



Annual General Meeting

15th December 2022 at 7.30pm at the Con. Club, Chudleigh

Item	Actions
<p>Apologies: Greg Macqueen, Mary and Fraser Rush.</p>	
<p>Minutes from the previous AGM (18th January 2022)</p>	<p>Adopted</p>
<p>Treasurer's Report 2022 (Keith Benyon-Tinker)</p> <p>Early in the year we received a grant from CTC to buy a rechargeable brushcutter and long-handed saw for work in the Batfields and £1000 from the winding up of Chudleigh Film Society. Rod Blackshaw moved away from Chudleigh and Keith Benyon-Tinker took over the role of Treasurer in May 2022. At that time the financial position was: balance at bank: £2,793.79; bills awaiting payment: £194.45.</p> <p><i>Overview:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 7th June a petty cash float of £50 was set up to deal with minor expenses and to provide available cash for events etc., and a petty cash book was established to record transactions. On 10th June our stand at the Chudfest Fete raised £48.32; £100 was donated to Chudleigh Hog. Income totalling £424.35 was received from the Chudleigh Open Gardens Scheme. On 25th November a talk on the Geology of Chudleigh at the Woodway Room raised £120.12; this will cover an agreed donation of £200 in aid of Chudleigh School's Wild Garden. <p><i>Summary:</i></p> <p>Current balance in Coop Bank: £2829.86; petty Cash £50; additional cash in hand £20.12 (+£100 to go towards the donation to Chudleigh School).</p>	
<p>Chairman's Report (Dave Smallshire), incorporating the Secretary's report (Sue Smallshire)</p> <p>A small number of people do most of the work in most organisations, and CW is no different: in particular, we would like to thank Tess Frost for her continuing tireless work for Chudleigh's environment. We have to thank Sue Benyon-Tinker for taking on the Secretary post for a while – unfortunately, she was unable to continue and so we are looking for someone else to take on the role.</p> <p>Achievements in 2022</p> <p>2022 was another successful year, the following being some of the highlights:</p>	

Talks – John Walters (Local Wildlife Highlights, Feb.), Stephen Powles (Hedgehogs, March), John Evans (Geology, including follow-up walks, April and Dec.).

Events – we held a very popular dipping session for families in the spring at Kate Brook; a Swift evening in July and ran two community bat events in the Batfields in August and September with about 50 people at each.

Newsletter – Sue put together five newsletters during the year, which were distributed using Mailchimp, thanks to Emma Smith, to whom we are grateful for maintaining and improving our website.

Chudleigh Nature Trail – progress was slower than expected, partly due to a delay in receiving the rubbing posts. Relaxed cutting is needed around some of the anthills in the churchyard.

Chudfest Open Gardens – was again run by CW. Thanks were given to given to Bobbie for her organisation, over £400 was generated, as well as promoting gardening for wildlife.

Volunteers Group – run by Tess, tasks included litter picking; planting native wildflowers and bulbs; weeding insect-friendly patches; and grass-raking and removal on the Lawn Drive verges, where relaxed mowing again and even more Yellow Rattle plants flowered.

Bat Group – we continue to monitor Greater Horseshoe Bats (GHBs) and other species, and lighting at new developments. We had several evening meetings and used static detectors in overnight sessions at strategic locations. We had further involvement in the Motus tracking system, which this autumn was extended to cover the Bovey Basin.

Riverflies sampling – Following training in April, we set up survey points at three locations along Kate Brook and at single locations at Bottle Bridge and the Teign as part of the River Teign Restoration Project. These were checked in May, July and September: the invertebrate totals at all sites exceeded the default thresholds, suggesting that the watercourses are in reasonable ecological health, but the EA will review these thresholds in the light of this year's data. We are also doing 'walkover' surveys of the entire stretch of Kate Brook this month and have encouraged members to record other wildlife of note.

Harcombe orchid counts – rather fewer orchids flowered this year, apart from 618 Greater Butterfly Orchids. We made sure that Highways England did a more thorough job of cutting back scrub in September. It is worth noting that Greater Butterfly Orchids are also present on the A38 embankment nearby – the true value of these embankments to wildlife is unknown.

Monitoring planning proposals – especially Wain Homes (CH2), where we commented on the use of the new Public Open Spaces; the risk of soil run-off reaching Kate Brook; the value of the site for GHBs; and the location of arable fields proposed for conversion to cattle grazing. Proposals for the old Rock Garden Centre site are also of concern.

Land management – we carried out management of the Batfields 'bat run' and the SUDS field on behalf of DWT, with whom we had two site meetings.

CW Birds WhatsApp group – started up in February; now 23 participants who post sightings of local birds.

Wildlife Wardens – Peter Warn and John Whetman joined Tess Frost, Sue Smallshire and Vicci Camm as WWs for the Parish; training on woodland and grassland surveying was given in the spring.

Wildlife in 2022 – Firecrests were present again Riding Parks and a Cirl Bunting was singing in May near Parkway Mill.

Looking ahead – We will be organising the Chudfest Open Gardens again, if a volunteer can be found We hope to engage more young people, using ideas generated by discussion after the AGM.

<p>Election of committee</p> <p>The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer were all happy to continue. Bobby Hughes wished to come off Committee, but was happy to remain a corresponding member.</p> <p>Officers: Dave Smallshire (Chair), Sue Smallshire (Secretary), Keith Benyon-Tinker (Treasurer)</p> <p>Other Posts: Audrey Compton (Events Officer), Tessa Frost (Work Party Organiser), Sue Smallshire (Newsletter Editor), John Whetman (Land Management Advisor), Emma Smith (Website and Social Media)</p> <p>ACT Wildlife Wardens: Vicci Camm, Tess Frost, Sue Smallshire, Peter Warn, John Whetman</p> <p>Other Committee Members: Vicci Camm, Greg Macqueen, Alison Phillips, Mary Rush</p> <p>All the above were re-elected en bloc.</p>	
<p>Any other business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) MR would no longer be looking after the community allotment; it was agreed that those with an interest would arrange to meet Mary at the allotment in the New Year. (ii) VC reported that she was now a member of the Carnival Committee; it was suggested that we should take part in the procession and encourage members also via the newsletter. (iii) TF would deploy her plant and seed 'buggy' again this spring. (iv) AC reported that she had been horrified to see herbicide spraying along the kerb in Woodway Street; TF said that spot-spraying only had been authorised by CTC. 	<p>Arrange a meeting with Mary</p> <p>Sue</p> <p>Tess</p>
<p>Committee-related items:</p> <p>As most of the attendees were CW Committee members, there was also discussion relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Nature trail: PW hoped to be fit enough by mid-March to begin installing the posts; BH would like to see the project through; we would aim for a launch in the spring; KB-T will check on our public liability insurance; AC suggested that we should check the rubbing posts regularly after the launch; ES will look into the price for a board to house the map on the Town Hall and TF will clear permission for its positioning. (v) Open Gardens: BH would no longer be organising this; ES and VC agreed to take this on; a £1 concessionary ticket was agreed for the school garden only. (ii) We should clarify the position of Barbara's Wildlife Gardening Group in relation to CW. (iii) Michel Hughes had expressed concerns over the quality of the ecological impact assessment carried out at CH2; DS would forward these to TF. 	<p>Peter Bobby Keith Emma Tess</p> <p>Emma Vicci</p> <p>Sue</p> <p>Dave</p>
<p>Date of next AGM: December 2023 (TBA)</p>	

After the AGM, there was a discussion on how CW might engaged young people more. Suggestions included:

- A CW Tiktok account, run by a young person.
- Teign School assistance in Riverflies sampling.
- Youth Ambassadors.
- Engagement with Scouts and Guides and their junior counterparts.
- Youth Club – Val Compton had experience with talking to problem schoolchildren and offered to talk to children, especially teenagers.
- Bee-keeping.
- Duke of Edinburgh award: this was considered too onerous for the benefits accrued.
- Chudleigh Primary School: SS had been in communication regarding CW input; sessions could include pond management (March?), a bird survey (spring) and pond-dipping/dragonflies (midsummer).
- A (Wildlife Trusts) Watch Group or similar.
- Minibeast hunts based around pre-prepared log piles.
- A repeat of the spring dipping in Kate Brook.
- A night walk at Deer Park Farm.

These will be discussed further at a CW Committee meeting.