

Knighton Wild

Annual General Meeting 24th May 2017

1. Attendees

Simon Bennett (Secretary), Alan Cann, Christine Cheetham, John Crookes (Chair), Richard Edwards, Jenny Foxon, Uta Hamzaoui (Committee Member), Bev Hart (Committee Member), Steve Hart (Treasurer), Stuart Mucklejohn, Debbie Sawday, Nicky Thompson

2. Apologies

Bob Ball, Jenny Rowe, Keith Rowe, Flick Titley, Hamish Whiteley

3. Welcome

John Crookes (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was the first formal AGM of Knighton Wild.

4. Minutes of the Launch Meeting

The minutes of the 2016 Launch Meeting were tabled and reviewed. Corrections were made to include Pauline Cann in the attendees and remove the word Apologies before the guest speaker. With these amendments, the minutes were accepted unanimously as a true record.

5. Chair's Report

The chair presented his report (attached as Appendix 1). The chair thanked the secretary and treasurer for their work during the year.

The chair said that the Bioblitz had been particularly successful and emphasised the importance of the partnership with the City Council and St Mary Magdalen for the wildlife friendly maintenance of the churchyard. He mentioned that funding is being applied for to organise a hedge-laying demonstration in the churchyard.

Comments were made to mention the fact that members had raked up the grass cuttings from last year's final cut of the meadow area in the churchyard, and that an event is planned for June or July to provide a guided tour of the churchyard and its features of value to wildlife, and that the church will provide teas. The Working Group on organising a tree survey has met. It was commented that the work over the past year was very impressive.

The chair's report was accepted unanimously.

6. Treasurer's Report

Steve Hart (Treasurer) presented the report (attached as Appendix 2). He pointed out that the bulk of the balance in the accounts (to 31st March 2017) is the grant from the City Council, not all of which had been spent at that time. The bulk of the expenses are the costs of meetings: room hire and speaker expenses. We have recently had 1,000 leaflets printed, which were used at the Bioblitz and are available for distribution at events and overprinted to publicise events.

It was suggested that the leaflets could be used to recruit new members by putting them through letter boxes. It was agreed to experiment with members putting some through doors in their streets and seeing if this produced new attendees at meetings or members, in which case it would be worth doing more widely. Four members volunteered to distribute leaflets to their streets.

The treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.

7. Election of Committee

The chair explained that the meeting elects a committee and the committee members then elect officers from among themselves at the first committee meeting of the year. He thanked the previous year's committee for their work, including those who had stood down during the year or were standing down now (Alan Cann, Elizabeth Meadows and Laura Newcombe).

Nominations were received for the following in alphabetical order of surname:

Simon Bennett, Christine Cheetham, John Crookes, Uta Hamzaoui, Bev Hart, Steve Hart, Nicky Thompson.

These members were elected to the committee unanimously.

8. Any Other Business

There was no AOB. The meeting broke for refreshments and the raffle.

9. Speakers

The following members gave short presentations.

Alan Cann – Getting Closer to Knighton's Wildlife

Christine Cheetham - Flora of Knighton (BSBI Atlas Survey)

Simon Bennett – An interesting beetle

It is planned to put the presentations or versions of them on the website.

The chair thanked the speakers and thanked members for attending.

Appendix 1

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.

Appendix 2

Knighton Wild

Financial Report to 31st March 2017

Date	Event/Expense	Notes	Credits	Debits	Balance
04/05/2016	Room hire	Knighton Parish Centre Invoice 3872		£37.00	£108.20
					£108.20
		Note 4/8/2016 cheque book received and account funded by £108.20 via transfer from Steve from cash			
30/08/2016	Membership		£5.00		£113.20
03/11/2016	RHS	Public liability insurance £86		£86.00	£27.20
20/10/2016	Membership		£5.00		£32.20
20/10/2016	Quiz proceeds	From Knighton Fun Day	£14.50		£46.70
24/10/2016	Expenses	Pushing up the Daisies (Steve Woodward)		£30.00	£16.70
	Memberships and takings	Pushing up the Daisies	£34.00		£50.70
23/12/2016	Meeting Room Costs			£37.00	£13.70
16/10/2016	Memberships and takings	Adrian Lane Flood Schemes Visit	£29.00		£42.70
19/10/2016	Takings	Wildlife Gardening talk (Jenny Harris)	£22.00		£64.70
23/12/2016	Meeting Room Costs			£37.00	£27.70
06/12/2016	Expenses	Donation to LRWT		£20.00	£7.70
13/12/2016	LCC Grant		£472.00		£479.70
14/12/2016	Meeting Room Costs	Xmas quiz		£37.00	£442.70
14/12/2016	Memberships and takings	Xmas quiz	£20.00		£462.70
01/03/2017	Takings	The Value of Trees (John Crookes)	£40.00		£502.70
01/03/2017	Meeting room costs			£37.00	£465.70
12/03/2017	Bryophyte walk donations		£21.00		£486.70

Steven Hart
Treasurer, Knighton Wild