



Registered charity number: 501384

**HAY BRIDGE NATURE RESERVE SOCIETY**  
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**The 45th Annual General Meeting of the Hay Bridge Nature Reserve Society will be held at the Study Centre on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 2.30pm.**

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence
2. Approval of the 2017 AGM Minutes
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the Annual Accounts
6. JSCF Report
7. Election of Officers and Committee
8. Announcements
9. Any Other Business

The meeting will be followed by a presentation by Mike Thornley, Regional Officer for BASC Northwest; previously FC Head Wildlife Ranger at Grizedale. Mike will deliver a talk on Raptors and the new BASC Osprey Project in Cumbria. This new, exciting project in the South Lakes has been brought together by Mike and is being sponsored by BASC. Mike built the nest platform here at Hay Bridge!

Tea and refreshments will be available.

*There will be a raffle, to be drawn after the meeting –donated prizes welcome*



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## Hay Bridge Nature Reserve Society Annual Income and Expenditure Accounts 2017

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£</b>
Subscriptions	9605.00	JSCF Rent	3600.00
Donations	940.86	Cleaning	1319.02
Interest	3.23	Newsletter	1065.50
AGM Raffle	66.00	Stationery	475.92
		Postage	324.00
		Refreshments	100.47
		Bat Evening	30.00
		Chris Berry	374.00
		Bird Food	120.00
		Rusland Show	50.00
		Bird Race Prize	12.98
		Bench	312.54
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	10615.09		7784.43
 <b>BANK BALANCES</b>			
NWB	1581.45	Bal. B/fwd	4946.52
CBS C/A	5335.92	Receipts	<hr/> 10615.09
CBS D/A	769.11		15561.61
PETTY CASH	90.70	Payments	7784.43
			<hr/>
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	<b>7777.18</b>		<b>7777.18</b>



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## **Hay Bridge Nature Reserve Society AGM 2018**

## **Hay Bridge Nature Reserve Society AGM 2017**

**Held at the Study Centre, Low Hay Bridge on Saturday 29th April 2017**

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

**In the Chair:** Robin Cope

**In attendance:** 35 members of the Society

The meeting was opened at 2.30pm by Roderick Smith, President of Hay Bridge Nature Reserve Society (HBNRS). He welcomed the Trustees of the John Strutt Conservation Fund (JSCF) and members of HBNRS to the 44<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Society and explained the proceedings of the meeting.

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from Sir Martin Holdgate, Simon Elliot, Bernie Young, Rob Jarratt, Frank and Zella Slater and Dennis and Jenny Walton.

**2016 AGM Minutes:** These were approved as a true record of the 2016 AGM.

**Proposed: Brian Snell    Seconded: Sue Smith.**

**Matters arising:** There were no matters arising from the 2016 AGM minutes.

**Chairman's Report:** As usual, I would like to start by thanking everyone who has been a part of our committee this last year for all the time and work that they have given. I won't mention everyone but our work wouldn't be possible without all those concerned.

This year, the only person that I haven't heard back from to say that they would like to continue on the committee is Trevor Lloyd. Trevor has been a member of the Hay Bridge committee for many years and it is with great sadness that I report that I have not heard from him of late. I am therefore taking it that he no longer wishes to remain on the Committee for the next year.

Helen Loxam has continued to work as Treasurer and though she would like to step down as we announced at last year's AGM, so far we have been unable to find a replacement. So, again, please let me know if you are at all interested in taking on or helping her with the role of Treasurer.

Nick Chaloner, our secretary, has continued to act as our secretary and organised things thoroughly, as I am sure you will agree.

Steve Miller, though not on the committee, has continued to keep the website up-to-date.

Of course there are always spaces for new committee members and if you are able to give some of your time to us then that would be much appreciated. We meet four times a year for about two hours; it is an essential role that keeps the society together.

Bernie Young has continued with her work as leader of the Natural History Group supported by a growing group of volunteers. There are brief write ups in some of the Newsletters of their work but a folder showing their complete results is also available in the Study Centre and I am hoping that a version of this will shortly be available on our website.

As last year, the seasonal walks, which are led by Chris Berry and organised by Nick Chaloner have continued to be very well attended. Chris who is with us here today also says that he enjoys the walks. The next planned event is the Dawn Chorus next Saturday so, if you haven't yet responded to the mailing, please do so now. I am afraid that I have no idea whether there are any spaces left on the walk but I am sure that Nick will get back in touch to let you know, if you leave your email address and name.

In addition to the Dawn Chorus and Hay Bridge walks, we have held other events such as a visit to the Rusland Show where we presented information about the Reserve, Deer Rutting events which are led by Helen and Keith Loxam, Story Telling and a Bat evening. This year, there is also a Fungal Foray in September. As usual, please contact Nick Chaloner, our secretary or look on the website for further details.

All the events are popular and well attended so please register for email if you can as that is the main way in which we send out event notifications – they are also advertised on the website and in the newsletter, where possible.

I have sent out the current Newsletter and the notice for this AGM using a different method this year, Mailchimp. It is easier to use from my side and I hope that it works effectively.

The coming year's events were in our last newsletter and are on our website. There are extra copies of the most recent Newsletter here for those that prefer to have a printed copy. As with last year we have organised a full programme of events for the coming year, some of which have already happened. There are

the usual walks around Hay Bridge, a visit to the Rusland Show, and a Bat evening as well as Deer Rutting sessions, when the conditions are right.

Over the past year we have produced three Newsletters – Spring, Summer, and Winter – and, as usual, I would like to pass on my thanks to all those who have been involved in taking the photographs, writing the reports and, producing the newsletter. I hope that you have all found them interesting and useful.

Again, as for many a previous year, I would like to thank Keith Loxam for all the work that he has undertaken on the reserve and whose passion for the estate enables us all to enjoy it at its best throughout the year. This is a unique spot and a greater part of this is due to the work that Keith undertakes on the reserve.

Personally, I would also like to thank you all for being members of this society and for enabling the committee to undertake its works and for visiting the Reserve when you can. I would also like to thank again all the members of the committee who have put in a tremendous amount of work over the past season and without whom nothing would be possible.

Finally, I would like to thank the John Strutt Conservation Foundation for the excellent way in which they have looked after the reserve in the past year and without whom the Hay Bridge Nature Reserve Society would also not be possible.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Annual Accounts were circulated. The Treasurer noted that there were several extra-ordinary items which had been paid for in the last year, including the final costs of the new Geology display board. It was noted however that the Society's funds showed a healthy positive balance.

The Treasurer stated that the JSCF have requested an increase in the current rent paid to them for the use of the Study Centre and that various formulas for calculating this were being considered.

It was proposed to approve the Annual Accounts.

**Proposed: Nick Chaloner    Seconded: Richard de Robeck.**

**JSCF Report:** There have been no major projects carried out on the Reserve this past year, but on-going management works have included forestry, with selective clearance of sycamore and beech from High Hay Wood and Hulleter Scar, creating clearings for wildflowers and their attendant fauna. A programme to protect the ancient yews by clearing in growing and overcrowding trees is ongoing, and the coppice rotation has continued in the Coppice Wood.

The hay meadow restoration project in Newlands, Fogmire, Sammyfield and Littlelands is responding well, with further seeding having taken place in some

areas last year. Rusland Horizons will be coming on board this year with plug planting.

The new hedges in Low Moor and along the Hulleter track are establishing well, but with some gap infill required in Low Moor (thanks to the deer!), and the re-laid ancient hedgerow at the bottom of Sammyfield is responding vigorously.

No new work has been carried out on either Hay Bridge or Hulleter Mosses, but management plans and processes are still in the development stage for the latter.

Byron's major stone-walling projects (or should I say, 'Work of Art'?) along the path to the bark-peelers hut is now complete and well worth a look.

Numbers of Lapwing using the Mosses are increasing and we are pleased to welcome the return of the usual summer migrants, and especially the Redstarts, Pied Flycatchers and, of course, the Ospreys.

We had a little flurry of activity last summer with the appearance of Coralroot Orchid along the boardwalk, but being such a diminutive little flower, it may have been appearing there for years, un-noticed.

The JSCF's involvement with other agencies and groups continues, including active membership of the South Lakes Deer Management Group, who held their extremely well-attended AGM here this week. We are also an active and contributory member of the Westmorland Red Squirrel Group (with a note of a sighting on Hulleter Moss earlier this year). Also, as mentioned earlier, as well as Rusland Horizons' upcoming involvement with our Hay Meadow Restoration Project, they have held two weekend woodland-craft workshops here over the winter.

Another school has joined the Forest Schools initiative, and child-friendly benches have been constructed in-house, for use around the camp fire, with provision of a steel tripod and kettle for hot drinks.

The Warden has hosted several visits and given guided walks and talks to various interest groups, both local and from around the North-West, and has recently completed hosting a 12-month work placement for an environmental student from the University of Cumbria.

Another busy year therefore, and the JSCF would like to thank Byron Lee for his continued and valuable contribution to reserve management activities, and Dave Minton for his regular involvement with forestry activities.

Finally, an announcement of an extra event this year being hosted by the JSCF and to which Society members are invited. This is a 'Moth' event, which will be

held on Saturday 22 July – 9.00pm until late, AND Sunday 23 July – 8.30am until finished (for opening the moth traps) followed by a butterfly walk (weather permitting). Full details will be emailed, and put on the website in due course

**Election of Committee:** The current Committee stood down and then stood for re-election en bloc, less Trevor Lloyd:

Robin Cope, Helen Loxam, Chris Berry, Hazel Dole, Nick Chaloner, Marion Brown, Bernie Young

It was further proposed that the following Committee members be elected to serve as Officers:

Chairman:	Robin Cope
Treasurer and Membership Secretary:	Helen Loxam
Secretary:	Nick Chaloner

**Proposed: Barbara Sykes                      Seconded: Tom Dullage.**

**Announcements:** There were no further announcements.

**Any Other Business:** The following questions were raised by members:

Q: What is the current number of memberships?

A: Between 550-600.

Q: Where are the parking permits kept?

A: These are available in the member's area under the Study Centre.

The Chairman advised the meeting of the gift of £1000 in Maplin tokens which had been made by Simon Hathaway. The committee are considering various possible uses for these monies including motion activated cameras and a new screen for the Study Centre.

The formal part of the meeting was then brought to a close at approximately 3.00pm.

Tea, coffee, cakes and sandwiches were provided and a raffle was held which raised £66 for the Society.

Finally a detailed and interesting presentation was made by Ed Mills from the Steering Group of Rusland Horizons.