



CLCL Chair's Report (Diane Carr)

On behalf of myself, the directors and committee members, I trust you are all well and are enjoying the start of the festive season. As previously, this newsletter is to let you know what has been happening over the last 12 months.

New Identity

You will see that we now have a new corporate identity or 'logo', created for us (at no cost) by one of our members and based upon a real photograph of the lake. We look forward to further deployment of the logo across all of our communications material and the website <https://coftonlake.co.uk/>

Work Parties

Huge thanks are due to the 'Thursday Party' who have turned up every Thursday (weather permitting) to ensure that the pathways are cleared and the river is free from debris. Without their help it would be impossible for our members to walk safely around the lake and marsh. We are considering making some of the area more accessible for our disabled members and this is something we are looking into in the new year

Welcome New Members !

We have had quite a few new members join us over the last 12 months and to them we say 'a very warm welcome'. People's lives change, they move on and houses are sold and new people move here. We always do our very best to welcome new residents and encourage them to enjoy the benefits of membership of this wonderful resource.

We are always getting e mails and messages from members old and new, with ideas on how to improve the area, which we greatly welcome.

New Rules of Membership

You will see that we have included with this newsletter a revised set of rules of membership. This is the first major revision since the acquisition of the lake and the creation of CLCL and times have changed significantly since those very early days. We have made every effort to reflect the current social and environmental climates. Therefore, we ask you please, to take the time to read the revised rules and add your dated signature to your own copy (one signed copy per household to be retained by you).

Privacy

We have been asked by some of the residents who back onto the lake that their privacy should be respected by members who are walking past their properties/gardens. Tempting though it may be to admire gardens or houses, we ask please that consideration is given to those residents who may be 'on-view' and whom therefore, do not necessarily welcome prying eyes.

Preserving our Environment

I would like to ensure that everyone knows that the Directors and Committee members are all voluntary and give their time free of charge for the benefit of all, in order that this area is kept as a wildlife area and not built on and is enjoyed for many years to come by all our members. As most of you may know there were developers interested in this site and we fought tooth and nail to make sure it was not built on. The land around the car park area alone was at one point destined to become a site for over 20 houses. Fortunately, we managed to stop this going ahead. We are determined to keep this area as a wildlife and conservation area and are supported by the White Swan Piscatorials fishing club who do a wonderful job in keeping the pathways clear.

Boundaries

We are pleased to report that the two-year dispute over boundaries has now been resolved.

Fly-Tipping

Whilst walking round the Marsh area last week we were concerned to see that household rubbish had been thrown over a fence into the Muriel's Marsh area. It is hard to believe that this mindless dumping of rubbish can take place in a CONSERVATION area which we all care passionately about, but clearly, someone thinks that it is acceptable behaviour. When we first acquired the Marsh, we spent many days clearing the rubbish/plastic/old carpets etc from the Marsh and it cost us £650 for a scrap dealer to remove the debris. Will you please be on the look out and if you see anyone fly-tipping please let us know immediately, (anonymously if you wish).

Save the Date! 2024 Annual General Meeting

The 2024 AGM will take place on **Sunday 28th April 2024, 4:00 PM** at Cofton Hackett Village Hall, Barnt Green Road. (NB Not the new Cofton Hackett Village Hall in Groveley Lane).

New Gate Code for 2024

A new combination number comes into use from 1st March 2024. As per the rules please do not share this code with non-members, friends, visitors, tradesmen etc.

Sorry, Membership Fees are now due!

Please ensure that your membership fees of £12 per member are paid by the end of January 2024. Payment can be made

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM WITH YOUR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

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.

Treasurer's Report (Paul Whitby)

CLCL Interim Financial Statement Nov 2023

Current Account - January 2023 opening balance £14,584.33
 - October 2023 interim balance £16,246.33

Main Outgoings - Surrender of 1 share £1750.00
Solicitors fee - £726.00
Grass Cutting - £330.00

Deposit Account - January 2023 opening balance - £32,862.92
 October 2023 interim balance - £33,063.69

White Swan Piscatorials Report (Dave Townsend)

It has been a difficult year for fishing on the lake. The Canadian Pond Weed has been a problem for us and the top end of the lake was unfishable during the summer months.

Working parties have concentrated on pulling out some of the weed in front of the fishing positions. It has put a some of our members off, but those who have fished have caught well. We have also carried out other improvement works to the pathways.

Unfortunately, we have caught two more Catfish from the lake this year, which have been taken away and rehomed by the Catfish Conservation Group.



*Finally, the CLCL and White Swan
Committees wish you all a very happy
and healthy Christmas and a fabulous
New Year -see you in 2024 !*

