to £1,143.14. The main items of expenditure were:

Speakers' fees	£161.59
Printing Heritage	£240.10
Postage for Heritage	£169.85
Insurance	£271.60
Hire of room at Quorn for meetings	£240.00

Although we are showing a significant surplus for the year, this is primarily due to the aforementioned legacy. Without this, taking into account the outstanding bills and anticipated Gift Aid rebate, the balance for the year would have been a deficit in the region of £150.

**Mike Buckley, Treasurer**  
**March 2017**

## Income & Expenditure Account for the Year ended 30 November 2017

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b><u>General Fund Income</u></b>		
Subscriptions	£988.00	£1,000.00
Miscellaneous Sales	£94.00	£373.14
Gift Aid Tax Rebate		£172.50
Entrance Charges	£192.00	£204.37
Donations	£92.95	£1.50
Legacy	£2,000.00	
Interest National Savings Acc	£48.46	£60.05
	<u>£3,415.41</u>	<u>£1,811.56</u>
 <b><u>General Fund Expenditure</u></b>		
Affiliations & Subscriptions	£60.00	£98.00
Speakers' Fees	£161.59	£454.00
Donations		£25.00
Hire of Room, Meetings	£240.00	£210.00
Postage Heritage	£169.85	£237.22
Printing Heritage	£240.10	£314.40
Postage Annual Report		£162.76
Printing Annual Report		£73.00
Postage Miscellaneous		33.39
Printing Miscellaneous		£72.26
Insurance	£271.60	£273.75
Equipment		£36.50
Web Domain		
	<u>£1,143.14</u>	<u>£1,990.28</u>
	<u>Surplus</u>	<u>Deficit</u>
	<u>£2,272.27</u>	<u>£178.72</u>

## **Balance Sheet as at 30 November 2017**

	<u>2017</u>		<u>2016</u>
<b><u>General Fund</u></b>			
Cash in Hand	£32.00		
NatWest Current Account	£2,796.55		£556.28
National Savings Investment Acc	<u>£1,731.45</u>		<u>£1,722.99</u>
	£4,560.00		£2,279.27
<b><u>Publications Fund</u></b>			
Cash at Bank No.2 Account	£98.78		£98.78
National Savings Investment Acc	<u>£6,383.15</u>		<u>£6,343.15</u>
	£6,481.93		£6,441.93
	<u><u>£11,041.93</u></u>		<u><u>£8,721.20</u></u>
<b><u>General Fund</u></b>			
Balance as at 1 December 2016	£556.28		£795.05
Surplus for year	£2,272.27		
Deficiency for year			<u>-£238.77</u>
	<u>£2,828.55</u>		£556.28
<b><u>Reserve Fund</u></b>			
Balance as at 1st December 2016	£1,722.99		£1,712.94
Add Net Interest for year	<u>£8.46</u>		<u>£10.05</u>
	£1,731.45		£1,722.99
<b><u>Publications Fund</u></b>			
Balance as at 1 December 2016	£6,343.15		£6,391.93
Add Net Interest for year	£40.00		£50.00
Transfer to General Fund			
	<u>£6,481.93</u>		<u>£6,441.93</u>
	<u><u>£11,041.93</u></u>		<u><u>£8,721.20</u></u>

## **CLUB ACTIVITIES DIARY**

### **INDOOR MEETINGS**

- 14 January Ramblings of a Natural History Photographer, presented by John Tinning
- 11 February Veteran Trees, presented by James Lee
- 11 March Aliens amongst Us, presented by David C Hollis - POSTPONED
- 8 April AGM followed by Members' Short Talks and Exhibits
- 9 September An Introduction to Planning Ecology, presented by Rupert Simms
- 14 October One Hundred Years of Bird Ringing, presented by Ian Gamble
- 11 November Plant Galls, presented by Chris Leach
- 9 December Aliens Amongst Us, presented by David C Hollis

### **OUTDOOR MEETINGS**

#### **Wednesday Morning Walks**

- 4 January Swithland Reservoir North and Granites Coffee Shop Nature Trail
- 1 February Sence Valley Forest Park
- 1 March Birstall Gravel Pits
- 5 April Beacon Hill Country Park, Summit Area
- 3 May Ulverscroft Nature Reserve
- 14 June Rothley & Mountsorrel Commons and Buddon Wood South Mound
- 5 July Breedon Hill
- 2 August Kelham Bridge Nature Reserve
- 6 September Cossington Meadows Nature Reserve
- 4 October Bradgate Park
- 1 November Thornton Reservoir
- 6 December Watermead Country Park South

## **HERITAGE REPORT**

Once again, we are grateful to the members and friends who have contributed records during the year – *Heritage* can only exist if members send in records. Please do consider sending us your sighting, no matter how few, even if they are just ones from your garden.

We are always looking for leading articles for *Heritage*, and would be pleased to accept short articles on any Natural History subject. Perhaps changes that you have noticed over the years in a particular species, habitat or environment.

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

Your comments and suggestions about *Heritage* would be welcomed.

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

**The Editorial Team**

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

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

The DVD of the Club's Survey Reports, *Heritage* and Annual Reports 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

### **Dr Leslie W Purnell, MB, BS, FRCOG 1935 – 2017**

We were so sorry to hear that Leslie had passed away in Gibraltar on 22 June 2017, his beloved wife Elizabeth was by his side.

I first met Leslie, more than a decade ago, at the Butterfly Bounty Event hosted by Carolyn Holmes and her team at the Collections Resources Centre. He immediately offered his expertise and help to work with the butterfly collections by checking the identification and condition of the specimens and transcribing information from the data labels on to a form. Lesley did not want to work on a computer, but the information he had committed to paper was invaluable for me because I could then enter the details on to an 'Excel' spreadsheet. This voluntary work was carried out through October to March, but come the spring and summer, Leslie was out and about recording butterflies throughout the county and further afield. If the weather was 'dire' he would often phone me to ask if he could work with the collections instead. Lesley was always punctual and quietly worked away at his task. He was very popular and respected by staff, volunteers from other sections and of course naturalists working in Natural Life. He was still working with the butterfly and moth collections in 2017, helping Adrian Russell, our County Recorder, to update the checklist and cabinet labels so that the specimens in the collection would be easier to use for future generations of lepidopterists.

We all know that Leslie became interested in the moth fauna, and successfully ran a light trap in his garden, he was a regular contributor to '*Heritage*' and mastered the intricacies of 'Mapmate' so that his moth records could be exported to an 'Excel' spreadsheet and emailed to Graham for inclusion into the quarterly records of '*Heritage*.'

Leslie attended the Club's indoor meetings and Wednesday morning walks with the same enthusiasm and steadfastness that he had applied at Collections Resources Centre. He was a committee member and due to become our Chairman. He believed that life was for living and enjoying and although battling lifelong inherited health issues, never ever gave up. I shall miss his calming influence and that glint in his eyes that came with his sense of humour that occasionally Leslie would allow to show through that quiet persona.

**Anona Finch**

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### **Frederick Thomas Smith d. 2017**

Fred joined the Loughborough Naturalists' Club in 1980 and continued to send in records most quarters until the middle of 2017. Fred died on 3 October 2017.

Fred used to walk along the Ashby Canal to record the dragonflies and carefully noted the bridge numbers and the interesting traditional names of the bridges – he sent me a map. When the fishponds at Groby were created Fred monitored their colonisation by dragonflies. He was a very good observer and spotted the very small population of Red-eyed Damselflies at Groby. Fred lived at Barlestone so was in an ideal place to visit the ponds at Barlestone May Meadow, Desford Lakes (another map with numbers for each pond) and the Peckleton Glebe Water Project when they were set up.

Bees were another of his interests and his garden was host to many species of bumblebee including the cuckoo bumbles that many of us have difficulty identifying. In his later years Fred did not get out to his more distant haunts but always sent us a list of insects from his garden. Howard Bradshaw will miss him greatly when writing his insect reports for *Heritage*.

Fred did not come to meetings and few of us ever met him but he was a valuable member of the Club in its tradition as a recording society.

**Helen Ikin**

## **Howard Brian Hope 1931 – 2017**

Members of the Club were sad to learn of the death of Brian (his favourite Christian name) on the 26 July. Sadly, because of ill health, Brian had been unable to join us on the more recent Wednesday morning walks, which he was disappointed to miss, but it was good to have his cheery presence at our indoor meetings.

I first became friendly with Brian in our early teenage years when he lived in Castledine Avenue and I lived nearby in Farnham Street in Quorn. At this time, one of our common interests was the local countryside and birds and butterflies and we got to know the best places around the village for butterflies and the best front gardens on the north side of Quorn with Buddleia bushes and other plants attractive to these insects.

Later on I lost touch with Brian and it was much later in our retirement years that we renewed our acquaintance when we found our early interests were undimmed.

In his early years Brian attended the local village school before continuing his education at Loughborough Grammar School.

During his National Service in the Navy, he worked in the photographic unit of the aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious, his duties including photographing aircraft as they landed and took off.

Later on much of his working life was spent at Brush Electrical Machines in Loughborough where he produced promotional literature and organised exhibitions of the company's generators.

In the 1950s and 60s, in his spare time, he participated at local motorcycle race meetings both as a marshal and as a mechanic for Leicestershire-based race participants and throughout most of his life he was an enthusiastic motorcyclist. In addition to being a member of the LNC, he was also a member of the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust and he was particularly fond of visiting Swithland Reservoir and Buddon Wood which he did for over 70 years. He also enjoyed visiting Cloud Wood Nature Reserve for the local flora and butterflies which he enjoyed photographing.

In recent years Brian volunteered as a tree warden in the Dishley area of Loughborough and he liaised with the local council to ensure that trees were planted adjacent to the A6. Also living with his wife Jan, close to Dishley Pool, he soon found it to be a good butterfly site and he did his best to get those involved with the management to cut the grassy areas in a way most beneficial to the butterfly populations.

We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to Brian's wife Jan and to his son William, at this sad time.

**Peter Gamble**

## **Leslie Hall 1925 – 2017**

Leslie Hall (known to all his friends as Les) was born in Poplar in east London in 1925. He was evacuated to Ross on Wye during the Second World War and later studied for a degree in Electrical Engineering at Imperial College. He met his future wife Maira in Rugby where she was teaching, when they were both in their early twenties. At the time he was living in a caravan on a farm and in fact in spite of being born a Londoner, Les had shown from childhood an interest in the countryside and in particular wild plants.

In his forties he started to work for himself and quickly gained a reputation as someone supremely practical who could fix anything. Maira recalls that he was still working on the roof in his eighties.

The family eventually moved to their pleasantly situated house in Woodhouse Eves. Les joined the Loughborough Naturalists' Club early in its history and became an active and enthusiastic member. He decided to specialise in the study of Bryophytes as the Club did not have an expert in this field. He also retained his interest in flowering plants and members recall several interesting talks he gave on the flora of Crete with its many endemics. He served the Club in many capacities, including Chairman and he also set up the Club's Website after teaching himself how to use a computer.

Les was not a person who suffered fools gladly and as a lifelong socialist he was a man with principles. He was a voracious reader all his life right up to the end when infirmity would allow him to do little else and could talk forcefully and intelligently on a wide variety of subjects. However he also kind and always had a twinkle in his eye. Time spent with Les, breathing in the pleasing aroma of his beloved pipe, was always enjoyable.

**Peter Wilkinson**

# LOUGHBOROUGH NATURALISTS CLUB

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, 14th April 2018, at 7.30 pm at Quorn Church Rooms, Church Lane, Quorn.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 53rd Annual General meeting
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts
5. Election of Officers and Committee for 2018 – 2019 (see below)
6. Suggestions from the floor and any other business

#### **Election of Officers and Committee for 2018 – 2019**

OFFICE	NOMINEE	PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
CHAIRMAN	Mr E. Webster		
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Vacancy		
SECRETARY	Mrs S. Graham		
TREASURER	Mr. M. Buckley		
MEETINGS SECRETARY	Mrs D. Webster		
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Mr G. Fisher		
HERITAGE EDITORIAL PANEL	Ms H. Ikin		
OUTDOOR MEETINGS CONVENOR	Vacancy		
COMMITTEE MEMBER (Immediate past Chairman)	Mr P. Wilkinson		
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Mr S. Woodward		
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Mr J. Graham		
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Mrs H. Graves		
COMMITTEE MEMBER)	Vacancy		

Any further nominations should reach the Secretary at 5, Lychgate Close, Cropston LE7 7HU before the meeting. They must bear the signature of the nominee and be signed by two members of the Club.

Co-opted members may also be appointed by the Committee for specific purposes.

# LOUGHBOROUGH NATURALISTS' CLUB

## Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting held on 8th April 2017, 7.30pm

at the Church Rooms, Quorn

### Apologies for Absence

Mike Buckley, Jim and Sue Graham, Margaret Gamble, Janet and Mike Edwards, Maira Hall, Megan Dimitrov, , Brian Hope, Baz Forgham.

### Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting

The minutes were proposed by Peter Wilkinson, Seconded by Eric Webster and agreed by all.

### Matters Arising

None

### Adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts

Retiring Chairman Steve Woodward thanked Jim and Helen for editing *Heritage*, the Report writers and Phil Morrish.

Doreen Webster was thanked for the Indoor Meetings Programme, helpers for the provision of refreshments, Les Purnell for standing in when Steve could not attend as Chairman and Graham Fisher for chasing the Subs.

Peter Gamble was thanked for organising the Wednesday Morning Walks, Sue and Jim Graham for the Newsletter and Club Website.

Bradgate Park Wildlife Weekend – thanks to Sue Graham and the LNC stand volunteers.

The Record Office has been approached about storing original paper records – no answer so far.

Treasurer John Ward explained the Accounts. There would have been a deficit if it were not for book sales. The books from County Hall were sold at the Recorders' Conference. Acknowledgement was made of Dorothy Jones's Legacy of £2,000 and the possibility of using this for the general running of the Club.

The entrance fee to Indoor Meetings will rise to £2 for members from September 2017, but the Subscriptions will remain the same for now. This information will need to go into the next Newsletter to keep members informed.

The *Heritage* Editor, Helen Ikin thanked Phil Morrish and made a plea for writers for the sections that are not at present, written up in *Heritage*.

The Annual Report and Accounts were proposed by Les Purnell, Seconded by Janet Killingback and agreed by all.

## Election of Officers and Committee for 2017-18

The following were elected *en bloc*:

OFFICE	NOMINEE	PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
CHAIRMAN	Mr L. Purnell	G. Carpenter	M. Dimitrov
VICE-CHAIRMAN	VACANCY	-----	-----
SECRETARY	Mrs S. Graham	C. A. Hallam	J. Lowe
TREASURER	Mr M. Buckley	J. G. Ward	<i>Illegible Member's Signature</i>
MEETINGS SECRETARY	Mrs D. Webster	J. Edwards	H. Graves
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Mr G. Fisher	A. Benson	M. Hall
HERITAGE EDITORIAL PANEL	Ms H. Ikin	S. Woodward	P. Hipkin
OUTDOOR MEETINGS CONVENOR	Mr P. Gamble	C. A. Hallam	M. Edwards
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Mr. P. Wilkinson	J. Lowe	P. Hipkin
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Mr. J. Graham	J. Lowe	J. McNabe
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Mr E. Webster	H. Graves	H. Ikin
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Mrs H. Graves	C. A Hallam	M. Dimitrov
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Mr S. Woodward	K. Ward	M. Hall

### A.O.B.

President: Peter Gamble expressed his wish to retire as President. He thanked the Club for his 90th Birthday celebrations and the cake and flowers for Margaret.

Peter Gamble proposed Helen Ikin as President. All were in favour.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm

### Club Presentations

Following the AGM, short natural history presentations were given by members including Peter Gamble, Helen Ikin, and Jeremy Haynes.

Steve Woodward thanked everyone who gave presentations and an enjoyable evening was had by all.