

ANNUAL REPORT – LINCOLN CONSERVATION GROUP



April 2017 to March 2018

Summary of recent activities of the Lincoln Conservation Group (Nicola)

The group has now been in existence 23 years and continues to hold tasks/workdays twice a month on Sunday. Once again this year we have been joined by new volunteers, some of whom have become 'regulars'.

Jonathan continued as task organiser, the most essential job, arranging a programme with a range of sites and types of work. Other committee roles were as set out below. I'd like to thank those without a specific committee role who attended the monthly meetings, providing support and ideas, to all task leaders and to those who wrote reports or provided photographs. And of course all the volunteers who turn out and do the work.

The new Weebly based website has proved a success and is easier to keep updated than the old one. The site is now hosted by GoDaddy but the address remains www.lincolnconservationgroup.org.uk. The site can however also be accessed via the Weebly address that sometimes comes up in search engines.

Those who use Facebook can also receive info via our Facebook page and upload any photos they take on workdays. Thanks to Ruth for keeping that going.

Group funds are still healthy and we again benefitted from a Lincolnshire County Council Community Wildlife Grant towards running costs. We're also grateful for donations from Colin Watkins for our work at Thurlby Wood.

Aidan Neary of Lincs Wildlife Trust offered us two opportunities for training in the setup and use of Austrian scythes and several of us took advantage of this. Aidan ran one day himself in April, then organised a session with a specialist trainer from Norfolk held at Whisby Nature Park. Aidan had indicated that the Trust might be able to donate a scything set or two to us: to our surprise they found funds to provide five sets, which Jonathan and I were presented with in August. In exchange for all this we committed to offering our help at a couple of the meadow sites associated with Trust projects each year. We have already had several opportunities to practice and share our skills.

Lincoln Conservation Group Committee, March 2017 - April 2018

Chair	Nicola Farr
Task programme organiser	Jonathan Hill
Treasurer	John Turner
Secretary	Julian Bartrup
Publicity	Nicola Farr (website), Jude White (programme leaflet) and Ruth West (Facebook)
Tools Officer	Jeff Leather

Task organiser's report (Jonathan)

Another fine year of voluntary work, which saw us going to some new sites for the group such as Hillside Community Gardens in Lincoln, the Coastal Eco Centre in Skegness, St Bartholomew's Church Yard near Scunthorpe and Boultham Moor Wood, Lincoln. We also had two residential weekends away, one last November at Buckden in North Yorkshire working on a hillside with lovely views clearing Laurel bushes (and trying not to be poisoned by cyanide!) and a weekend staying near Fakenham in Norfolk, visiting Sculthorpe Moor Nature Reserve where we saw a Bittern!

The team approach of our group I believe is our strength and the goodwill and enthusiasm shown by everyone who plays a part make it a great group to be a part of. We continue to attract good numbers of volunteers with around 15 not being uncommon. Our work brings us into contact with other people and groups doing similar activities and between us this builds a strong community of people looking after the countryside – and having a fun time doing it.

Further new sites are planned for the year ahead, a residential or hopefully two and return visits to regular haunts such as Liquorice Park and Cross O Cliff Orchard. With these two local sites in particular the numbers of volunteers we provide makes a significant difference to their trustees and the individuals who look after them.

We continue to see new volunteers coming along on a Sunday which is always good to see. We always seem to have a fun time on task as well as getting a lot of work done and I think we can feel rightly proud of the contribution our group makes to the environment and people of Lincolnshire. I would like to sincerely thank all my fellow group members for their excellent company and support and look forward to another very enjoyable year ahead.

June 2018

LINCOLN CONSERVATION GROUP CONSTITUTION

1. The group shall be called Lincoln Conservation Group.
2. The aims of the group are:
 - To promote practical nature conservation through volunteers for the benefit of Lincolnshire's environment and the public.
 - To educate the volunteers in the principles and practice of conservation.
3. To fulfil these aims:
 - a) The group will undertake practical conservation work.
 - b) The group may undertake other activities, in furtherance of its aims or for the benefit of the group, from time to time as the members see fit.
 - c) Money shall be raised when required, for example through occasional paid tasks/workdays and other fundraising activities as agreed by the members.
4. The area served is principally the greater Lincoln area but projects and activities may be undertaken elsewhere as seen fit by the members.
5. The organisation shall affiliate to TCV, and shall observe the conditions of association.
6. Membership shall be open to anyone interested in taking an active part in the work of the group, either directly by volunteering or by giving support in other ways, but those under 16 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
7. The group shall hold regular meetings (at least bimonthly) to discuss its policy and administration. All members shall be invited to these meetings, and each member will have one vote.
8. The business of the group will be carried out by a Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee will include: chairperson, secretary, treasurer, task organiser, publicity officer, tools officer. These officers shall be in charge of the day-to-day running of the group, but shall be answerable to meetings of members.
9. Accounts shall be kept by the treasurer, reported at the regular meetings and approved for each financial year at the AGM.
10. The organisation shall maintain insurance for volunteers on its projects, and for injuries to third parties and damage to property.
11. If, by general consent of its members, the organisation ceases to exist, all assets shall be offered to other local conservation groups or, failing that, to a conservation-based charity, as agreed by the members at the time of dissolving the group.
12. This constitution shall only be altered by consent of a majority of the members of the organisation.

