



AGM

7.30pm at Langlee Community Centre

Thursday 11th April 2024

Agenda

1. Present and Apologies

Present: Michelle Stamp (MS)
Dawn Spark (DS)
Max Easey (ME)
Lisa McLeish (LM)
Eric Middleton (EM)
John Ferguson (JF)

Apologies: Jim Russell (JR)
Charlotte Barret

A total of 34 people were in attendance

2. Minutes of last AGM

Minutes were accepted as a true record. Proposed by ME and Seconded by DS

3. Chair's Report

The past 12 months we have been very busy with walks and talks that have all been incredibly well attended. Last summer's walks started with an evening walk around the Haining led by Eric to observe signs of spring and the birds. This was followed by trips to Ettrick marshes, Duns castle, Leader water, and Abbotsford.

Our talks over the winter included Ettrick marshes, Springwood estate, Badgers in Scotland and Pollinators along the Tweed.

The group also took part of Merlindale Nature festival last summer and a few work days at Gordon Moss to clear a glade for moths and butterflies. We also had a litter pick last

autumn at Hare Moss. We will also be holding another one on 11th May if anyone would like to come along, let Dawn have your name.

Upcoming walks over the summer will include Mauldsheugh, Bowhill and the Haining again and we are already collating a list of names for our winter talks schedule.

Planning reviews

For a number of years, we have been involved in planning reviews which Alison started. These involved volunteers searching through planning application on the SBC website to see if any developments would impact wildlife and then commenting on these applications. We also sent out monthly updates to interested parties in the local area so they also could comment if they wanted to. In the past year or two we had 2 new volunteers, Sandra and Bridget who took over this role but sadly they no longer have the capacity to carry this on, so we will no longer be fulfilling this role. If there are any willing volunteers out there who would like to take this on, please let us know as it is an important job that can inform developers who have no local knowledge. Local knowledge is the key to getting many of these developments altered to take in to consideration our local wildlife.

Social Media

Facebook 785 followers and some regular contributors.

Instagram 152 followers

Both are being managed by a volunteer Sean Kinnear and Alison is regularly updating the FB page too.

Reserves Update (Dawn Sparkes)

Work parties have been held at Hare Moss and and Gordon Moss. The most pressing item to note is the island at Hare Moss. This was installed many years ago and has degraded over time. Repairs made in 2020 helped slightly but a recent survey has found that the island is now beyond repair. Consideration needs to be given whether the island should be replaced. This is likely to come at a significant cost. Reserves Manager, Julian Warman, will make the final decision and let others know.

4. Scottish Wildlife Trust - Central Borders Group Treasurer's Report for year ending 31st March 2024

1. Income

Walks & Talks £221.99

Malcolm Lindsay's Eildon Book Sales £154.00

Merchandise Sales £64.50

Donations from sales of Sara Eno's Books £60.00

Raffle £210.12

Total Income £710.61

- This year our walks and talks raised £157.50 from on-line bookings through Eventbrite and £42 from entrance fees from non-members

- Tea and Coffee sales at talks raised £22.49

- We earned £154 from sales of Malcolm Lindsay's Eildon Hills book of which £36 was from sales by Visit Scotland. Unfortunately, as some of you may know Visit Scotland plans to close its shops so we will need to look for alternative outlets to sell Malcolm's book. If anyone has any suggestions, please let us know.

- This year with help from HQ we bought some merchandise such as Calendars, Christmas cards and cups, and to date our sales of these items has raised £64.50

- At our talk in March, Sara Eno brought her lifetime collection of books on nature and wildlife and donations from sales of her books raised £60

- The raffle run at our talks by Myra and Eric Middleton raised £210.12

2. Expenditure

Consumables £51.24

Merchandise £265.30

Equipment Purchase £112.36

Event Costs £120.25

Meeting Expenses £18.25

Marketing & Communications £75.00

Total Expenditure £642.40

Our total expenditure the year was £642.40, leaving us with a closing balance of £3251.54.

That expenditure included consumables (tea, coffee, milk and sugar) for talks, some Scottish Wildlife Trust branded merchandise and a number of small items of equipment. (repair of trail camera, first aid kit, memory stick, gazebo parts)

The cost of running our talks came to just over £120.

We also invested in some advertising in the form of a poster campaign and an advertisement in the Potato Day brochure, as part of our drive to attract new committee members.

3. Balance Sheet

Opening Balance £3,183.33

Income £710.61

Expenditure £642.40

Net Income £68.21

Closing Balance £3,251.54

ME gave thanks to Chris Whitmore for his support in independently verifying the accounts that we submit to Scottish Wildlife Trust HQ, and also to Eric and Myra for running the raffle and counting the money.

Accounts were proposed by LM and seconded by DS.

5. Election of Committee

Both Jim Russell and Lisa McLeish are standing down from the committee.

MS gave thanks to Lisa McLeish for her work as secretary over the last 3 years.

Alison Smith paid thanks to JR for his commitment to the group. He has been involved with the group since 2012 and worked to ensure a varied and interesting programme of walks over the years.

7 AOCB

Alison Smith pointed out the need for new committee members as, without a committee, the group will cease to run. She urged those present to consider joining the committee to prevent this from happening.

There being no other business, Michelle Stamp closed the meeting and thanked those who attended.