

## **TRAFFORD WILDLIFE AGM 2022**

### **Item 2 CHAIR REPORT**

I am pleased to report another positive year of achievement, despite the obvious constraints of the pandemic. Thanks must go to Geoff and David for organising working parties and to our dedicated band of volunteers, all of whom bring their knowledge and skills along with their physical energy and enthusiasm. Thanks are due to all the Sunday morning group, numbering up to nine on occasion and who turn up consistently and to the weekday groups who have also done a tremendous job throughout the year. A special shout goes out to Colin Letts and Steve Leicester for cycling out to far flung sites in all weather. Thanks too to Maura for organising the litter picking and to Janet for additional balsam bashing, as well as for her skills in identification and photography.

Communication has improved this year, since in addition to emails, the WhatsApp group has been set up which not only informs people of activities but also, I believe, helps to keep the group together through personal messages. The website set up by Geoff continues to showcase our work and has generated a number of enquiries.

Geoff has also run several publicity campaigns which have generated considerable interest and Janet wrote an excellent article for the Sale and Altrincham Messenger, but unfortunately neither of these endeavours have succeeded in attracting many new volunteers.

We have succeeded this year in establishing good external relations, not only with groups who share a common interest such as the Friends of Carrington Moss, but also with the National Trust who own many of the sites we work in, and with the Wain Group, who own Birch Moss Covert. We met this year with representatives of Wain and also with representatives of United Utilities who own land adjacent to Birch Moss.

Despite the many achievements of 2021, it is necessary to mention some of the threats we face in the coming year. Places for Everyone is a major house building and infrastructure project which impacts directly on our area and could put some of our work at risk. We await further decisions on this. The dwindling number of volunteers especially for the midweek tasks is also an area of concern. We need a continuous trickle of new people just to maintain the status quo. A fresh approach is needed with perhaps a designated volunteer to take on the task.

Meanwhile, we need to keep building on what we have achieved - amongst other things, the expansion of the heather restoration project, more nest sites for willow tits, the clearing of the water vole ditch, less rhododendron throughout, the uprooting of birch and bramble and balsam - and a litter free Trafford in 2022.

### **Item 2 SECRETARY'S REPORT 2022**

	2020	2021
Number of tasks	76	115
Number of people	448	518
Number of volunteer hours	1782	1918

The Birch Moss covert management originally written in 2015 requiring a review in 2020 was updated in November 2021.

### **Item 7 WILLOW TIT PROJECT**

We have made a great deal of progress on this project to conserve and expand the population over the year. Those of us involved, which includes the Friends of Carrington Moss, have attended workshops and researched the habits and behaviours of this critically endangered species. We have learnt how to construct nest sites using rotting wood fixed to existing trees. We have collected suitable logs for this and identified where more can be found. Surveys have been carried out and we

are now pretty sure where the birds are. Geoff has mapped out some possible corridors along which to place nest sites at intervals of about 100 metres along accessible routes. We have set up one nest site already. However some of the proposed routes are under threat from developers and the position is uncertain at this time.