

# ELCV AGM

**2pm, Friday 13th December 2019  
Council Chambers, Town House, Haddington**

**Present;** Dave Oldham (Chair), Dave Quarendon, Mike Sharp, Dick Gill, Jane Campbell, Peter Wells, Anne Pearson, Katty Baird, Abbie Marland, John Laws, Chris Gunstune, Morag Cook, Andrew Stevenson, John McLaughlin, Rod Reeves, Alan Lauder, Jenny Hargreaves, Joyce Stephens, Howard Andrew, James Wyllie, Paul Ince and Ian Pryde.

**Apologies:** Colin Ballantyne, Kate Odling, John Harrison, Graham Checkley, Di Bulmer, Thomas Bower, Gillian Fordyce and Joyce Kent.

## **Welcome from David Oldham**

In 2019 - ELCV had 5 Trustee meetings during the year and one AGM. There are 12 volunteer groups signed up to ELCV who continue to undertake a range of activities - look after footpaths, remove invasive species, erect sheep and tern fencing, survey wildlife, check the ponies grazing on Traprain and North Berwick Laws, pick litter and help write grants for projects. Duncan Priddle left East Lothian Council as Countryside officer in 2019. He was replaced by Jenny Hargreaves at the beginning of October. She was given a warm welcome at the meeting.

## **Introduction of Jenny Hargreaves**

Jenny gave a short biography of herself. She has spent 13 years with City of Edinburgh Council, the last 3 at the Pentland Hills Regional Park. Before that Jenny worked with Historic Scotland for almost 10 years, latterly managing its Ranger service at Holyrood Park and Linthgow Peel. She has previously lived in East Lothian (for 10 years) and enjoys being back. Projects she will be working on since arriving at ELC include volunteer recruitment, the beach awards, promotion of the Wildlife tours for the Ranger Service, attending the East Lothian partnership against rural crime (ELPARC) and involvement in applications to the SNH's Biodiversity Challenge Fund, as well as getting to know the people and projects on the ground.

## **Review of 2019 activities**

### Invasives project

As well as the general activities listed above, the Giant Hogweed Invasive Project has been successful this year, thanks to a hard core of spotters. James Wyllie gave the meeting a summary of the project in 2019. He was commended for the time he put in persuading all the riparian landowners along the 48 miles of the Tyne and its tributaries to spray the giant hogweed on their land. For a more detailed report see [www.elcv.org.uk/tasks/invasives/the-program](http://www.elcv.org.uk/tasks/invasives/the-program). Dave Quarendon was thanked for developing software to allow mapping of giant hogweed. A meeting of all farmers will be held again in February 2020 and SNH have been asked again for a financial contribution to the project. James Wyllie finished with a request for more volunteer spotters for 2020, hoping that people would consider adopting a 2-4 mile stretch of the River and its tributaries over the season of March to July, which would involve spotting 3 times a year- early growth, larger plants and those producing a flower head before the seeds are ripe.

### ELCV Website and Facebook pages

The Facebook pages have had over 260 posts this year and many likes. The website has been further developed and continues to attract interest. A quiz on Giant hogweed, with prizes is a new addition, see <https://www.elcv.org.uk/2019/12/prizes/>. The website also contains details of volunteer days at the various sites in East Lothian and contact details for leaders of these days.

### Wildline Invasives Project

A meeting with SNH to discuss their Wildline Project will be held in December to see how it would link with ELCV. This is a new project funded by SNH and launched by the Scottish Seabird Centre to improve coastal habitats from Crammond to Dunbar. Relying on volunteers, the Seabird Centre have recruited a volunteer

coordinator, Emily Burton, to work alongside the ELC Rangers and other East Lothian organisations, to compliment activities. It was suggested that ELCV may be able to help with training.

### **Financial Review**

ELCV must submit accounts to OSCR for approval every calendar year. 2018 accounts were examined by an independent auditor and will be submitted in early 2020. Wendy Garrod was thanked for auditing the accounts over the last two years, another auditor will be needed next year.

In brief ELCV started off the year with a balance of £2,482 and received a £1000 donation for Gullane and Yellowcraig litter-picking kit and £1000 from SNH for the Giant Hogweed project. Both these donations have been distributed and with two additional small donations this leaves a balance of £2,944 money available.

### **Appointment of Trustees and Office Bearers**

All Trustees and Office Bearers stepped down from their positions. Except for Jane Campbell the other 11 Trustees indicated that they were keen to be re-elected and the 3 office bearers were keen to proceed. Both actions were approved from the floor.

### **AOB**

Jenny Hargreaves expressed thanks to all in ELCV from John Harrison at Aberlady Nature Reserve, and all of the rest of the ELC Ranger Service and Landscape and Countryside for all the work done by the group and to the committee particularly Kate Odling, Abbie Marland, Peter Wells and Mike Sharp towards the Aberlady Hub project.