

**33rd Annual General Meeting**  
to be held on Monday 12th April at 19.30 via Zoom  
(email [tonygunton@icloud.com](mailto:tonygunton@icloud.com) to register)



**AGENDA**

Apologies for absence  
Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting  
Matters arising  
Annual Report  
Treasurer's Report  
Warden's Report  
Election of Committee Members  
Past & Future Events  
Any other business.

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**Minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting**  
held on Monday 10th February 2020

**Venue** - Hornchurch Library Meeting Room.

Chairman Tony Gunton opened the meeting at 7.46pm and welcomed members to the AGM. Copies of the minutes of the 31st AGM together with the Financial Statement for 2019 and the Agenda for the 32nd AGM were circulated to all 20 members.

1 **Apologies for absence:** P Emerson, J Peters, M Goodwin, F Bone, S Bone, S King.

2 **Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.**

The Chairman asked that the minutes be accepted as a true record.

Yvonne Couch proposed to accept the minutes and was seconded by Tony Loveless

The minutes were accepted by a show of hands with no objections and no abstentions. They were then duly signed by the Chairman.

3 **Matters arising.** None

4 **Chairman's Annual Report.** Tony Gunton.

We have been jogging along but would welcome fresh ideas in helping EWT and the Local Group. The magazine is only delivered twice a year now, the summer one being posted because it includes papers for the Trust AGM. We welcomed David Marshall on to the committee this year. Tony Loveless organises the walks and Joy Emerson the talks. Lynda Nicholls handles publicity.

**Minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting** (continued)

**5 Treasurer's Report.** Paul Davis.

Paul thanked Irene Orris for auditing the accounts. The Open Gardens and bat evening were successful and raised £930.70. We do need 30 people per meeting to cover expenses. The Statement of Account 2019 was circulated. Proposed to accept L Nicholls and seconded by Cheryl Goddard. Accepted by a show of hands.

**6 Warden's Report.** Tony Gunton

Again there was some vandalism on the marsh with repeated damage to the perspex front of the notice board. Flowering plants are doing well under the current grazing regime. We now have a group of about 15 volunteers helping with conservation work, 5–6 attending regularly. The wetland habitats depend more on ground water flow than surface water and this has been reduced as a result of the farmer installing land drains under the field to the north of the reserve. We have installed a solar pump to recover water from ditch carrying the water away and as a result the sedge fen area is expanding again.

**7 Election of Committee** Tony Gunton

We now come to the election of members to the new committee. Nominations were submitted in writing to the secretary before this meeting. The following names have been received proposed and seconded:

Paul Davis      Joy Emerson      Peter Emerson      Tony Gunton  
 Tony Loveless.      David Marshall      Lynda Nicholls.

Proposed by Natalie Kehr and seconded by Alan Kiley, names to be taken en bloc. All members present agreed.

**8 Past events** Joy Emerson.

The group had another busy year with walks and talks. The Open Gardens went really well and we raised £780+ for Essex Wildlife Trust. The Bat and Moth walk raised £140 the best yet. The walks arranged by Tony Loveless, covered visits to Cudmore Grove, Norsey Woods, Fingringhoe, dragonfly survey at Hornchurch Country Park. Winter walks went to Eastbrookend Country Park, Thurrock Thameside, New year walk at Hornchurch Country Park and Heybridge Basin. Our talks went from Greening the City, The Walled Garden at Bedford's Park, Dragonflies, Photos of Norfolk and South Essex, Orchids and general wildlife photos.

**Future events** Joy Emerson

Tony Loveless has arranged more interesting walks for Spring and Summer. Plus more talks arranged by Joy Emerson.

Sat 7th March Abberton Reservoir for spring birds.

Mon 9th March Conservation in Essex with David Smart

Sat 4th April Rye Meads for spring birds and flowers

Sat May 2nd Fingringhoe Wick for nightingales and spring flowers

Mon May 11th Wallsea Island Wild Coast Project with Rachel Fancy

Sat June 6th Belhus Woods for summer birds, butterflies and flowers

Sat July 4th Westley Heights GP for butterflies, insects and flowers

Sat July 18th Flower Discovery at Hornchurch CP

Sat August 8th Canvey Wick NR for flowers birds and insects

Sat September 5th Bedfords Park late summer flowers, birds and insects

Mon 14th Sept Mini wildlife Discovery look at shield bugs, pond dip and other activities.

**Minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting** (continued)

**9 Any Other Business.**

N Kehr asked if we could have a regular stand with plants that can be seen at that time of the year. A member asked if we could sometimes have a weekday walk.

DM: difficult to park near Cranham Church. TG: perhaps better to park on Park Drive.

JE: thanks to Lois Amos and her helpers for opening the walled Garden at Bedford's Park, to the committee for their help during the year; to Shirley Jackie Janet and Alan for helping with refreshments on Mondays and also to all of you who do support the events – I hope you will still be able to carry on supporting your local group.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

**Chairman's Annual Report 2020**

Not much to report on Havering local group activities in 2020, for obvious reasons. We managed to run a few events via Zoom and keep the 100 Club going, but lockdowns put paid to all our usual activities.

We have been affected by external developments apart from COVID. In its haste to “go digital” the Trust has made it difficult for us to communicate with local members, and especially members with no access to email or internet, to inform them about local activities. Apart from the Trust magazine, which will come out quarterly from now on and in which local groups will be allowed one short item per issue, future communication with members is to be via email and website. We have pointed out that these arrangements discriminate against members without digital access, including a significant number of longstanding and active local members, and also make it more difficult and expensive to run the 100 Club. We have asked for changes and they have refused.

At the same time we are facing a crisis in the Local Group with some committee members deciding that they have done their bit and retiring. The committee needs support from local members to keep the Local Group going and, in particular, needs someone with the skills to serve as Treasurer and someone to organise the magazine delivery.

Without a newsletter to help us, we are hand delivering or mailing AGM and other papers to known active members, and emailing to a smaller number for whom we hold email addresses. This is the best we can practically do in current circumstances. If you want to help and are unable to attend the AGM, which will have to be held via Zoom, please phone or (e)mail one of the contacts below. If you have no digital access (and can't arrange for someone to do this for you), let us know if you want to be kept up-to-date with local events.

**Contacts**

*For AGM registration and correspondence*

Tony Gunton, 8 Frank's Cottages, Upminster, RM14 3NU

Phone (01708) 220897

Email [tonygunton@icloud.com](mailto:tonygunton@icloud.com)

*For committee nominations and correspondence*

Joy Emerson, 109 Park Lane, Hornchurch, RM11 1EG

Phone (01708) 440297

*For walks*

Tony Loveless

Phone 07413 649006

Email [grandadtone@gmail.com](mailto:grandadtone@gmail.com)

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020**

| A) MAIN ACCOUNT   |  |                |         |
|---|--|----------------|---------|
| INCOME  |  | 2020           | 2019    |
| Brought forward from 31st December 2019                     |  | 1328.20        | 945.75  |
| Donations from 100 Club members                             |  | 50.00          | 0.00    |
| Transferred from the 100 Club account                       |  | 375.00         | 375.00  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |  | <b>1753.20</b> |         |
| EXPENDITURE   |  |                |         |
| Our annual contribution to Essex Wildlife Trust head office |  | 450.00         | 450.00  |
| Net loss from Monday evening meetings                       |  | 186.00         | (53.58) |
| Materials for the Cranham Marsh Reserve                     |  | 247.23         | 81.90   |
| Secretarial costs   |  | 18.32          | 13.50   |
| Carried forward to 1st January 2021                         |  | 851.65         |         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |  | <b>1753.20</b> |         |
| B) 100 CLUB ACCOUNT   |  |                |         |
| 67 members  |  |                |         |
| INCOME  |  | 2020           | 2019    |
| Brought forward from 31st December 2019                     |  | 620.05         | 647.20  |
| 56 subscriptions at £12 each                                |  | 672.00         |         |
| 2 donations of winnings from club members                   |  | 50.00          | 0.00    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |  | <b>1342.05</b> |         |
| EXPENDITURE   |  |                |         |
| 15 prizes of £25 each                                       |  | 375.00         | 375.00  |
| Transfer to Main Account (A above)                          |  | 375.00         | 375.00  |
| Cost of postage   |  | 9.15           | 9.15    |
| Carried forward to 1st January 2021                         |  | 582.90         | 620.05  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |  | <b>1342.05</b> |         |

AUDITOR :- *Shonis I.E ORRIS 21/1/21*

C) RESERVE ACCOUNT - This is held for ~~us~~ at Essex Wildlife Trust head office. It is intended for major projects and remains unchanged at £1700.00

## **Cranham Marsh Warden's Report 2020**

In the lockdowns more feet have been treading the reserve's paths daily than used to do so in its busiest weeks. The birdlife has probably suffered from the extra disturbance and all the dogs running around, although Cetti's Warblers, which are extending their range at the moment, have turned up here to nest for the first time. We did have one unpleasant incident when a dog worried the young cattle, with its owner watching, and this put a premature end to the grazing. We have also had a couple of incidents of serious vandalism, with the tool hut broken into and mindless damage caused. On the plus side, we have recruited a couple of new volunteers from the people discovering the reserve for the first time, and hopefully many more have come to appreciate the value of the greenspace cared for by the Trust.

The biggest management problem we face at the moment is succession, i.e. the tendency of lowland habitats to revert to woodland, which has been accelerated by the warming climate and nitrogen deposition from vehicle exhausts. Apart from the interruption to grazing already mentioned, for the past couple of years the autumn machine-cut by Trust staff has either been incomplete or not done at all. We rely on this to keep under control areas of encroaching scrub that we have cleared by hand. Volunteer work parties have continued intermittently during lockdowns – this is permissible because Government treats conservation volunteers as unpaid agricultural workers – and done their best to compensate for this, but we will be facing a backlog of clearance work next year and have had to postpone the annual coppicing sessions.