

Lavell's Wetland Trust

Charity Number: 1176960

LWT c/o Dinton Pastures Country Park, Davis Street, Hurst, Reading, RG10 0TH

Trustees Annual Report for the period 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2019

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

Lavell's Wetland Trust's (LWT) aims and objectives are to enhance, protect and preserve the natural habitats, fauna and flora in the Loddon Valley for the benefit of the public and to advance public education and interest in the conservation of the countryside and wildlife

Type of governing document

CIO association model constitution filed with the Charity Commission.

How the charity is constituted

Charitable Incorporated Organisation consisting of approximately 400 members.

Trustees and Committee Members for the period covered by this report

Chair: Fraser Cottington (January-June), Jane Campbell (July-December)

Secretary: Jane Campbell (January-June), Caroline Turner (July- August),
Angela Gunn (September-December)

Treasurer: Phil Kinch

Membership Secretary: Les Blundell

Chief Visionary Officer: Fraser Cottington (July-December)

Trustees: Renton Righelato, Ron Bryant

Committee Members:

Peter Scudamore, Bob Bennett

Trustee selection methods

Volunteer trustees with appropriate skills are sought from the membership and nominated by the management committee or by individual members

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects

We undertake volunteer work parties attended by members of the CIO, members of the public, and those in programmes such as the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. These take place at least monthly in order to maintain and improve the Lea Farm Lake reserve and the conservation areas within Dinton Pastures Country Park.

Further "one-off" work parties are arranged for local schools, scout groups, corporate bodies and others to encourage a wider understanding of nature and introduce more people to conservation and a healthy lifestyle.

We undertake monthly guided walks, open to the public, to identify the birdlife and other fauna that can be seen at Lavell's Lake LNR, Dinton Pastures Country Park and Lea Farm.

We provide a website to inform the public about Lavell's Lake & Lea Farm Lake, its wildlife and facilities and our work and events. This includes a history of bird recordings at the site that is publicly available for conservation, research or other purposes.

We undertake larger improvement projects either using the funds of the charity or external resources, or a combination of the two.

We wish to recognise the great contribution that members of the CIO, members of the public and members of other organisations make through their efforts during the year. We could not achieve our objectives without the financial support of our annually subscribing members, the efforts and expertise of members of the committee and other volunteers. The help and support of Dinton Pastures Countryside Service is invaluable.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Lea Farm

Lea Farm was purchased by one of our trustees with the intention of donating the land to LWT.

LWT has been awarded a grant by Network Rail to extend the reed beds and to improve the wetland habitat at Lea Farm Lake. The grant is subject to obtaining all the permissions required to do the planned work. This includes planning permission, a biodiversity report, an arboriculture report and a flood risk assessment. We hope to start work on this in the summer of 2020. The project is part of LWT's vision for a protected wetland corridor along the lower Loddon Valley. This proposal will create and manage three wetland habitats in the middle of the Loddon Gravel Pits Biodiversity Opportunity Area, where LWT is establishing a high value habitat link between Dinton Pastures to the south and Sandford Country Park and the Hurst and Twyford Lakes area to the north. DPCP partners LWT in the project, which will enhance the connectivity between Dinton Pastures and Lea Farm Local Wildlife Sites.

Volunteer work parties

Volunteers have provided many hours of work helping to manage our habitat to encourage wildlife and to give good viewing opportunities to our members and to members of the public. Monthly volunteer work parties are held with a regular turnout of around 20 people. In addition, smaller work parties are regularly held as necessary and we continue to work with CROW (Conserve Reading on Wednesdays) to lay hedges where required. The benefits of past and current efforts are becoming increasingly evident. For example, we are experiencing an increase in waders visiting our wetland sites and as more work is done this will continue.

Publicity and engagement with the public

Other opportunities to engage with the public included bird walks (monthly & Dawn Chorus walk), and talks given by LWT's Chief Visionary Officer to local groups (e.g. Woodley St Johns Ladies Group, Radio Berkshire interview). Engagement with young people included scout group participation in a

work party and hosting a session for children from Home Grange School which was run by the Yes Futures Charity. LWT will continue to seek new opportunities to support more events.

Membership has increased with a steady rise in both individual and family memberships as well as subscriptions to our popular WhatsApp bird news service. Our Facebook group is extremely active with a growing number of members regularly posting pictures and comments.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The committee maintains a reserve of £9,000.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature: *JCampbell*

Name: JANE CAMPBELL

Position: CHAIR

Date: 18/9/2020