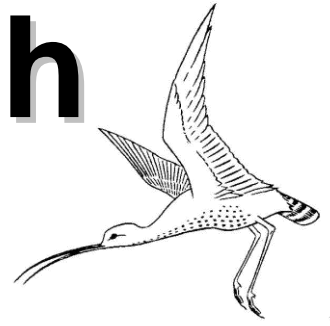


# Loughborough Naturalists' Club



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

*Atholus bimaculatus* and Foxglove Pug © Graham Finch; Stonechat © Jim Graham; Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet © Steve Woodward.



## Annual Report 2018

# LOUGHBOROUGH NATURALISTS' CLUB

## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

as at 30 November 2018

President Ms H Ikin

### COMMITTEE

Chair Mr E Webster

Vice-chair Mrs H Graves

Honorary Secretary Mrs S Graham

Acting Treasurer Mr J Graham

Membership Secretary Mr G Fisher

Indoor Meetings Co-ordinator Mrs D Webster

Outdoor Meetings Co-ordinator Vacant

Members  
Mr J Graham  
Mr S Woodward  
Mr P Wilkinson  
Vacant

### OTHER OFFICERS

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

Librarian Ms H Ikin

Records Co-ordinator Ms H Ikin

## VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2018

I was encouraged to stand for election at the AGM 2018 as Vice-Chairman with the infamous words "it doesn't involve doing very much!" Unfortunately, Eric Webster, who was elected as Chairman at that AGM, has suffered ill health, as also has his wife, Doreen, the Indoor Meetings Co-ordinator. Eric has not been able to attend the autumn series of 2018 events and consequently I have stood in for him to Chair the Meetings. Doreen was also not able to attend our Meetings. Both Eric and Doreen have been very much missed and we hope that they will be able to join us again as soon as possible.

Doreen has been our Indoor Meetings Co-ordinator but has had to withdraw from this position. Our ex-President, Peter Gamble, also no longer acts as our Outdoor Meetings Co-ordinator. Consequently this year we have all pulled together as a Committee and at our Meetings "brainstormed" ideas for speakers, walks and leaders. Our President, Helen Ikin, has delivered us an excellent Autumn Programme of talks and our Secretary Sue Graham has co-ordinated the Outdoor Meetings. Many thanks to both for stepping up into these roles. Pam Darby has volunteered to act as Indoor Meeting Co-ordinator (from the 2019 AGM), and is welcomed wholeheartedly. At the moment we have no Outdoor Meeting Co-ordinator. We really need someone to volunteer to take on this role. Even if you do not want to take on responsibility for the whole season then suggesting a destination and volunteering to lead it would be very helpful.

I have thoroughly enjoyed our Winter Season of talks, and in actual fact enjoyed acting-up as Chairman. We are a fairly small Club and I am slowly getting to know more and more of the regulars. I think the social aspect of the Club is important as well as the more formal aspects; this applies to our refreshment intervals at the indoor meetings and to our post-walk lunches at a suitable café or inn. I am also pleased to see some new visitors who hopefully will join. Our Club meetings are now advertised on NatureSpot which we hope will make more people aware of our activities.

The range of talks has again been excellent. Peter Wilkinson chaired the spring 2018 Meetings. These included Jack Perks talking on Garden Wildlife, which I was unable to attend. This was followed by Dave Nicholls "Learning to love slugs and snails", which I think was an eye opener to many of us – in terms of variety and lifestyles. The next talk was Baz Forgham giving us "Kelham Bridge from Sewage Farm to Nature Reserve". This was a fascinating account of the challenges faced over a considerable period of time by Baz and his team to create the range of habitats and associated wildlife that we now have. We held our AGM in April when the current Committee was elected and we were entertained by presentations from our members.

Steve and Helen started the autumn season of 2018 off with lively talks entitled "A Prickly Subject" (Thistles), "Tales of the River Bank" (VC55 Waterways) and "South Luangwa Valley, Zambia". This was followed in October by Richard Pegler giving us an extremely informative tour of one of his favourite Scottish destinations, Speyside, including ideas for good refreshment stops which can be useful in such remote areas! November's talk was by Colleen Powell of Leicestershire Hedgehog Rescue. Colleen treated to us to information about hedgehogs, their way of life and how to care for injured hedgehogs, and this was amply sprinkled with very amusing personal anecdotes of her life with hedgehogs, plus a real live hedgehog! And then in December Jim Graham stunned us with a report of the Peregrines at Leicester Cathedral illustrated by fascinating and amusing video of their behaviour, especially the relationship between the large female and the smaller male. I was a frequent visitor to the live streaming on-line last year and will be again this year.

*Heritage* continues to be issued, many thanks to Helen, Steve, Sue and Jim, despite the difficulties we have had with posts not being filled. As usual more records from members will make for more interesting and useful reports by our Report Writers. Volunteers are also needed to write reports. You don't need to be an expert! Putting together a report is a really good way of learning a topic you know little about as I certainly found when I did the Plant Galls Report for 2017.

I warmly welcome Margaret McLoughlin to the Club as our new Treasurer starting after the 2019 AGM. I have been working with Margaret to digitise the butterfly records of our club from 2000 to 2018 for Adrian Russell, the Lepidoptera County Recorder, to use in his planned atlas of the butterflies and moths of Leicestershire and Rutland, which he hopes to publish shortly after the 2020 cut-off date.

Unfortunately I was not able to attend the Bradgate Park Wildlife Weekend in 2018 but I understand it was a success once again. Many thanks to our Members who participated in that. I am hoping that I will be able to attend the 2019 event.

Finally thanks to all the Officers and Members of the Committee for their contributions to the club and for their support to me in my unexpected challenge for this indoor meeting season. We have all pulled together in this rather unusual year.

And last but not least, thanks to all who help with the refreshments, an essential part of the evening's enjoyment.

**Hazel Graves**  
**19 March 2019**

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2018**

It has been a challenging year in many ways for the Committee, with several key vacancies meaning more work for the remaining officers, inevitable delays to our *Heritage* and Newsletter publications and more reliance on our website to publish details of up and coming meetings and outings. Despite all this however, we have managed to keep going (just!) and have been heartened by the willingness of some of our members to step into the breach and offer themselves for election for the coming year, for which we have been extremely grateful.

A landmark occasion for the Club came when Founder Member Peter Gamble stepped down as President and Helen Ikin competently took up the reigns. Hazel Graves valiantly acted up as Chair in Eric Webster's absence and is happy to stand as Chair going forward, meaning of course that the position of Vice-chair has remained vacant. Our gratitude goes to Eric and Doreen, two stalwarts of the Club, who sadly had to step down from their posts as Chair and Meetings Co-ordinator respectively after much dedicated service over the years - our very best wishes go to both of them and we hope that they will still be able to come along our meetings from time to time.

I would particularly like to thank Doreen and Eric and latterly Hazel for their wonderful hospitality in hosting our Committee Meetings.

Mike Buckley also had to relinquish his post as Treasurer but has made a welcome return to the Committee more recently. Fortunately, Editorial Panel Member Jim Graham offered to take up the financial baton, ably looking after the Club's accounts for 2018 with Helen's assistance.

We were delighted to co-opt Margaret McLoughlin as our new Treasurer towards the end of the year and the Accounts have since been successfully handed over to her.

As well as her role as Records Co-ordinator and *Heritage* Editor, our President, Helen Ikin managed to provide much needed continuity for the Club in organising Speakers for our meetings in Doreen's absence. Going forward, Pam Darby has very kindly offered to be our next Meetings Co-ordinator for which we are all very grateful.

The whole Committee have attempted to fill the huge gap left by Peter Gamble, in arranging and leading our popular Wednesday Morning Walks. The key post of Outings Co-ordinator still remains vacant as we go to Press and I would strongly urge any Member who thinks they might be able to help in any way to get in touch to discuss these opportunities.

Vacancies for Committee Members also remained outstanding at the end of 2018. Kate Ward, a Founder Member of the Club and former Member of the Committee has since kindly offered to join the Committee again. Her wealth of knowledge and experience will be much appreciated.

Our quarterly bulletin *Heritage* underpins and collates the combined activities of our Club in identifying and recording the wildlife of VC 55, especially that of the Charnwood Forest area. This expertly written and compiled publication can only continue with records submitted by your good selves so please do keep these coming in to Helen. Special thanks must go to two of the Section Writers for *Heritage*, namely Eric Webster (plants) and Howard Bradshaw (Insects), who have stepped down after many years of tirelessly producing their reports. Again, if there is anyone who would like to help out in this regard, please do speak to Helen or myself.

Together with our Membership Secretary Graham Fisher, longstanding Editorial Panel Member Steve Woodward and Committee Member Peter Wilkinson, the Committee have done a wonderful job in keeping our Club afloat throughout 2018 and I'm grateful as Secretary for the support of each and every one of them and the Membership as the Club goes forward into 2019.

**Sue Graham**

## **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2018**

Last year was a more encouraging one with regard to membership, as the decline in numbers was halted as a result of us welcoming six new members. At the end of the year our membership remained stable at a total of 94 - the same as the end of 2017. Just four members chose not to re-new in 2018, but sadly we lost another two long-standing members who passed away.

Our record of retaining new members is a little patchy, with around a third deciding not to renew their membership in subsequent years, so please make sure we welcome them to our meetings and walks - and if you know anyone who may be interested, please do tell them about the benefits of the Club and encourage them to consider joining us, as our future as a club depends on them.

We have continued to retain membership subscriptions at the same level for seven years now, even though costs are continually rising. I am sure you will agree that they are good value, as they enable us to continue our mission to record the flora and fauna of our locality as well as disseminating such information and hopefully providing interesting and informative talks and excursions.

In accordance with our Constitution, membership subscriptions are always due on 1st January each year, regardless of the time of year you may have first joined. The only exception being that if you join during the last three months of the calendar year, this covers the following year's subscription also.

So thank you once again, to all who have already kindly renewed their subscription for 2019 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. Please forward your subscriptions to the Membership Secretary or hand them to any of your Committee members.

Please remember that Gift Aiding allows us to claim back the Income Tax you may have paid 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.

It would be helpful if those of you who use e-mail could let us have your e-mail address so that we can contact you if necessary with Club news or with important information about walks or indoor meetings. We promise to keep your details safe and only use your address for Club-related reasons. If you would like to help us keep in touch, just send an e-mail from your mail account to the Membership Secretary at [grahamandmaggie@waitrose.com](mailto:grahamandmaggie@waitrose.com).

You can also receive your copy of *Heritage* and Newsletter via e-mail if you wish, thus saving the Club postage costs. Just let us know by e-mail or speak to one of your Committee.

Finally, 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* publication.

**Graham Fisher**

## **TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2018**

For the year ended 30th November 2018, the Club's expenditure exceeded income by £507.86. This was mainly due to the total of £590.44 in bills that related to 2017 but were not presented until this year as mentioned in last year's report.

Income for the year amounted to £1,506.50, with the majority of this made up of subscriptions. There was a significant rise in Entrance Charges due to the increase of Members attending our monthly talks.

You will note that the Tax refund on Gift-aided subscriptions has yet to be received as changes to the Treasurer's position have to be formally notified before a claim can be made. The refunds totalling approx. £360 should be presented in next year's accounts.

Expenditure for the year amounted to £2,014.36. The main items of expenditure were: Speakers' fees £239.40, an increase of £130 over 2017 but offset against an increase of income from the meetings of £173; Printing *Heritage* and postage of *Heritage* included unpaid invoices relating to 2017 as mentioned above. A saving of over £70 was made from our insurance after discussions with our Insurer. The cost room hire at Quorn for meetings remained the same at £240.00.

Although we are showing a small deficit for the year, this would have been more than compensated by the Gift Aid refunds due.

The Club is grateful that the Treasurer's role has now been filled and in the very capable hands of Margaret Mcloughlin. In order to help simplify the accounts going forward, it is proposed that we consolidate the two NatWest accounts as the smaller one is receiving no interest. In addition, it is also proposed that we no longer show the Publications and Reserve Funds separately but show these as one figure as they refer to the same account.

**Jim Graham, Acting Treasurer**  
**March 2019**

## Income & Expenditure Account for the Year ended 30 November 2018

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	
<b><u>General Fund Income</u></b>			
Subscriptions	£1,059.50	£1,003.00	
Miscellaneous Sales	£93.00	£52.00	
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	£0.00	£0.00	
Entrance Charges	£354.00	£181.00	
Donations	£0.00	£102.95	
Legacy	£0.00	£2,000.00	
	<u>£1,506.50</u>	<u>£3,338.95</u>	
<b>Interest</b>			
Interest National Savings Acc	£38.24	£48.46	
<b><u>General Fund Expenditure</u></b>			
Affiliations & Subscriptions	-£60.00	-£60.00	
Speakers' Fees	-£239.40	-£109.00	
Printing Misc	-£74.63	£0.00	
Donations	-£45.00	£0.00	
Hire of Room, Meetings	-£240.00	-£240.00	
Postage <i>Heritage</i>	-£398.24	-£92.60	
Printing <i>Heritage</i>	-£356.05	-£138.18	
Postage Annual Report	-£111.08	£0.00	
Printing Annual Report	-£125.71	£0.00	
Postage Miscellaneous	£0.00	-£9.45	
Printing Newsletter	-£71.78	-£31.67	
Insurance	-£201.00	-£271.60	
Equipment	£0.00	£0.00	
Web Domain	-£23.98	-£8.99	
Miscellaneous	-£67.49	-£105.19	
	<u>-£2,014.36</u>	<u>-£1,066.68</u>	
Deficit	<u><u>-£507.86</u></u>	Surplus	<u><u>£2,272.27</u></u>

## Balance Sheet as at 30 November 2018

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<u>General Fund</u>		
Cash in Hand	£24.00	£32.00
NatWest Current Acc 307	£2,296.69	£2,796.55
National Savings Investment Acc	<u>£1,739.69</u>	<u>£1,731.45</u>
	£4,060.38	£4,560.00
 <u>Publications Fund</u>		
Cash at Bank No.2 Acc 315	£98.78	£98.78
National Savings Investment Acc	<u>£6,413.15</u>	<u>£6,383.15</u>
	£6,511.93	£6,481.93
	<u><u>£10,572.31</u></u>	<u><u>£11,041.93</u></u>
 <u>General Fund</u>		
Balance as at 1 December 2018	£2,828.55	£556.28
Surplus for year	-£507.86	£2,272.27
Deficiency for year	<u>£2,320.69</u>	<u>£2,828.55</u>
 <u>Reserve Fund</u>		
Balance as at 1st December 2018	£1,731.45	£1,722.99
Add net interest for year	<u>£8.24</u>	<u>£8.46</u>
	£1,739.69	£1,731.45
 <u>Publications Fund</u>		
Balance as at 1 December 2018	£6,481.93	£6,441.93
Add Net Interest for year	£30.00	£40.00
Transfer to General Fund	<u>£6,511.93</u>	<u>£6,481.93</u>
	<u><u>£10,572.31</u></u>	<u><u>£11,041.93</u></u>

## CLUB ACTIVITIES DIARY FOR 2018

### INDOOR MEETINGS

- 13 January Garden Wildlife, presented by Jack Perks  
10 February Learning to Love Slugs & Snails, presented by Dave Nicholls  
10 March Kelham Bridge from Sewage Farm to Nature Reserve, presented by Baz Forgham  
14 April AGM followed by Members' Short Talks and Exhibits  
15 September Three Short Talks, presented by Members Helen Ikin & Steve Woodward  
13 October Speyside: A Place for All Seasons, presented by Richard Pegler  
10 November Helping Hedgehogs, presented by Colleen Powell  
8 December Leicester Cathedral Peregrines, presented by Jim Graham

### OUTDOOR MEETINGS

#### **Wednesday Morning Walks**

- 10 January Sence Valley Forest Park  
7 February Hicks Lodge  
7 March Albert Village Lake  
4 April Groby Pool to Newtown Linford  
2 May Charnwood Lodge – Cancelled due to weather  
6 June Frisby Lakes  
4 July Swithland Wood  
1 August Kegworth Canal Towpath  
5 September Swithland Reservoir and Rabbits Bridge  
3 October Grace Dieu Wood  
7 November Barrow-upon-Soar Riverside Walk  
5 December Thornton Reservoir

## **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, Eric Webster, Jim Graham, Baz Forgham, Tony Onions, Graham & Anona Finch, Hazel Graves and Helen Ikin, who write up the reports and especially to Howard Bradshaw who is now stepping down from the team. We are very grateful to Howard for his interesting and informative reports over many years.

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 on request:

- Groby Pool
- Benscliffe & Blakeshay
- Ulverscroft
- Leicestershire Coleopterists
- The Spiders of Leicestershire & Rutland
- The Birdlife of Swithland Reservoir
- DVD: Scans of Biological Records 1961-2010