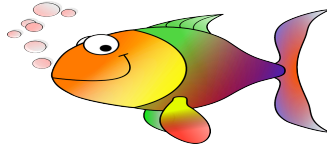


# COFTON LAKE CONSERVATION LTD

## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2015



Dear Member,

Another busy year. We do have some new members and to them we say welcome. We start this Annual Newsletter with thanks and firstly thanks must go to Paul Yates our tree surgeon who has made a fabulous job of clearing some of the undergrowth in order to let light in, hopefully to encourage growth of our new trees and bulbs. All the shrubbery cut back has been shredded and scattered along the pathways enabling easier access around the lake.

Thanks also to Graham Herbert who has been our accountant for the last 10 years and this year has retired. We wish him well and are pleased to welcome Rob McCulloch. A new member who has kindly agreed to take his place.

Thanks once again to Simon Munn who looks after our web site – please note that minutes of meetings, newsletters and photos are posted regularly – so please do look at the web site from time to time.

Our lovely Mandarin duck!! Well, he was with us for almost 12 months and many of the fishermen and members fell in love with him, especially the children, he was certainly a great character. We have no idea where he came from. We looked far and wide for a female mate for him and eventually found one in Chesterfield but then found out that it is illegal to introduce a none British bird or duck from captivity and release it into the wild. To do so could incur a fine and/or a prison sentence!!! However, we decided to find a safe haven for him not only because of this, but also for his own safety. He was seen often sitting in the middle of the road, he had no fear of anything, and we were worried he would either get run over or taken by dogs or cats so after a lot of phoning around he was rehoused at a bird/duck sanctuary in Banbury where we understand he is thriving and doing well.

The fishing club organise two maintenance parties around the lake each year to which all our members are invited in order to help keep the pathways clear and undergo any other maintenance that might need doing. The last one was early October and even though this was advertised on our web site and e-mails had been sent out we had a very poor turnout. If you are willing to help with any maintenance work around the lake, do please let us know by giving us your e mail address in order that we can let you know the dates. It is only twice a year!!! Thanks to the few who did turn up, well done!

Future work: Apart from the general maintenance which needs to be done, we do have projects that need to be addressed. For the sake of new members, we would point out that when this site was first purchased it was impossible to walk all the way round the lake. That was our first priority and thanks to our wonderful committee who have worked hard to erect the boardwalk and the bridge, it is now possible to walk around the whole area, but this has to be maintained!

The boardwalk was our biggest expense and enabled us to access the north side of the lake. We have many unusual plants in this boggy area and our intention in this coming year is to continue the pathway from the boardwalk in a U shape across the marsh land and back onto the boardwalk which will enable the people who have a membership share in our lake and at present have to enter via the main gate, to access from their gardens. We did walk this area, as far as we could, and found that some people who don't own a share had encroached into our land. At this point we would point out that anyone backing onto the lake area MUST have a fence or hedge at the rear of their garden and only members who have a share can access this lake area. Anyone backing onto this area who does not own a share will have their garden fenced by Cofton Lake Conservation Ltd who own the land.

At the AGM it was agreed to increase the total cost of a share from £1500 to £1750 as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016.

Paul Whitby has again agreed to produce personalised calendars for friends and family of pictures around Cofton and the lake area. Paul just charges £5.00 per calendar, if you want a personalised calendar for 2016 please call Paul on 0121 445 2306.

FISHING CLUB REPORT: - Dave Townshend – In April we completed works to widen and level the lower pathway by the car park, which I am sure you will agree is a big improvement. The work took 5 days, and we owe a big thank you to Geoff Smith for carrying out the back breaking work with our contractors.

Geoff will be resigning from the committee of Cofton Lake Conservation Limited this year -- making way for a younger man! Geoff has been on the committee for many years and has been very active in suggesting and making improvements to the lake for the good of both the White Swan Piscatorials and the residents alike. His contribution to the committee and the lake cannot be understated and he will be missed. Geoff remains on the committee of the WSP, so will be involved in the affairs of the lake – albeit from a distance. Tim Walsh will be taking Geoff's place. Many of you will know Tim. He is local, living on Groveley Lane. Tim runs the Night Syndicate, and you may well have seen him around the lake over recent years carrying out odd jobs and general improvements.

Our Night Syndicate has proved to be popular. We have filled the 20 spaces in 2015, and we expect that we will have the same number for the coming year. Night fishing will continue on the same basis, on the first and third Thursday – Sunday period of each month, and fishing will only be allowed from the 8 designated night fishing pegs.

**Dates for your diary: The next AGM will be Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at Generous George – Poachers Pocket or The Chalet – at the island Rednal at 4.00 pm.**

The committee thank you all for your continued support and wish you a Merry Christmas and Healthy New Year.

Cofton Lake Conservation Ltd  
December 2015

**PLEASE SEND THIS FORM WITH YOUR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION**

**PLEASE ENSURE THIS IS IN BY END OF JANUARY**

Annual subscription is £12 but the Committee would like to thank all members who pay more – they can be assured that this money is put to good use.

Name.....

Address.....

Subs to be in by end January. Cheques to be made out to Cofton Lake Conservation Limited and sent either to Sue Garvey 58 Ashmead Drive Cofton Hackett B45 8AB or the registered office 19 Cofton Lake Road, Cofton Hackett B45 8PL or direct into our bank Sort Code 30-96-12 A/C 53186960

According to the Memorandum and Articles of Association the subs for the lake are due from the date of the AGM until the 1<sup>st</sup> January in the following year. Anyone not paying in this period would have their share cancelled and made null and void.