

Lavell's Wetland Trust (LWT) AGM Notice 2026

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Welcome to LWT's 8th AGM. Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Lavell's Wetland Trust is to be held on 16 June 2026 at 7.30pm in Early St Peter's Church Hall, RG6 1EY. Additional parking will be available in the school car park which is adjacent to the hall car park.

Agenda for AGM

1) Apologies for absence

2) **Minutes** – for approval - The minutes of the AGM held 17 June 2025 are available on the LWT website <http://lavells.org.uk/about-lwt/agm-minutes-and-reports/> and were sent to all members with the Summer Seasonal Newsletter.

3) Reports:

a) Treasurer – Peter Scudamore

The accounts for 2025 show the charity is in healthy position, but the new hide cost is still a concern.

The accounts show we have £9000 in reserve. £7000 in the maintenance fund and £30,600 available for general use, plus £4470 in the new hide fund, meaning we have a total of £51,083 in the bank(s).

The original quote for the new hide was about £20,000 but the actual figure will be higher, as that quote is over a year old now.

The maintenance fund has been increased again to cover keeping our hides/screens safe, and the reserve is to cover any major unexpected work that could be required.

Opening a high interest savings account has been done this year (2026) and claiming gift aid refunds are in progress (for 2023 to 2025).

The main things that I would like to highlight from the figures for 2025 are:

- TOE1 work was completed, we brought fencing to create more reed compounds and new quality loppers, we have received payment for this and previously completed work.
- The planned TOE2 work has also been completed and we have received payment. This was to cover the work to produce the east shore marsh, raise the main island level and create the islands at the south spit.
- The legs of the new hide have been built.
- A new pump to manage water levels on the scrape at Bittern Hide has been brought.
- We added paying by Stripe as an alternative to PayPal and it is being used increasingly.
- We got a grant from Berkshire Ornithological Club (BOC) to purchase another tern raft.

Lavell's Wetland Trust (LWT) AGM Notice 2026

- Work party expenses include buying a Kestrel nest box and more gorse for the east shore
- Training covered a boat handling course for Keith Boseley which is an insurance requirement so we can access the islands and move the tern rafts.

b) Membership - Angela Gunn

We ended 2025 with 606 members, an overall increase in 24. 79 new members joined but we lost 20, mainly due to moving out of our area or to health issues, and a further 35 who did not renew. The addition of Stipe to our payment methods has proved to be very popular.

The Lavell's Bird News (LBN) subscription service has 325 subscribers. There are also 3 free WhatsApp groups, LWT Wildlife (300 members) is predominately for local wildlife, LWT Notices (327 members) and LWT Volunteers (105 members).

Membership fees for 2027 will remain the same at £12 for an individual and £15 for a family and the charge for the WhatsApp Bird News will remain £3 per annum per mobile phone number.

c) Countryside Service Ranger Report – Simon Bartlam

A Swift tower has been installed on Goat Island, Black Swan Lake. 20 Barn Owl boxes were installed across the Wokingham Borough, locations include Lavell's Lake, Lea Farm Lake and Sandford Lake. 2 acres of reed bed have been created at Sandford and a further 2 reed beds covering 1.5 hectares at Charvil country park.

4) Election of Officers & Committee

The present officers & committee;

Trustees: Jane Campbell (Chair), Fraser Cottington (Chief Visionary Officer), Angela Gunn (Secretary), Peter Scudamore (Treasurer).

Committee: Keith Boseley, Ella Wheeler

LWT's constitution requires a third of the committee to retire at each AGM. The following are retiring, Jasmine Hughes and Roger Powell and are not standing for re-election.

Jane Campbell is stepping down as Chair and the committee has chosen Ella Wheeler to take over the role

The committee is always open to offers from members willing to help in a specific area. We could really benefit from someone to engage in social media and one or more people to help us host events with our gazebo. If you want to volunteer your service, please email secretary@lavells.org.uk or post to LWT c/o Dinton Pastures Country Park, Davis Street, Hurst, Reading, RG10 0TH with details of the skills you are offering.

If subscriptions are in arrears, members are not entitled to vote at the AGM

Lavell's Wetland Trust (LWT) AGM Notice 2026

5) **Chair's Report:** Jane Campbell (May 2026)

LWT's Committee has worked hard as always, and we hope we continue to deliver a superb nature reserve for you to enjoy.

This year, we finally finished the work at Lea Farm Lake and also started to build the new hide. Both projects were extremely difficult to get off the ground and many thanks are owed to Fraser for his persistence.

As always, I am thankful to our committee. Fraser, Angela, Peter, Ella and Keith give a lot to LWT for which I am grateful. Sadly, in the last couple of months we said goodbye to Jasmine Hughes and Roger Powell, we thank them for their time and effort.

Our wonderful volunteers have continued to support our monthly work parties plus an enthusiastic group have attended additional work parties on Tuesdays which have been ably led by Keith Boseley. These additional work parties have allowed us to progress larger tasks. As always, we are indebted to Simon Bartlam and his team who have been incredibly helpful in many ways. Thanks too to all our members who continue to support us with their membership and donations. Their enthusiastic postings to our WhatsApp and Facebook groups with accompanying photographs are of interest to many, including our members and supporters who are unable to visit the reserve.

6) **Chief Visionary Officer:** Fraser Cottington

Habitat Management, Work Parties & Events – Achievements: Fraser Cottington

Network Rail (TOE1) – Completed

- We will continue to transplant Phragmites rhizomes at LFL for the next 2-3 years
- Planting Gorse will continue in the SE boundary of Lea Farm Lake for 2-3 more years to attract breeding Linnet, Stonechat and passage passerines
- The construction of our new 'Mavis Bryant Hide' on the North spit of Lea Farm Lake will be under way by the AGM and hopefully completed by early July latest
 - LWT volunteers will erect screening on the final approach to the new hide so we can reach it without scaring the birds off
- The 'East Marsh' on LFL delivered as part of TOE2 has been attracting passing waders this spring and we are seeing Little-ringed Plover, Oystercatcher and Lapwing use it daily
- The Tern rafts were launched bang on time for the arrival of about 6 pairs of Common Terns
- The Shelduck box was expertly buried on the island next to the Sand Martin wall
- Work parties have produced outstanding results, from hedgerow management, shrub planting to tree felling, to scrub creation and fencing.

Management Plans

- Repairs to Ron's hide will be tabled post the new hide build, the high costs of the new hide will push back repairs until at least 2027
- Keith and the Tuesday volunteers will be cutting Teal Meadow again in June
- Further hedge laying alongside LFL will recommence in late autumn
- Fraser will be hosting Duke of Edinburgh youths for their Bronze award in June and July

Lavell's Wetland Trust (LWT) AGM Notice 2026

- Summerleaze Ltd have did not go ahead with the idea of a solar farm on the far landfill, so we will wait until we can approach them with funding to manage the wild flower meadow idea

TOE2

As the delivery of the project was post the 2025 , I thought it appropriate to share the diagram shared last year, overall I think it was very close to what we planned, the hardest parts were creating a variety of water depths in the marsh and as expected we would benefit from bringing in some extra mud, the contractors ability to deliver on raising the old shingle island was impressive – using existing gravel to build a causeway then back out and redeploy the gravel in the marsh.

We have already seen our largest flock of 11 Redshank drop in Curlew, Ringed Plover, a 2 day spring Wood Sandpiper and 3 day pair of Dunlin, is indeed reason to hope we'll see an increase in frequency of waders - such as Black-tailed Godwit in the first week of July and from August to September hopefully Greenshank, more Dunlin, Ringed Plover, Redshank, Wood Sandpiper and maybe Ruff.

The vision for the Future

Sluicing the pipe at Lea Farm Lake to protect breeding birds from summer flash floods

A.O.B.

The AGM will be followed by light refreshments and a short talk by Colin Wilson on his nature walks in the Blackwater Valley.

Date of next AGM 15th June 2027