

Waingroves Community Woodland Trust: AGM Report 2017/2018



Chairman's report:

In my Second year as chairman I am still stunned at the uptake from people far and wide that have an interest in our woodland, but I also have concerns about the amount of use the woodland get and its negative effects.

I think our biggest achievement of the year has been the nature trail and the interactive parts of it, this will encourage people to become involved. I also love the fact we now have a forest school to help encourage and educate children and young adults in the ways of the woodland.

Funding wise the Trust and its supporters have worked hard to keep the money coming in to cover our running costs and we

hope this will only get better and allow us to continue to improve the woodland.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone that has helped out in the past year whether it has been in time, donation, input or ideas you have helped to make our woodland even better, My special thanks go to the Management Group, The Committee and the Monday/Saturday groups as without you we would not be here.

Conservation report:

2017 has been another very successful year for our woodland with the continued focus on habitat creation, and maintenance that will improve the woodland Biodiversity.

Over the last year we have again worked closely with East Midlands Butterfly Conservation and with a kind donation of Limestone chatter from Longcliffe Quarries we have created at large Butterfly Bank close to the Whitely plantation, this should hopefully attract species like the Common Blue, Brown Argus and the Dingy Skipper which is a Biodiversity Action Plan species, we have also planted Buddleia and other plant species known to attract Butterflies such as Peacocks, Red Admirals etc, Although Buddleia is not a native plant it is probably one of the best plants available to attract many species of Butterfly and it is thought that it would not be out of



place in this area as there are many garden plants that remain from the time when the cottages and bungalow stood on this site.

2017 also saw our 1st season of Butterfly transect walks, this is where a weekly walk is done over a set route recording both the numbers and the number of species seen, this was a fantastic 23 different species recorded over the season with the highest number of Butterflies recorded being in excess of 300 on one transect walk!



We have done several public conservation events over the year from Dawn Chorus walks to Moth and Bat Evenings, last years Moth and Bat event had a fantastic turn out with over 80 people attending, it was good to see 3 members of staff from DWT also at the event plus a few from Butterfly conservation, 143 Moths were trapped on the night and 50 species recorded including a Devon Carpet Moth, this is only the 3rd location this species has been recorded in Derbyshire, the others being Ashbourne in 1984 and Darley dale in 2012. "This find really has put us on the map for Derbyshire" over the 3 years we have been doing the moth trapping we have recorded 121 different species, this is a great result for just 1 day in August!.. It is thought that if we were to trap at different times of the year we should easily push this numbers up to over 400?



I'm very pleased to confirm that our Woodland Willow tits breed successfully in 2017 with five birds being seen including 3 young in the area at the bottom of Stoney lane and also birds sighted and heard in the wet area of Strelley

wood, this would indicate that we have at least 2 successful nest sites which is great news for these critically endangered birds that we must do all we can to protect for the future. We have taken advice from Mark Champion of Lancashire Wildlife Trust regarding re-wetting of the area in which they are known to breed by creating small dams in the stream to ensure it does not dry up in times of little water flow, Mark has worked tirelessly over recent years raising the profile of the Willow tits plight and developing their habitat at Wigan Flash nature reserve in Lancashire.

The Wetland area continues to establish well and has proved to be a very popular area for people to visit and observe the wildlife with the Bird feeding stations being particularly popular, "Thank you to everyone who has donated food for these over the winter months"



We are planning to improve the sluice system and divert the iron rich water infill on the lower side of the pond area to hopefully improve the overall water quality in the future, the proposed work has been approved by Dr Harvey Wood of The Clean Rivers Trust who is an expert on mine water and a valued supporter of our woodland.

The management of the woodland has continued to move more towards the conservation of it's native flora and fauna in recent years, this is something that we are now starting to see the benefits of, the removal of none native species from Strelley woods combined with the thinning of the invasive Bramble gave us the best display of our native Bluebells for many years.



We have always replanted at least 4 native trees for every tree that have been removed in the past these have included species such as Oak, Elm and Hornbeam, we have now started to include species such as Rowan and Crab apple that will supply a good food source for many of our woodland creatures.

This years Easter event saw the trial run of our permanent nature trail this uses our orienteering course and posts and show pictures of some of our woodlands flora and fauna in the areas of habitat in which they maybe seen? The nature trail signs also have Q.R codes which can be read by a mobile phone application this will give you information on the subject that is featured on the sign, this seemed to work very well with around 150 people participating in the nature trail with many of them using the Q.R codes to get the species information.



Woodland Community Events:



We held a number of Community events over the year ranging from Conservation events like the Easter nature trail, Dawn Chorus and Moth and Bat night to our Annual Wassail, Teddy bears picnic and 2017 even saw our 1st large scale woodland music event that we



called "Folk in the Wood" that was the opening event for the Ripley Music Festival Week, these events are all free to attend and rely heavily on the woodland volunteers to ensure they take place.

We are always on the lookout for more volunteers especially for the larger events like the Wassail and Folk in The Wood music event, if you feel you could help out or know of someone that would like to help please get it touch.



Shaun Walters
W.C.W.T Conservation Officer

Risk Management:

The Trust continues to maintain a proactive approach to managing health and safety by undertaking regular reviews of the risk register to all areas of the woodland for the safety of the public and users.

Since the last annual report two reviews have taken place (March 2017 and November 2017) overall risk levels remained around the same but it was identified that works were required at high level to pollard out and remove hanging dead wood in the trees especially in Waingroves Wood (Pit Bank), these works have been undertaken by contractors, but this work will be ongoing due to large amounts of squirrel and storm damage to the trees. Work was also identified to cover exposed roots with woodchip on main footpaths, that the Monday group have now undertaken, but again the work will be ongoing due to constant heavy use of the footpaths.

We aim to review all public areas risks twice yearly and try to change the month and season of the inspection as to capture all aspects of the ever changing woodland.

It was reported last year that volunteer training was to be increased and the majority of the Monday Group Volunteers have now been trained in First Aid. H&S information boards have been placed in the container for the volunteers to refer too. Additional PPE and first aid equipment has been purchased in year.

Volunteer numbers remain at good levels and signing in registers, keeping of personal information and risk assessment procedures have all been implemented to ensure the safety of the group's workers. Accidents remain minimal with no serious reportable over 3 day injuries being reported. However a recent incident where a fairly new volunteer became ill on site (non work related) and later sadly passed away in hospital has focussed the group upon the importance of first aid training and why we do it.

Craig Plunkett
W.C.W.T Health & Safety Advisor

Lottery:

We have 244 members within the lottery this year a large number have been lost and a small number of new members gained the expected income to the woodland after winnings payouts and lottery license is £1600. But still we have 18 ex members from last year that it may still be worth chasing, please see me (Dave Pountain) as you may be able to get some of these back.

Please remember that we accept new members throughout the year at £1 per each remaining month.

Dave Pountain
W.C.W.T Lottery Officer.

Treasurers Report:

Waingroves Community Woodland Trust.
Statement of Accounts Fiscal Year 2017/18

Monies 18/03/17: Bank £9551.38, Cash £119.03

Income:

Grant Amber Valley Council	£500
Events match funding	£960
Donations	£1825.84
Lottery	£2438
Calendars	£940.50
Easy Fund Raising	£40.27
Sale of logs	£120
Other sales (Include some calendars)	£157.04
Paypal donations	£56.89
Total income	£7002.34

Expenditure:

Insurance	£989.84
Lottery payouts	£960
Calendars	£679
Defib Unit Fitting	£1124
First Aid Course and Equipment	£446.93
Lottery licence	£20
Events	£696.32
Christmas tree	£80
Petrol/Oil	£78.71
Stationary	£50.67
Donations	£1330
Website	£128.22
Woodland maintenance	£300
Materials/Tools	£1551.81
Repairs/Service machines	£141.88
Bird Food	£48.99
Membership of Conservation Volunteers	£38
Total Expenditure:	£8664.46

Monies 18/3/18 Bank £7488.85 Cash £579.72

This financial year shows a loss of £1662.12 this is because of the Defib unit grant we received last year but paid this year (£1000) we also gave a donation of £1230 towards the new tent/marquee purchased by the Waingroves Show Committee.

The income this year was slightly down on last year but we still have a reasonably healthy amount in the funds.

I would like to thank everyone for their efforts to obtain funds for the Trust, the Lottery and Calendars being the main source of income.

Could any outstanding monies for calendars or any other items pleased be passed on to me asap.

Further information regarding the breakdown of the accounts can be obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

The accounts are to be audited by David Ball (Accountant) Chesterfield.

Paul Cox
WCWT Treasurer.