

**The Wildlife Information Centre  
SC234339  
Annual General Meeting  
held on  
Friday 14 February 2014  
at Vogrie House, Midlothian**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Present**

Mike Beard	Member
Rob Briers	Director
Sarah Eno	Director in the chair
Ian Jackson	Director
Alastair Sommerville	Director
Ian Young	Director

**Apologies**

Teyl de Bordes	Member
Laura Coventry	Member
Hugh Coventry	Member
Averil Inglis	Member
Helen Jackson	Member
Ron McBeath	Member
Joanie McNaughton	Member
Jackie Muscott	Member
Michael Scott	Member
Graeme Wilson	Centre Manager

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17 November 2012**

- 1 The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17 November 2012 were approved by the members.

**Chairman's Statement on Progress Since the AGM of 17 November 2012**

- 2 During 2012/13 the Wildlife Information Centre continued to work with a diverse range of organisation and individuals to source current data relating the Lothians and Scottish Borders wildlife.
- 3 Key activities included the following.
- 4 Two conferences were held, the first in November 2012 on "Grassland Recording and Conservation" held at the Eric Liddell Centre, Edinburgh. The second was held in Newtown St. Boswells, Borders in March 2013 on "Upland Recording and Conservation"
- 5 Two workshops were held, the first on Woodland Bryophytes on Tuesday 12th March 2013 at Vogrie Country Park, Midlothian. The second was a Borders Phase 1 training event held on Sunday 1st April 2012 at Harestanes in the Scottish Borders. This was part of the Phase 1 "ground-truthing" project which was a component of the Scottish Borders Council Service Level Agreement.
- 6 Fourteen field excursions had taken place between April and September 2012. Six were in the Scottish Borders, five in West Lothian, one in the City of Edinburgh, one in East Lothian and one in Midlothian.
- 7 Some excursion highlights had been the holding of two joint meetings with the Lothian Amphibian and Reptile Group (LARG) and a joint meeting with Biodiversity Scotland.

- 8 Adrian Sumner had found the Three-toothed Moss Snail (*Azeca goodalli*) at Denholm Dean. This was only the second modern site for the species in Scotland!
- 9 Ninety-seven species of lichen and lichenicolous fungi had been recorded by Brian Coppins on the Kirknewton Estate. The record of *Sclerophora pallida* on one of the hedgerow Sycamores had been notable. This was a Red Data Book species (Vulnerable) and is elsewhere known in Lothians only in Newhall Glen, where he recorded it in 2001.
- 10 The Shaws Lochs and Pot Loch excusion with Rod Corner had included the notable plants Narrow Small-reed (*Calamagrostis stricta*), Small Reed (*Calamagrostis canescens x stricta = C. x gracilescens*) and Northern Bedstraw (*Galium boreale*).
- 11 There had also been two BioBlitz events, one in Peebles. TWIC collated the records after the event. The BioBlitz at Vogrie County Park in September 2012 had coincided with the British and Irish Council of Environment Ministers meeting at Vogrie for the twelfth ministerial meeting on the Environment with a focus on Biodiversity. Before the meeting, Ministers met with children from Tynewater Primary School.
- 12 A number of other public engagements included: (a) *Doors Open Day* with a bat walk led by Graeme Wilson in the evening, (b) Schools Citizen Science Twilight Session (organised by Trust Conservation Volunteers (TCV), where Natalie Harmsworth gave a short presentation about recording and TWIC public surveys and (c) Wooplaw Community Woodlands, where TWIC had a stall. However a poor turn-out here had meant that recording did not go ahead.

### **Data Management**

- 13 The server had been upgraded and a start made on software upgrades. The total number of records at the end of March 2013 was 1,274,587. The number of verified clean records entered for 2012-13 was 189,453. Major datasets include some from Scottish Ornithologists Club (SOC), Water of Leith Conservation Trust, and the Vice-County Recorders for moths in the Borders.
- 14 TWIC had continued to fulfil its Service Level Agreements for Scottish Borders (SBC), City of Edinburgh (CEC) and West Lothian, (WL), East Lothian (EL) and Midlothian (ML).
- 15 By March 2013 a total of 55 potential Local Biodiversity Sites across all the local authorities noted above had been assessed with 42 passes, 10 deferred for further consideration and 3 failures. TWIC had prepared the documents for the process and recorders had been very supportive in attending meetings several times a year to confirm, reject or plan further work on deferred sites.

### **Staff**

- 16 Centre Manager (full time) Graeme Wilson, Natalie Harmsworth (full time) ecologist, checked data quality, prepared the Local Biodiversity Sites reports and, amongst other jobs, organised conferences and excursions. Steve Hannah (full time) managed Information Technology, the website, data input to Recorder and extraction for reports. Christine Johnson worked part time on data processing. Christine's Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum (SBIF) post 2.5 days a week commenced in March 2013. Volunteers continued to help with data preparation from the copious paper files, amounting to 2 – 5 person days/week.
- 17 Funding for a further data processing person as proposed in Year 1 had not been successful but opportunities continued to be sought. This was not a particularly 'sexy' proposition for grant bodies however so ways of tagging on some data processing, where appropriate, to another roles would continue to be explored.

### **Financial Statement**

- 18 The Financial Statement for the year ending 31 March 2013 was presented and agreed by the members.

**Election of Directors and Officers**

- 19 Rob Briers, Ian Jackson were approved as directors and Ian Young re-elected as a director

**Articles of Association**

- 20 Revised Articles of Association were approved.

**TWIC Membership Fee**

- 21 The fee for TWIC membership was set at £5 per annum.

Ian Young 16 February 2014