



Conservation Group for the Prestwood Region
Including Great Missenden, the Hampdens,
the Kingshills, North Dean and Speen
www.prestwoodnature.org



Prestwood Nature AGM Tuesday 6th November 2018

Council Members: Vanessa Rickett (in the Chair), Jenny Smith (Secretary), Colin Tyler (Treasurer)
Julie Hopton, Chris Jolly, Val Marshall,

Apologies: Ross McVeigh (Council member), Nic Heald, Kay and Lloyd Roberts, Tim Pye,
Patricia Strugnell, Sue and Tom Bottomley

51 people of whom 44 were members, were in attendance.

Talk

Our thanks go to Tony Marshall for stepping in at short notice to give a Talk as the planned speaker was indisposed. Tony gave a very interesting and informative talk on the Mini Cornfield Project and on the Special Trees of this area.

Junior Photography Competition.

The programme began with the award of certificates to the leading entrants in the Junior Photography Competition. The entries were on display and had all been of a good standard - the entrants were all thanked for their efforts. The judges awarded Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates for the outstanding photos.

There were two categories: -

Plant, Lichens, Fungi and Insects		
Gold award	Kitty Hayward 14	'Poppy Seed Head'
Silver award	Annie Sutcliffe 14	'Wild Cornflower'
Bronze award	Hanna Lukasiewicz 13	'Foxglove'
Mammals, Birds, Reptiles and Amphibians		
Gold award	Annie Sutcliffe 14	'It's hard work staying beautiful.'
Silver award	Isabel Seymore 11	'Crab'
Bronze award	Hannah Eades 14	'Duck shaking'

PN AGM

- 1. Minutes of Meeting of November 2017:** The minutes which had been circulated with the notice of the meeting were considered. Jeanette Hedley proposed acceptance, this was seconded by Colin Tyler, and the meeting agreed without objection.
- 2. Matters arising** There were no matters arising.

3. **Chairman's Address**

The chair, Vanessa Rickett, spoke of the Society's activities since the last AGM.

The **Annual Report** (which had been circulated before the meeting) reflected PN's activities at five sites. Highlights included illustrated talks on Fascinating Fungi, Hedgehogs and Cambridge's Botanical Gardens plus Meadow Day activities at Boug's, bat-watching, the glow-worm walk and the Angling Spring Wood walk. As well as the Annual Birdwatching walk, Spring Flower walk and Fungus Foray three seasonal walks for families with children had been organised.

The **Butterfly Transect**, managed by Sylvia Bennett has completed 13 years of recording. The sunny weather had impacted on both the number of days available for transect and numbers of butterflies seen - 2500 butterfly sightings, including a PN first Purple Emperor.

The work at **Boug's Meadow**, led by John Obee, with help a band of regular helpers had been boosted this year by a second sizeable grant from the Co-operative store in Great Missenden. As a result, an interpretation board and additional seating will be purchased. PN is grateful for the continued support of the Cooperative Store and its customers. John Obee who has led the work at Boug's Meadow for the last 12 years, has announced his retirement, from the leadership, though he has promised to continue working at the Meadow.

Sheepwash Pond dipping platform has been subject to further damage, and the site to continued littering. PN is very grateful to local residents who have restored the platform without cost to PN. It is good to hear that Sheepwash is a valued part of the local environment and that the community supports our efforts to care for the pond and the area around it.

Pollinator-friendly Garden is also well supported by a regular group of volunteers under the leadership of Tina Hillas. The group has also been actively involved in the Arable Weeds project in the newly created adjacent plot.

Kiln Common Orchard 13 bottles of Apple juice were produced for the first time this year. Maintenance has continued as usual.

Membership Vanessa explained that PN needs more active members, who can also publicise and attend the free activities and talks. Members can also invite friends, and write articles for local newsletters, local newspapers, send photographs to the PN website, and send articles to PN News (next print deadline day is 31 December for publication early in the New Year).

4. **Accounts 2017-18** Colin Tyler, the Treasurer had prepared the accounts. Colin explained that over the years the membership funding had enabled PN to attract grant funding to the present total of around £30,000 over the years to support our efforts. A new factor this year is the adoption of a Reserves Policy.

The accounts were circulated before the meeting and had been seen and agreed by the Examiner, Steve Adkins. Colin Tyler asked that the accounts be accepted. This was proposed by Tony Marshall and seconded by John Obee.

5. Election of Council Members

General Secretary Jenny Smith has served 3 years as General Secretary and was seeking re-election for a second term. She was proposed by Jeanette Hedley and seconded by Chris Jolly - carried by the meeting without objection.

Membership Secretary Thanks were accorded to Paul Heath, who has served as Membership Secretary and has stood down on grounds of ill health. Helen Matthews was nominated by Sylvia Bennett and seconded by Fiona Waller - carried by the meeting without objection.

Ordinary Members Council member Ross McVean had served 3 years and was seeking re-election for a second term. He was proposed by Colin Tyler and seconded by Patricia Mallett - carried by the meeting without objection.

Tim Pye was standing for election. He was proposed by Paul Heath, and seconded by Tina Hillas - carried by the meeting without objection.

6. Nomination of the Examiner of Accounts

Steve Adkins was proposed as the Examiner of Accounts by Helen Matthews, seconded by Julie Hopton - carried by the meeting without objection.

7. **Queen's Award for Voluntary Service** will be held in 2019 by John and Valerie Obee for their commitment and dedication over the last 12 years at Boug's Meadow, including organising and catering for regular work parties. Throughout the life of Prestwood Nature, they have been ever-present to lend a hand in a range of capacities, John as Chairman and Ordinary Council Member, and Val catering for volunteers and visitors. We look forward to their company for many years ahead.

8. **AOB** No items were raised – the meeting closed at 9:25pm