

SOUTH NOTTS LOCAL GROUP REPORT 2013/14

This year has again seen SNG running a programme of walks and talks + a programme of visits to Summer Fetes with our nature table. We also ran a Go Wild in the Park, Rudington Spring Fair and a Pub Quiz.

However we are entering a period of change with the potential migration of the web site into the Trusts main web site and a reduction of our input into the local group newsletter, but with a greater emphasis on a much more regular E Mail update about local events and issues. However to get that to work well we need to improve on the current 50% uptake.

And of course one big change is the loss of Dennis Heffernan who played an important role in revitalising SNG in the late 1990's and it's continued success right through into 2014. Not only through organising the talks programme for many years, but also by pushing the importance of getting people involved. His contribution to the Trust is partly being recognised by the naming of a hide at Attenborough (a site he was involved with), but also locally SNG are looking at a way of commemorating his contribution.

One of the last things he pushed for was something to commemorate one of NWT's founding members (and SNG stalwart) Margaret Price by renaming the lower meadow at Wilwell as Margaret's Meadow. Ironically we finally got the plaque organised and came up with a plan for the naming ceremony a few weeks before Dennis died. We have also lost John Rowley to the South West, although he is still looking after our web site for the moment (it is intended this will merge into the main NWT site in due course) and has become a life member of Notts Wildlife Trust (as well as joining Cornwall Wildlife Trust).

Within Trust reserves we have seen the Skylarks project take off with one of the Trusts most successful appeals ever, which will help ensure the site is purchased and much of the planned re-configuration of the site is carried through. Such local support not only provides some of the cash, but also helps NWT lever in other funding organisations as it provides both matched funding and evidence of local support for the scheme.

Outside of NWT reserves we have seen Radcliffe on Trent PC purchase the Lily Ponds and take on the Dewberry Hill SINC, whilst the Gotham Nature Trust now has a firmly established work programme and other Friends Groups also continue to go about their business. Most of local work parties receive a reasonable level of support.

With funding from RBC the Notts Biodiversity Action Group have run a number of Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping workshops for the western half of the borough looking at possibilities to enhance nature conservation in the next 10-50 years. Hopefully this will provide a platform to assist in developing further initiatives around the Borough in the coming decade.

Unfortunately we still see potential threats with the return of pressure for housing development, pressure to reduce existing mitigation and a continued low scale loss of hedgerows.

Coming up this year we continue to run our normal programme of walks, talks and summer fete visits, and of course the Spring Fair, Skylarks should reach the engineering phase of it's development and SNG/NWT is exploring funding some habitat work at Willwell and Wilford Claypits and also be participating in a multi local group bid for display equipment.

Gordon Dyne - Chair SNG

Proposed committee for 2014/15

Gordon Dyne (Chair)
Valerie Holt (Vice Chair)
Jackie Glenn (Secretary)
Neil Pinder (Treasurer)
Margie Richards
Geoff Fyles
Graham Leigh-Browne
Judith Booth
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