



## Annual General Meeting

15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.30pm at the Con. Club, Chudleigh

Item	Actions
<p><b>Apologies:</b> Mandy Cole, Bobby Hughes, Mary Rush, Peter Warn</p>	
<p><b>Minutes from the previous AGM (15<sup>th</sup> December 2022)</b></p>	<p>Adopted</p>
<p><b>Chairman’s Report (Dave Smallshire), incorporating the Secretary’s report (Sue Smallshire)</b></p> <p>We were greatly saddened by the losses during the year of committee member John Whetman and former Treasurer Rod Blackshaw. We have a replacement for Rod in the form of Keith, and I’m pleased to say that the bank has finally recognised that he is our Treasurer! We will miss John’s wisdom and expertise greatly. Obituaries of both were in the last newsletter.</p> <p><b>Achievements in 2023</b></p> <p><b>Newsletters</b> – 4 issued in 2023; many thanks to Sue for producing these; she would like to encourage members to contribute articles for them.</p> <p><b>Nature Trail</b> – launched in July by past and present Coop managers. Special thanks to Bobby for overseeing the success of this project; to Bobby and her daughter Amy for producing the map; and to Peter Warn for installing all the rubbing posts; Peter has also been restoring one of the old telephone boxes by the Town Hall for use by CW.</p> <p><b>Harcombe Orchid counts</b> – almost 1500 flowering orchids of 6 species counted (606 GBOs) during 3 coordinated counts; also, Green-winged Orchids discovered next to one of the A38 laybys.</p> <p><b>River Teign Restoration Project</b> – thanks to the volunteers who undertook three Riverfly Surveys and monthly Water Quality Surveys. A condition survey of the whole length of Kate Brook was undertaken early in the year; it was good to find Otter signs at Harcombe (also had daytime sightings along the mill leat and Parkway Mill, but these were followed by finding it dead soon after).</p> <p><b>Gardening for Wildlife</b> – Sue continued to make signs for the project, which we will continue into next year. We also promoted ‘No Mow May’.</p> <p><b>Open Gardens</b> – very successful: 14 gardens and nearly £1000 raised; thanks to Emma and Vicci for organising and to the gardeners for partaking. (NB greater proportion will come to CW in 2024).</p> <p><b>Carnival procession</b> – the CW walking float entry won first prize in its section.</p> <p><b>Development</b> – Tess kept a watching brief over the CH2 proposals for amenity land. Several committee members kept an eye on proposals for the Rock Gardens site and had suggested trying to buy the site to secure its long term future for bats.</p> <p><b>Bats</b> – Training course for Bat Group members held in May. Further strategic surveys with both portable and static detectors, targeted at GHBs and especially around The Oaks development (where we still have concerns over the lighting). Exciting progress with Motus radio-tracking study resulting from the masts and nodes in and around Chudleigh,</p>	

notably leading to the discovery of a large breeding site in a private dwelling just outside the Parish.

**Oldway Batfields** – worked to keep the ‘batrun’ route clear for GHBs, with help from DWT work parties; Vicci leading on management. Continued to survey wildlife there and in the SuDS field (Dormice, Slow-worms, Brown Hairstreak eggs and other insects, plants).

**CW events** – geology talk and walk in January, DS spoke on insects in gardens in February, had a stand at the Annual Town Meeting in April and at Chudfest in June, held Swift Watch evening in July and a community bat evening in August. Plans for later events were curtailed by personal problems.

**Wildlife WhatsApp Group** – expanded from the WhatsApp Birds Group.

**Litter** – a peripheral issue for CW, but was a persistent problem.

**Lawn Drive grass cutting** – the Committee was very disappointed to learn the outcome of a CTC Environment Committee vote recently to revert back to frequent mowing along Lawn Drive, in the name of tidiness. This will undo all the work that CW has been doing there for the last 5 years or more.

**Thanks** – the Committee members were thanked for their input during the year. Emma was thanked for maintaining the website; for sending out newsletters and other mailings; and taking care of our social media output.

### Treasurer’s Report 2022 (Keith Benyon-Tinker)

Date	Details	Credit	Debit	Balance
	Opening Balance			£2829.86
10/01/2023	CTC (Room Hire)		£26.25	£2803.61
26/01/2023	John Evans’ talk	£120.12		£2923.73
02/03/2023	Dave Smallshire’s talk	£87.35		£3011.08
03/03/2023	Donation	£250.00		£3261.08
13/03/2023	Donation to Primary School		£200.00	£3061.08
06/04/2023	CTC (room hire)		£26.25	£3034.83
25/04/2023	Stencils		£69.00	£2965.83
30/05/2023	Zurich Insurance		£157.00	£2808.83
27/06/2023	CTC (room hire)		£22.00	£2786.83
27/06/2023	Sarah Butcher (bat training)		£50.00	£2736.83
20/07/2023	Open Gardens	£977.50		£3714.33
14/08/2023	Bobby Hughes (Nature Trail)		£369.18	£3345.15
15/08/2023	Bobby Hughes (Nature Trail)		£86.00	£3259.15
25/08/2023	Mason Kings (brush-cutter maintenance)		£120.73	£3138.42
27/09/2023	Donation	£63.50		£3201.92
13/10/2023	Aaron Printers (leaflets)		£350.00	£2851.92
<b>14/12/2023</b>	<b>Closing balance</b>			<b>£2851.92</b>

Notes:-

- 1) Petty Cash in hand = £50.00
- 2) Bank account signatories have now been amended to remove Rod Blackshaw and to add Keith Benyon-Tinker as Treasurer and Account Manager. Account access and passwords have been amended accordingly.

### Election of committee

The Chair and Treasurer were happy to continue, but Sue resigned as Secretary – the job includes setting up committee meetings, taking minutes, fielding emails, and organising talks and other events. Greg and Alison wished to leave the committee, but Hannah Bone agreed to join us. It

was confirmed that Wildlife Wardens can attend Committee meetings if they wished, and receive the minutes.

**Officers:** Dave Smallshire (Chair), Keith Benyon-Tinker (Treasurer). (Secretary – vacant).

**Other Posts:** Audrey Compton (Events Officer), Tessa Frost (Work Party Organiser), Sue Smallshire (Newsletter Editor), Emma Smith (Website and Social Media).

**ACT Wildlife Wardens:** Vicci Camm, Audrey Compton, Val Compton, Tess Frost, Ben Jansen, Sue Knott, Sue Smallshire, Barbara Steele, Peter Warn.

**Other Committee Members:** Hannah Bone, Vicci Camm, Mary Rush.

All the above were re-elected en bloc.

**Date of next AGM:** December 2024 (TBA)

After the AGM, Dave Smallshire gave his 'Wings and Things' presentation. Some 60 species of birds were presented in the form of their wings and occasionally skulls. Over drinks and nibbles, attendees were invited to guess which species each belonged to, after which Dave gave the answers.