



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
for FY 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017.

OVER-VIEW:

- *Following last year's 10th Birthday activities the 2016/17 year quietened down to a more normal pace. Another regional work party was held in the south of England and one more is arranged for Wales in October 2017. The website, twitter site and the discussion forum aired many current environmental and nature conservation issues. The VINE Executive after considering members questionnaire responses agreed that it would continue to provide information and a space for discussion and would only express a view when there was clear agreement about the particular nature conservation or environmental issue. No 'position' would be taken on contentious or political (big P) issues. VINE made small financial contributions to three further environmental campaigns.*

MEMBERS:

Vine currently has 298 Members listed. 218 of them are linked to the discussion forum either by email or through the website.

FINANCE:

Reference is made to the Treasurers report and audited accounts. VINE remained solvent throughout the period having agreed to keep costs to a minimum. The Arnside 10th Birthday event in October 2015 which had doubled as a fundraising event thanks to the generosity of Bill Grayson, other organisers and attendees had added £800 to our bank account. The Executive Committee agreed to follow up the Monsanto Mock Trial donation with further ones to Friends of the Earth anti-Fracking (£100); Sumofus Bee-killing Pesticides Campaign (£50); Avaaz Climate Strategy (£50). The accounts can be viewed on the VINE Website at:

http://vineproject.org.uk/project_documents.html under AGM 2017 documents.

WEBSITE:

Thanks are due to Sophie Lake for managing and updating this resource.

- Web pages were maintained as necessary.

TWITTER:

- Twitter has been moderated thanks to Peter Phillipson and Sophie Lake. We have 499 followers and there have been 3876 tweets since it was set up in 2012.

- The website has continued to be efficiently hosted by Darkhouse Multi Media using 100% renewable electricity supplied by Good Energy, continuing to help VINE to meet its '10/10' carbon reduction commitments.

DISCUSSION GROUP:

This forum was managed by Sophie Lake and Bill Grayson to whom thanks are given.

- Spells of activity occurred on a wide range of topics.
- Members were periodically reminded of VINE's 'Voluntary Code of Conduct' guidance for discussions on the forum.

VINE 'SEEDS':

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has". Margaret Mead.

Tim Kemp and Peter Phillipson's 'VINE Seeds' continue to be available on the website as 'guided reflections' intended to be thought provoking, stimulating and challenging.

http://www.vineproject.org.uk/vine_seeds.html

LIASION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS and CAMPAIGNS:

- VINE continued to submit member's consensus views on environmentally related consultations: http://www.vineproject.org.uk/project_documents.html under 2016 documents. The policy was reviewed and it was agreed that VINE should only provide information and a space for discussion; and only take a position when there was clear agreement about the particular nature conservation or environmental issue. 'No position' would be taken on Political (big P) issues.
- VINE continues to pass on information from several national and international campaign groups and to support their activities where appropriate. These include the British Association of Nature Conservationists (BANC) , Ecocide 20 Campaign, 10/10 Campaign, 38 Degrees, Population Matters, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Electoral Reform Society and Avaaz.
- The Executive Group Members and VINE Members provided formal and informal links to many other organisations.

EXECUTIVE GROUP (EG) MEETINGS and OTHER EVENTS:

Full meeting/event record/reports can be found on the website at:

www.vineproject.org.uk/notes_of_meetings.html

- The 2015/2016 AGM and Executive Committee meeting were held on 26th May 2016.
- Members have been invited to the 2016/17 AGM which has been set for 14th October 2017 at the Denmark Farm regional work party. The AGM will be followed by an Executive Committee meeting.
- A regional work party was held on 22nd June working to control Himalayan Balsam along the banks of the Cadnam River in the New Forest, Hampshire.

The meeting notes can be viewed on the VINE website at:

http://vineproject.org.uk/project_documents.html under AGM 2016 documents.

For further information and resources please see the Vine website: www.vineproject.org.uk