

Knighton Wild Annual General Meeting 2017

Chair's report

Introductory comments

This is the first full year of work for Knighton Wild. A constitution was approved at the first AGM and a committee was elected. The committee elected its officers at its first meeting and met monthly to plan and organise the work of the group. I would like to thank the committee for its hard work in establishing Knighton Wild this year.

Membership

At the end of 2016-17, we have 27 members: 12 individuals and 15 households. Of these, the majority are due to renew now: 5 individuals and 13 households. The remainder are due to renew in the autumn. We have two renewal dates a year to allow people to join during the year without losing too much of the benefit of membership and without having to handle possibly different renewal dates for every member.

Events and activities

Knighton Wild planned a full programme of events and activities over the year.

Talks included:

- Wildlife Gardening – Jenny Harris, Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust (LRWT)
- Mammals in the City – Helen O'Brien, County Recorder for Mammals
- Pushing Up the Daisies: The Flora and Fauna of Churchyards – Steve Woodward
- Christmas Quiz – committee
- Knighton's Trees: What are they worth? – committee
- Leicestershire's Woodlands – Andy Lear, LRWT (with South Knighton Community Events).

Visits and walks included:

- Dawn chorus in Knighton Spinney
- Washbrook Nature Reserve
- Bat walk in Knighton
- Soar Valley river management with Adrian Lane, Leicester City Council (LCC)
- Mosses and liverworts in Knighton Park.

Knighton Wild has also been represented at:

- Knighton Park Family Fun Day in September 2016;
- LCC Bioblitz in Knighton Park where KW was responsible for updating the park tree trail, organising a guided walk round the trees and inviting park visitors to find out about the Bioblitz.

Knighton Wild has worked closely to establish partnerships with local organisations:

- Leicester City Council
 - KW successfully bid for £450 from local ward funding to support our work including website, posters and promotional material, public liability insurance and wildlife materials.
 - KW has established a partnership with LCC and St Mary's Church to help manage the churchyard to encourage wildlife. This work has been registered with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) It's Your Neighbourhood scheme.
 - KW worked closely with LCC and The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) to deliver the Bioblitz in Knighton Park.
- St Mary's Church Knighton
 - The management of the churchyard has now passed to LCC, and KW has established a partnership with the church and LCC to encourage wildlife through an agreed management plan for an older part of the churchyard. KW has contributed to the church's bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for repairs to the church spire and is organising a guided tour of the churchyard in the summer.
- Other partnerships – KW continues to support NatureSpot and is grateful to both this organisation and LRWT for the resources provided to support our work.

Looking forward

We are planning a full programme of events and activities over the coming year but most of this work falls inevitably on the committee, we continue to look to members to help deliver our plans.

KW looks forward to strengthening its partnerships with other local groups and statutory and voluntary organisations.