

**Caradoc & Severn Valley Field Club Annual General Meeting**  
**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2025**  
**2.15pm, Shropshire Wildlife Trust**

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Julie and Keith Greateorex, Pat Duff, Ceilia Forrest and John Garrett.

20 Members were present.

Julie expressed her regret at not being present as this was to be her last day as President. She asked that we give her thanks to Caradoc Council and all members for their support during the many years she had served on the Council in a variety of offices, including Chairman and President. She was proud to have served in these roles and wished the Club continued success and prosperity in the future.

**2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 6th March 2024**

These minutes were available to all members prior to the meeting. They were approved, (proposed by Heather Hall seconded Jane Gunn), all in favour.

**3. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Trustees Report**

Retiring chairman John Pope briefly ran through the programme of lectures and excursions which had been provided in 2024. All had been well attended and well received.

Thanks were given to the Council for all their work in arranging and running the programme: Council meetings were very well attended, and all members contributed to making the activities run safely and smoothly.

Thanks also given to the local Authority for making available the Old Market Hall for Lectures, and to SWT for continuing who offered the Club admin. facilities.

Special thanks were to be forwarded to Heather Bennett who had provided secretarial services to the Club for over 25 years - always positive and cheerful. She was no longer employed by SWT and had latterly fulfilled her role from her home base successfully extracting all Caradoc files from the SWT computers onto her own home computer. She is now running a successful Travel Agency business which demanded her undivided attention and had given notice to Caradoc.

The report was approved, (proposed Chris Menhinick, seconded Heather Hall), all in favour.

**5. Membership Secretary's Report**

Joan explained that in addition to her role as Membership Secretary she also processed all excursion applications and draws up the spreadsheet which is used for ticketing. All excursions in 2024 were well attended.

On the membership she reported that two members had sadly deceased, we had 5 resignations under number of non-payments, assumed resigned. 9 new members had joined during the year and two were in the process of joining. Membership now stands at 100.

Joan was thanked for all her work and diligence in both jobs. The report was approved (proposed M Bowman seconded J Gunn all in favour).

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

Nick presented the current financial investment portfolio showing Caradoc had reserve funds of £9312 in two interest bearing accounts as well as an online banking account with Lloyds for day-to-day transactions. This is now operating successfully enabling Caradoc to make direct payments without resorting to cheques. Overall, our finances are in a healthy state with reserves which are generating income, and we have sufficient funds to guarantee our fixed costs for several years ahead.

He presented the accounts drawn up and audited by Dyke Yaxley. These show a surplus for the year of £1776. In fact, this figure includes deposits for the Long Meeting and makes no allowance for unpaid rental for use of Old Market Hall (awaiting invoice). Nonetheless, he considered our financial performance was quite satisfactory.

He projected forward prospects for this year (2025), and predicts we look to have every likelihood of achieving a small positive surplus.

Nick was thanked for his diligent work and his report was approved (proposed Sheila Black seconded Nancy Miller) all in favour.

## **7. Retiring Chairman's Report**

John Pope took this opportunity to thank his fellow trustees for their support over his years in the Chair and he thanked all the members for their encouragement, support and friendship. He is happy to continue for the present as President and looks forward to remaining an active member.

## **8. Election of Officers**

Chairman:	Nomination	Nick Hall
	Proposed	John Pope
	Seconded	Chris Menhinick
		All in favour

President:	Nomination	John Pope
	Proposed	Nick Hall
	Seconded	Christine Jones
		All in favour

Lectures Coordinator	As no one had come forward to fill this important post, Christine Jones would continue for the moment, with assistance from other Council Officers as necessary.
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All other officers

Membership	Joan Owen
Treasurer	Nick Hall
Secretary	Christine Jones
Excursions	John Pope/Margaret Bowman
Archives	Heather Hall

Proposed en block	Sheila Black
Seconded	Jane Gunn

All in favour

Other Council members	Jane Gunn
	Christine Menhinick

Proposed	Nick Hall
Seconded	John Pope

All in favour

## **9. Chairman's address**

Nick Hall thanked members for selecting him as the new Chairman. He also thanked John Pope for the work he had done as Chairman and in other areas, as well as Julie Greator for her support in the past as President.

He gave a short overview of the future of Caradoc. With falling membership numbers, increasing costs and the pending loss of secretarial support from Heather Bennett, the Council's ability to continue with the current level of excursions and lectures will be much harder without increasing the burden on existing Council Officers. We have sufficient funds to continue for several years yet, and the way forward will be discussed at future Council Meetings.

## **10. Any Other Business**

Several members offered suggestions for encouraging recruitment, including a press release in the Shrewsbury Chronicle, the Shropshire Magazine, and local radio. The council will discuss this at forthcoming meetings.

There being no further business the meeting was closed by the Chair at 3.15pm

## **11. Date of next Annual General Meeting**

4<sup>th</sup> March 2026.