



Annual General Meeting

21st January 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom

Item	Action by
<p>Present: Tess Frost (Chair), Rod Blackshaw (Treasurer), Sue Smallshire (Secretary) Audrey Compton, John Whetman, Bobby Hughes, Dave Smallshire, Greg Macqueen and about 30 other members and non-members.</p> <p>Apologies: Vicci Camm, Kelly Gayler, Alison Phillips, Carole Smart.</p>	
<p>Minutes from the previous AGM (3rd December 2019) Adopted.</p>	
<p>Treasurer's Report (Rod Blackshaw): Opening balance 1st January 2020: £674.14 Income/expenditure at 21st January 2021: income £446.70, expenditure: £397.90 Closing balance on 21st January 2021: £722.94. (This reconciles with the bank statement.) Of this, £208.75 is ring-fenced for trees, leaving £514.19 for general funds, of which £115 will be held back for insurance.</p>	<p>Rod</p>
<p>Chair's Report (Tessa Frost) Members and non-members were welcomed. Despite the constraints of COVID-19, we achieved lots and remained reasonably healthy. We were unable to have planned talks or group events. However, the Hedgehog project has been a great success, with some engagement from local developers. For a third year, volunteers monitored orchid numbers in the 'special verge' at Harcombe; good numbers were found.</p> <p>In town, 2m-wide strips on the verges of Lawn Drive were left to grow long next to the footpath and road. They were mown and raked four times by volunteers and the mowings removed (thanks to Dave Martin and Jonathan Valentine). After the last cut in October, Yellow Rattle was sown again. Insect-friendly flower beds were maintained in Lawn Drive, the Boule Piste at Culver Green and the Bat Garden on Rock Road. We bought 12 apple and pear trees for Millstream Meadow (still to be planted), where a walnut tree was planted. Italian Alder trees were removed from there, prior to marking out a new orchard. The old cider orchard was thinned and pruned, and a successful apple pressing morning was held, thanks to relaxed COVID rules.</p> <p>We monitored Greater Horseshoe Bat flyways through and out of town, trying to ensure that important routes and foraging areas are protected and that future development does not interfere with them. Maps will be sent to DBRC and TDC. We helped Kelly Gayler to find a home for her damaged bird and bat hospital and flight cage.</p>	

<p>Thanks to Karen Castle, there were regular posts on our Facebook page that kept people's interest engaged during the pandemic, and we are now getting volunteers of a much younger age group to take on some of the practical tasks, including D of E Award candidates.</p> <p>We were proud that, when Action on Climate in Teignbridge (ACT) set up its Parish 'Wildlife Wardens' scheme, Chudleigh Wild was used as an example of an organisation that raises awareness of climate change and threats to wildlife. Vicci, Tessa and Sue now represent Chudleigh Wild as WWs.</p> <p>Looking to the future, we have a new Chairman (thanks to Dave). Major themes for 2021 include: 'Gardening for Wildlife'; supporting ACT and the Wildlife Wardens; working with CTC when Palace Meadow park comes into our ownership; planning and implementing nature trails, information boards etc. around the town (supported by the Co-op Community Fund); litter picking; encouraging less pesticide use; maintaining and extending wildlife-friendly public areas; surveying Potential County Wildlife Sites; continuing the orchid counts at Harcombe Cross; continuing bat surveys in the upper Kate Brook Valley and around Chudleigh Rocks; and encouraging less-frequent hedgerow management, using hedges at the Bat Garden and Millstream Meadow as examples.</p>	
<p>Election of committee Tessa stood down after five years as Chair and the committee thanked her for the fantastic work she has done and leadership she has provided. Dave Smallshire agreed to replace her.</p> <p>Officers: Dave Smallshire (Chair), Sue Smallshire (Secretary), Rod Blackshaw (Treasurer)</p> <p>Other Posts: Audrey Compton (Events Officer), Tessa Frost (Work Party Organiser), Sue Smallshire (Newsletter Editor), John Whetman (Land Management Advisor), Karen Castle (Social Media – ex-officio).</p> <p>ACT Wildlife Wardens: Vicci Camm, Tess Frost, Sue Smallshire</p> <p>Other Committee Members: Vicci Camm, Jenny Davies, Kelly Gayler, Bobby Hughes, Greg Macqueen, Alison Phillips, Mary Rush</p>	
<p>Motions put to the AGM: Dave proposed a revision of the Aims. These were agreed.</p>	
<p>AOB: None</p>	
<p>Date of next AGM: January 2022 (TBA)</p>	
<p>After the AGM, Audrey Compton outlined the work of ACT and the Wildlife Wardens scheme, following which Dave Smallshire gave a presentation entitled 'Chudleigh Wildlife in Lockdown' (as some people had to leave before the end and others were unable to attend the AGM, this presentation can be viewed as a YouTube video at https://youtu.be/ZA-fjnj898E).</p>	