

Cofton Lake Conservation Ltd

Newsletter December 2022

We have had quite a few new members join us during 2022 and we say welcome.

Due to the long dry summer Canal & River Trust have had to open the valves on the dam in order to top up the Canals. There is a limit to the amount of water they can take and we have been monitoring it daily. Fortunately, after the extremely wet Autumn we are pleased the lake is now full again.

Work has continued on the new pathway around Muriel's Marsh and we are pleased to say this is now complete. We must thank all the volunteers who have helped create this pathway. A lot of rubbish was removed and can we kindly ask all those who back onto the lake and land not to throw rubbish over the fence. We collected a lot of plastic and metal and had to pay to have it removed. The river was cleared of silt and diverted back to its original course. Volunteers will be meeting from time to time to ensure that the pathways are clear. We still need more chippings brought up from the car park. Anyone able to help please get in touch with a committee member or send a message via the website. The on going dispute with the two houses on Barnt Green Road is going to tribunal in the new year.

We must point out that only paid up members are allowed gated access to the lake. I think you will all agree it is unfair for residents who have not purchased a share to still have access.

The date for the AGM is Sunday 23rd April to be held at 4.00 in the old Village Hall Barnt Green Road – all members are welcome to attend.

Can we point out that we have a vacancy on our committee. Anyone willing to help out do please get in touch.

Treasurers Report – Paul Whitby

At December 2020 the current account stood at £9715.29 and the deposit account stood at £32,828.77. Interest earned £11.81.

At December 2021 the current account stood at £12,200.69 and the deposit account stood at £32,832.06 – Interest earned £3.29.

From December 2021 to April 2022 the current account stands at £15,594.59 and the deposit account stands at £32,833.17 – Interest earned £1.11

Since December 2020 the deposit account total interest earned to date is £16.21.

By far our biggest expenditure over the past two years has been on the materials and contractors we have used to build the pathway around Muriel's Marsh. The total amount to date is £7,331.66. This expenditure would have been much higher had it not been for the volunteers who have turned up every week over the past year. We can however balance this with 5 more shares which were sold to people living in Ten Ashes Lane and Barnt Green Road which amounted to £8,750.00.

Fishing Club Report – Dave Townshend

Its been a fairly quiet year. The extremely hot weather we experienced during the summer months are not good fishing conditions. The lake continued to fish well and for those hardy enough to fish in the heat there were some good catches. There was an explosion of weed in the lake which made things a little difficult though. Let's hope this was a one off and it does not return next year. The night syndicate members have continued with their working parties and the perimeter fence along the horse field has been completed. Hopefully this will continue to make it difficult for unwanted visitors to the lake. In September C&RT started to draw water to top up the canal system. The lake levels dropped quite rapidly, though happy to say they also recovered quickly and the lake is full again. We took the opportunity of the lower levels to carry out some work removing some of the branches overhanging the lake. We have also erected a new shed in the car park area to store our ever growing collection of maintenance equipment. PLEASE NOTE THE GATE COMBINATION NUMBER WILL BE CHANGED ON 1ST MARCH FOR 2023/2024.

Once again, we thank the fishing club for their work throughout the year. We thank Simon for looking after our website, Rob for preparing our accounts and also for the continued support of the Directors and Committee members. We wish you all a good Christmas and healthy and happy new year.

Diane Carr – Chairman – Cofton Lake Conservation Limited

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM WITH YOUR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

PLEASE ENSURE THIS IS PAID BY THE 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 of Jan. Cheques can be made out to Cofton Lake Conservation Ltd and sent to Paul Whitby, 15 Middle Drive Cofton Hackett B45 8AL or the registered office 19 Cofton Lake Road Cofton Hackett, B45 8PL or direct into our bank – sort code 30-96-12 a/c No 53186960 – NOTE IF SENDING BY BANK TRANSFER PLEASE ENSURE YOUR NAME IS INCLUDED ON THE TRANSACTION. According to the Memorandum and Articles of Association the subs are due from the date of the AGM until 31 January in the following year. Anyone not paying in this period will have their share cancelled and made null and void.