

Loughborough Naturalists' Club



www.loughboroughnats.org

Stonechat © Jim Graham; Spectacular Rustgill © Sue Graham;
Illosporopsis christiansenii © Hazel Graves, Phaonia angelicae © Margaret McLoughlin



Annual Report 2025

LOUGHBOROUGH NATURALISTS' CLUB

COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

as at 30 November 2025

President H Ikin

COMMITTEE

Chair H Graves
Honorary Secretary S Graham
Honorary Treasurer ML McLoughlin
Membership Secretary J Brown
Field Outings Co-ordinator P Proudlove

Members K Moore
H Orridge
Vacant
Vacant

OTHER OFFICERS

Records Co-ordinator ML McLoughlin
Website Manager J Graham

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2025

Introduction

Due to personal circumstances, I had stepped down from the role of Chair and Acting Indoor Meeting Co-ordinator of Loughborough Naturalists' Club at the AGM in 2024 after giving one year's notice.

The Club was having some difficulties in that it was unable to find Members willing to volunteer to fill roles, including that of Chair, Vice Chair, Writers and Editors for *Heritage* and the Newsletter, and Indoor Meeting Co-ordinator, all of utmost importance to the Club in terms of maintaining its activities in its current form. Attendance at the Saturday evening Indoor Meetings was also dwindling.

I remained a member of the Committee during the rest of 2024 and early 2025 and together the Committee planned a new structure to take the Club forward into the next phase of its life. During that time, I continued to Chair the Indoor Meetings, but the Chair of each Committee Meeting was elected from those present at the time.

Restructuring the Club

Collectively the Committee planned a new structure for the Club. This was a radical restructuring and took the emphasis very firmly back to the origins of the Club as a Recording Club.

The regular Indoor Meetings would be cancelled. However, we would continue to share a meeting with Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust Charnwood Group annually at their venue in Woodhouse Eaves and we would advertise the LRWT Charnwood Programme to our Members electronically.

Heritage would be published until its last volume number 256 Quarter 4, December 2024 and then stopped. All *Heritages* are available to download from the Club's website.

Newsletters would no longer be published. Instead, items of interest and reports of the Outdoor Meetings would be published on-line and Members encouraged to read these reports. All Members to be asked to contribute to this archive of nature by sending in articles and notes and photos from our area.

Monthly Field Outings would continue with emphasis on species recording alongside the social aspect. The Club's special project, already in place since 2022, recording at Home Farm Nanpantan, would continue with plans to review the work done in early 2026 in order to plan future work.

Records would no longer be collated by the Club. Members were encouraged to submit their records to NatureSpot where they will be shared with Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre LRERC, to submit directly to LRERC, to submit to individual Recording Schemes such as BSBI, LROS, Butterfly Conservation, County Moth Recorder, etc. These records should eventually end up at LRERC but may take longer.

This proposal was submitted to the Membership at the AGM in April 2025. If Members had come forward to volunteer for the vacant roles, then the Club might not have needed such reorganisation. However, that did not happen, and the Members voted to accept the Committee's proposal to restructure.

My change in circumstances and the slimming down of the Club meant that I could again offer my services as Chairman and that was accepted.

Therefore, in Spring 2025 we moved forward with a committee willing, able and enthusiastic to manage and enjoy the streamlined Club that had been formed.

Indoor Meetings January to April 2025

- 11 January: 'Mammal Recording in VC55' presented by Dr Helen O'Brien
Helen shared the upsurge in research in mammal recording and conservation in our counties.
- 12 February: Wednesday: Joint Meeting with LRWT – 'The Secret Life of Flies' by Dr Erica McAlister
This was a wonderful occasion. Erica's knowledge and enthusiasm delighted the audience.
- 08 March: 'Raptors in Autumn; Orchids in Spring – Some of the Wildlife of the South-west Algarve' presented by Simon Bennett
A fascinating evening by a member of the Leicester Lit & Phil Natural History Section and Knighton Wild.
- 12 April: AGM & Members' Evening.
The outcome of the AGM has already been described above.
Following the AGM the Members's Evening included an illustrated talk by Jan Croft entitled "Finland – In Search of Black Grouse" and "Maria Subylla Merian" by Hazel Graves. Two talks of very contrasting nature and both well received by the Members.

Outdoor Meetings 2025

The Club's Outdoor Meetings/Field Trips continued as usual, except that a proposed January BSBI Plant Hunt could not take place due to clashes with Members' holiday plans.

- 05 February - Charnwood Water, led by Kate Moore/Hazel Graves.
- 05 March - Thornton Reservoir, led by Jim and Sue Graham.
- 02 April - Home Farm, Nanpantan, led by Margaret McLoughlin.
- 07 May - Oakthorpe Picnic Site (Willesley Wood), led by Peter Proudlove.
- 04 June – Whitehorse Wood, Shepshed, led by Hazel Graves.
- 02 July – Home Farm, Nanpantan, led by Hazel Graves and Margaret McLoughlin.
- 06 August – Kelham Bridge, Led by Kate Moore.
- 03 September – Blackbrook Way. led by Howard Orridge.
- 01 October – Swithland Wood North, led by Jim and Sue Graham.
- 05 November – Cossington Meadows, led by Peter Proudlove.
- 03 December – Eyebrook Reservoir, led by Jim and Sue Graham.

Each of these meetings was well attended, provided a wide range of records, and ended with social lunches at nearby eateries. Several of these venues were new to some of our Members who reacted enthusiastically to being introduced to new places. This aspect of the Club is flourishing.

Club Recording

1. Margaret McLoughlin, the Club's Recording Officer, has collated Club Records that were awaiting storage and deposited them with Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC) or the Records Office for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (ROLLR) as appropriate. Both organisations have stated that the 65 years of Club records and publications is a valuable archive, and all the outstanding items are now stored safely in suitable depositories.

2. Isabel Raval, Charnwood Forest Regional Park Project and Surveys Officer, Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust left her post when the project finished at the end of April 2024. She had recruited a team of volunteer recorders to record specifically in Charnwood Forest. This included experienced recorders, including some of our Club Members, and new recorders, the project aim being both to gain records and to skill up members of the public in recording. When the Project finished, Charnwood Forest Regional Park paid for any of Isabel's group who so wished to transfer to Loughborough Naturalists' Club for one year as part of the Project's Legacy. We were delighted to gain these Members, many of whom have played valuable roles in recording for the Club both individually and on the Club's Field Trips during 2025.

3. As mentioned above, Loughborough Naturalists are now encouraged to enter their records onto NatureSpot. In 2025 Loughborough Nats contributed 3,360 records to NatureSpot. These do not include records from some of our most prolific recorders and from our Members who engage in group activities such as bird and butterfly transects, organised bat events, and communal or garden moth trapping. Neither does it include the records from Home Farm, Nanpantan. These figures help to demonstrate the high level of recording activity amongst Club Members. It also indicates where more records could easily be made in the less recorded groups such as earwigs.

These NatureSpot records included:

Group	Number of Records	Group	Number of Records
Springtails and Bristletails	1	Hoverflies	51
Harvestmen	2	Dragonflies and Damselflies	54
Earwigs	3	Craneflies, Gnats and Midges	55
Slime Moulds	3	Mites, Ticks & Pseudoscorpions	57
Barklice and Booklice	4	Grasses, Rushes and Sedges	59
Centipedes and Millipedes	4	Spiders	62
Woodlice, crustaceans	4	Flies	79
Reptiles	6	Lichens	80
Lacewings and Scorpionflies	7	Bugs	136
Mayflies	7	Birds	143
Mosses and Liverworts	7	Fungus	143
Amphibians	8	Butterflies	185
Ferns & Horsetails	10	Bees, Wasps and Ants	186
Grasshoppers and Crickets	14	Trees, Shrubs and Climbers	197
Sawflies	15	Beetles	202
Slugs and Snails	20	Wildflowers	480
Mammals	31	Moths	996
Caddisflies	44		

Other activities

The Committee had also hoped that informal get-togethers to discuss personal recording highlights could be arranged, but so far that has not been possible due to other commitments. That concept will be borne in mind for the future.

Highlights of the Year

Peter Gamble Memorial Lecture and 65th Anniversary Exhibition Evening

The Club celebrated its 65th anniversary, the 60th anniversary having been thwarted by the Covid pandemic, with an Exhibition Evening on 10 May 2025 at Woodhouse Eaves King George V rooms, rounded off with our final Peter Gamble Memorial Lecture given by Tim Sexton, Species and Recording Officer of LRWT Rutland Water, entitled “Before It’s Gone: Baseline Recording in a Changing World”. This was a splendid evening, well attended by current Members and some of our early Members, displays highlighting the current and previous activities of the Club, previous and current Members of the Club and the Club’s publications.

Bioblitz at Queen’s Park Loughborough

A bioblitz jointly organised by LRWT Charnwood Group and Loughborough Naturalists’ Club was held on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd August 2025 with the support and co-operation of *idverde* who manage Queen’s Park for Charnwood Borough Council. A bat walk and moth trapping event took place after dark on the evening of the 1st August and a variety of stalls were set up in the park on the Saturday morning, including Leicestershire Bat Group, LRWT and LNC. The LNC displays covered species which could be found in an ordinary Loughborough garden, a Plant Gall display and children’s activities which were very popular. Expert-led walks around the Park contributed to a large species list for the day which can be found on our website or on NatureSpot, (under This Bioblitz), recorded at least 329 species with some still to be identified from photographs. A new county record for a sponge fly was found on the Friday evening, along with a less uncommon sponge fly posing the question, “are there freshwater sponges in the stream in Queen’s Park?” Many of the records can be seen on NatureSpot’s Wildlife Places – ‘Loughborough, Queen’s Park’. Above all, our volunteers enjoyed chatting with visitors to the stalls, including the children, and sharing their enthusiasm about wildlife with them.

DANES Open Day - Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Entomological Society Open Day at Nottingham Trent University Brackenhurst Campus, Southwell, Notts.

Several Members of Loughborough Naturalists’ Club attended DANES on Saturday 8th November 2025, to view the wide range of exhibits and to listen to the programme of short talks. A joint display was mounted with Chris Leach of the British Plant Gall Society and of Leicestershire and Rutland Entomological Society. Posters of plant galls found in VC55 were on display and live specimens on the table. The stall gained a great deal of interest as the day proceeded including enthusiasm amongst some of the younger Members attending, possibly students on the campus, whose previous knowledge of plant galls was minimal.

Other News

We are saddened that two of our most faithful Club Members and holders of a variety of important posts are no longer well enough to attend our activities. We all wish Helen Ikin and Peter Wilkinson well in their new homes.

Conclusion

Although Loughborough Naturalists’ Club has lost some of its activities, the core activity is continuing strongly with its Members’ activities, either as individuals or on Club Outings. I think the next few years look very bright for our Club as the Members concentrate on their favourite wildlife activity.

Hazel Graves
Chairman

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2025

As Hazel has detailed in her Chair's Report, the past year has been one of change and somewhat of a rebirth for the Loughborough Naturalists' Club.

It has been heartening to have the support of our Members through some significant revisions in the way our Club operates, while remaining faithful to its original aims and values. Going forward, this gives your Committee the confidence to continue to nurture these principles and provide a friendly and welcoming environment in which to study and record our precious local wildlife and publicise our findings.

Our Field Outings are going from strength to strength and provide wonderful opportunities for recording and informal socialising in some exciting new locations as well as the more familiar ones. Peter Proudlove continues to do a great job as Field Outings Co-ordinator in this regard, and we are grateful to him for updating the Membership about forthcoming trips and keeping our field trip leaders informed of participants for each one.

Jenny Brown, our new Membership Secretary has taken up her post with much competence and enthusiasm. Thanks to her responsiveness and timely actions in communicating with Members old and new and keeping everyone well informed by email, we know that our Membership is in very safe hands.

Speaking of safe hands, we have our Treasurer Margaret McLoughlin to thank most sincerely for keeping the Club's finances in good order. The Club remains in a healthy position despite all the recent changes, which again gives us the conviction that decisions made a year ago were indeed justified.

Oscar Orridge has been warmly welcomed onto the Committee and has already proved to be of invaluable assistance in many aspects of running the Club, as indeed has Kate Moore who has served on the Committee for a number of years now. We are delighted that they have both put themselves forward for re-election again this year.

Whilst not officially on the Committee, Jim Graham has done an excellent job behind the scenes running the LNC website - all the more important for dissemination of information, news, events and Members' interactions in real time now that the quarterly Newsletter has been discontinued.

This just leaves our Chair Hazel Graves, who has been instrumental in driving the Club forward and steering the ship in her inimitable innovative and enthusiastic style. We all owe her a huge debt of gratitude for her determination in ensuring that the Loughborough Naturalists' Club continues to thrive.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone on the Committee for their support in my role as Secretary, which has been much appreciated.

Here's to another exciting and nature-filled year ahead!

Sue Graham
Honorary Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2025

This is the financial report and overview to the AGM. Full account copies are available should anyone wish to see them, and a full signed copy will be lodged with the AGM documents. These have again been independently checked, and I am grateful again to Andrew Bass for that service.

For the time being, Membership subscriptions have steadied – bearing in mind the re-shaping of the Club's offer. The popularity of the Wednesday recording effort is a good and constant part of the Club and is popular.

Sales and distribution of the second print of 'More Than Meets The Eye' is now seeing an expected drop off, but you will see I have returned £3,000 to the Reserve Fund which covers both the initial print and the re-print costs.

Home Farm Project: what remains of this fund is still in the NatWest account but are not shown in the simplified overview below. At the end of 2025, we bought the additional equipment I reported last year, and we have a small amount to spend prior to the final report back to the funders.

I did not claim, Gift Aid in this period, but will do so with next year's return.

We are showing a small surplus this year, as you would expect due to reducing overheads. The flip side is that we have reduced donations from Members and guests attending meetings.

In the last Committee meeting I supplied a breakdown of costs (albeit not being a full year's costs under the new set up) and we are able to agree a Member Cost to put to the proposed review/update of Membership groups. Such that with the current Membership numbers that the fee will enable us to operate at break even.

Presently, the Club continues to be in a stable financial position and thus I present this report for your scrutiny and comment.

M.L. McLoughlin

Simplified Income and Expenditure for 2025

Income	2025	2024	Expenditure	2025	2024
Subscriptions	£747.00	£747.00	Affiliations & Subscriptions	£75.00	£75.00
Miscellaneous Sales	£0.00	£0.00	Speakers' Fees	£205.00	£160.00
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	£0.00	£372.77	Hire of Room, Meetings	£149.19	£348.84
Entrance Charges	£117.30	£42.00	Printing	£252.85	£230.41
Donations	£0.00	£145.20	Postage	£19.90	£103.45
Sales of MTMTE	£257.00	£183.50	Insurance	£212.24	£212.24
			Beverages	£23.00	£36.58
Marcene Crocker Gift	£1,000.00	£0.00	2023 Cheque not cashed	£50.00	£0.00
(Above not represented in			Web Domain	£0.00	£0.00
Above yearly figures)			MTMTE expenses – reprint	£0.00	£0.00
			Donations	£100.00	£0.00
TOTALS	£1,121.30	£1,490.47		£1,035.18	£1,116.47
	Surplus	Surplus			
	+£86.12	+£374.00			

Balances 31 Nov 2025	2025	2024	Notes:
Cash in Hand	£20.20	£84.61	
NatWest Current Account	£3,359.36	£5,002.95	
NS&I Account	£9,424.62	£6,360.84	
Current Assets	£12,804.18	£11,448.40	

Produced by: ML McLoughlin 18/02/2026

Checked by: AB Bass


18/03/2026

LOUGHBOROUGH NATURALISTS CLUB

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30 November 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>General Fund Income</u>		
Subscriptions	£747.00	£747.00
Miscellaneous Sales	£0.00	£0.00
Gift Aid Tax Rebate 2022/23	£0.00	£372.77
Entrance Charges	£0.00	£42.00
Donations	£117.30	£145.20
Sale of MTMTE	£257.00	£183.50
	<u>£1,121.30</u>	<u>£1,490.47</u>
<u>Interest</u>		
Interest National Savings Account	£63.78	£48.84
<u>General Fund Expenditure</u>		
Affiliations & Subscriptions	-£75.00	-£75.00
Speakers' Fees	-£205.00	-£160.00
Hire of Room, Meetings	-£148.19	-£348.84
Printing	-£252.85	-£230.41
Postage	-£18.90	-£103.45
Insurance	-£212.24	-£212.24
Equipment	£0.00	£0.00
Speakers Fees cheque not cashed (2023)	£0.00	£50.00
Donations	-£100.00	£0.00
Miscellaneous Purchases (beverages)	-£23.00	-£36.53
	<u>-£1,035.18</u>	<u>-£1,116.47</u>
Surplus/Deficit (+/-) for the year	Surplus <u>£86.12</u>	Surplus <u>£374.00</u>

Produced by M.L. McLoughlin

 Date: 19/12/24

Checked by A.B. Bass

 Date: 18-3-26

Balance Sheet as at 30 November 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash in Hand	£20.20	£84.61
NatWest Current Account	£3,359.36	£5,002.95
National Savings Investment Account	£9,424.62	£6,360.84
	<u>£12,804.18</u>	<u>£11,448.40</u>
Represented by:-		
<u>General Fund</u>		
Balance as at 1 December 2024	£4,855.07	£4,481.07
M G Crocker Legacy	£1,000.00	£0.00
Transfer to Reserve Fund	-£3,000.00	£0.00
Surplus/Deficit (+/-) for the year	£86.12	£374.00
Balance as at 30 November 2025	<u>£2,941.19</u>	<u>£4,855.07</u>
<u>Reserve Fund</u>		
Balance as at 1st December 2024	£6,360.84	£6,312.00
Transfer from Reserve Fund	£3,000.00	£0.00
Add Interest for the year	£63.78	£48.84
Balance as at 30 November 2025	<u>£9,424.62</u>	<u>£6,360.84</u>
<u>National Forest Project Grant</u>		
Balance as at 1st December 2024	£232.49	£390.31
Income	£1,125.00	£562.00
Expenditure	-£919.12	-£719.82
Balance as at 30 November 2025	<u>£438.37</u>	<u>£232.49</u>
	<u>£12,804.18</u>	<u>£11,448.40</u>

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARYS REPORT FOR 2025

At the end of 2025, the Membership of the Loughborough Naturalists' Club numbered 73. Each year it is inevitable that some Memberships are not renewed.

In 2025, and for a variety of reasons, 12 Members did not renew their Membership. More positively, we have been delighted to welcome 13 new Members to our wonderful Club, and in the first quarter of 2026 we have had another three join us.

Subscriptions are due on the first of January each year.

Membership subscription rates during 2025 remained at £12 for a single Membership and £17 for a joint/family Membership.

Any Members who have overlooked their renewal for this year....it is not too late! We would still be delighted for you to remain with our Club.

If you have any queries regarding your subscription please do not hesitate to contact me on 07475-474236 (if I am unable to answer your call, please leave me a message and I will return your call as soon as possible) or by email: Loughnats.membership@gmail.com

Jenny Brown
Membership Secretary

Club's account details for Bank Transfer or Standing Order:

Bank: NatWest Bank
Account Name: Loughborough Naturalists Club
Account number: 89289307
Sort Code: 60-14-10

CLUB ACTIVITIES DIARY FOR 2025

INDOOR MEETINGS

- 11 January 'Mammal Recording in VC55' presented by Dr Helen O'Brien
- 12 February Special Joint Meeting with LRWT Charnwood Branch – 'The Secret Life of Flies' presented by Dr Erica McAlister
- 8 March 'Raptors in Autumn; Orchids in Spring. Some of the Wildlife of the South-west Algarve' presented by Simon Bennett
- 12 April AGM and Members' Evening
- 10 May The PETER GAMBLE MEMORIAL LECTURE: Final Indoor Meeting. Guest Speaker: Tim Sexton, Species and Recording Officer, Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust – 'Before It's Gone: Baseline Recording in a Changing World'

WILDLIFE FIELD TRIPS

- January New Year Plant Hunt (cancelled)
- 5 February Charnwood Water; led by Kate Moore and Hazel Graves
- 5 March Thornton Reservoir; led by Jim and Sue Graham
- 2 April Home Farm, Nanpantan; led by Margaret McLoughlin
- 7 May Oakthorpe Picnic Site (Willesley Wood); led by Peter Proudlove
- 4 June Whitehorse Wood, Shepshed; led by Hazel Graves
- 2 July Home Farm, Nanpantan; led by Hazel Graves and Margaret McLoughlin
- 6 August LRWT Kelham Bridge; led by Kate Moore
- 3 September Blackbrook Way; led by Howard Orridge
- 1 October Swithland Wood North; led by Jim and Sue Graham
- 5 November LRWT Cossington Meadows; led by Peter Proudlove
- 3 December Eyebrook Reservoir; led by Jim and Sue Graham