



CORK NATURE NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Welcome

This is our third annual report and I am delighted to inform our membership and the wider community, that as an organisation we are continuing to grow both in numbers and in promoting the need to protect and conserve wildlife species and habitats in Cork. In this way we are continuing to spread the word about the work of Cork Nature Network.

Since our last report, we are delighted to report that additional funds have been obtained for both our Otter project and the on-going work within the Beaumont Quarry. We have obtained further funds for our Otter Project and continued with our work in Beaumont Quarry. The number of public events have increased as has our presence on social media.

In line with our on-going development, we continue to welcome new volunteers and their enthusiasm for our work has been truly outstanding. We have encountered a number of challenges in 2017, such as government legislation to extend hedgerow cutting and scrub burning season and we have joined forces with other NGOs to promote the need to stop this extension. We sent letters to TDs and councillors protesting against measures but unfortunately the amendments in the 2018 Heritage Act were approved. We will continue with our work with NGOs to protect wildlife species and their habitats.

I would like to thank all of our volunteers who are highly valued for giving us their time, (*energy*) and enthusiasm. I look forward to continue to work with the team and have pleasure in presenting the work of our organisation for 2017.

Gill Weyman

Chair

PROJECTS

We continued our two flagship projects this year and completed two more projects.

Beaumont Quarry

Cork Nature Network have been working with Cork City Council to improve Beaumont Quarry for wildlife and recreation use. Three clean ups were held in February, March and November. To promote the message of a clean environment, funding was obtained from Cork City Council to produce a leaflet that would promote cleaning up the environment in a positive way. The leaflet was produced for Beaumont Quarry highlighting its Importance and asking for the site to be left clean with a "Take your litter home"



approach. It is planned to use the leaflet at a later stage in a local promotional campaign of the site where the first message will be to inform local residents of the value of the quarry. A Facebook site was also set up for Beaumont Quarry to promote the work that is being carried out.

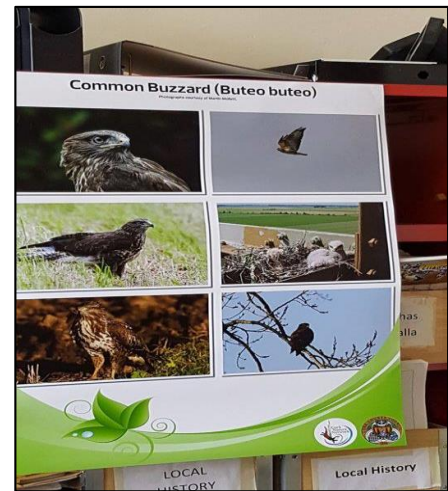
Cork Otters

In 2017, the citizen science otter survey in the river Bride was completed and followed by a talk in Blackpool Library. Work also continued on an otter film and members of the project team also met the UCC Green campus and buildings staff to discuss otter activity and propose measures in which the campus could assist and encourage otter habitat within the grounds. Cork Nature Network also hosted a visit by Patagonia one of the funders of the Otter Film. Presentations on the work in the river Bride were given at the Annual Meeting of Irish Freshwater Biologists at Dundalk Institute of Technology and the UK Mammal Symposium at the University of Cambridge, UK.

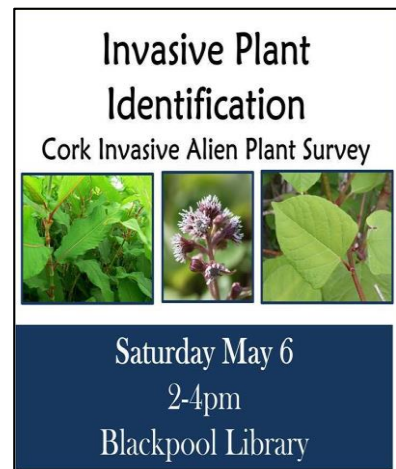


Projects completed

During 2017, Cork Nature Network completed the project on Buzzards. This was funded by LA21 and was held in North Cork. Citizen science surveyors visited sites to record Buzzards. The project concluded with a talk in the Kanturk Library.



The second project was on invasive plant species. Cork Nature Network CIAPS project (Cork Invasive Alien Plant Species) consisted of a recording system to encourage the recording of invasive species in Cork. A web site and a Facebook page were set up to encourage participation in the project. The project concluded with a talk on invasive species in Blackpool Library. The project was funded by Cork City Council Heritage Fund.



Public Events.

There was a high number of excellent quality events offered by Cork Nature Network during 2017.



These included talks on Pine Martins, Invasive Species, Lizards and children's' events. Children's events included bug hunts in Doneraile Wildlife Park, Fitzgerald Park and Murphys Farm. Heritage Week included a photographic exhibition using photos from the Facebook monthly

competition. The exhibition was held at Elizabeth Fort. Prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd and a *fundraising raffle* was held. Prizes were kindly donated by Mary Black, Brian Skerry, Flying Enterprise Restaurant, Timetravel Bookshop, Carberry Cheese and the Courtyard, Sober Lane.

Heritage week also included other events such as a talk on Badgers at IRD Duhallow and the annual Beaumont Quarry Picnic. The Cork Nature Network events officer Karen Loxton also gave a talk at a conference “Valuing our natural heritage”.

Other events included a Guided photo safari, talk on wading birds, two walks along the river Lee and a Christmas social. Average numbers attending Cork Nature Network events average at around 15 per event. During 2017 we organised over 37 public events, which included talks, attendance at events and activities such as clean ups. (Appendix 1)



Stalls.

We held our annual stall at Fota Wildlife Park during Native Species Week. This is a popular event and we *were delighted to take part* the event. We had a stall during Cork Harbour Festival at their boats and bites event. Both stalls were staffed by our many volunteers and *this* helped to promote the message of our work to a *wider* audience.



Events attended.

Cork Nature Network attended a number of events. One such activity was a talk in the Everyman Theatre by Colin Stafford Johnson, renowned wildlife photographer. In addition, we had representation at the Irish Raptor Conference, West Cork and at an annual environmental law conference organised by University College Cork (UCC). We also sent a team to the West Cork and SECAD Birdathons. A further presentation was given to Cork County Council on Invasive species and it was well represented by county councillors. Cork Nature Network are members of SWAN (Sustainable Water Action Network)



and we regularly send volunteers to meetings on Water Basin Management discussions. We are also members of the Wheel and Cork Environmental Forum. We are members of these groups as it is important for us to network with other NGOs, to learn about national environmental issues and enables us to have a voice at meetings on national policies.

Partnerships.

Cork Nature Network have also developed partnerships with Cork food policy council who were developing a growing project near Barrack Street. Donna Weiner from Cork Nature Network gave a presentation on the importance of Bees at the open day of the project at Stephen Street. Cork Nature Network also helped Bat Conservation Ireland by promoting and helping to recruit members for the Daubenton Bat training day in July, where volunteers were encouraged to survey for Daubenton Bats in Cork.

Membership

Our membership has gradually increased and has been assisted by the completion of the website where payment options are now available for membership. In 2017, Cork Nature Network Membership was 45 and continues to grow.

Promotions and publicity

In line with the aims of the Cork Nature Network, we regularly run promotions to increase our awareness through press releases and through social media. In 2017, the interest in Facebook and Twitter continued to increase.

Cork Nature Network has also begun to develop its merchandise and has now t-shirts for sale and car stickers to promote the organisation.



2017 Directors

Gill Weyman Chair

Katriona Wallace Treasurer

Valerie Soma Web Page Manager

Aideen Kane Social Media Manager

Cian Gill Secretary up to November 2017

Non director: Anne Gaertner Secretary from November 2017

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31 December 2017

	2017 €	2016 €
Income	21,763	6,605
Expenditure		
Health & Safety Training	615	1,127
Insurance	615	435
Project Production costs	18,521	4,336
Printing, postage and stationery	140	77
Advertising	823	163
Legal and professional	180	160
Accountancy	690	525
Bank charges	46	84
Depreciation	93	93
	21,723	7,000
Net surplus/(deficit)	40	(395)

(A company limited by guarantee, without a share capital)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Notes	2017 €	2016 €
Cash flows from operating activities			
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		40	(395)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation		93	93
		<u>133</u>	<u>(302)</u>
Movements in working capital:			
Movement in creditors		(1,398)	5,522
		<u>(1,265)</u>	<u>5,220</u>
Cash (used in)/generated from operations			
		(1,265)	5,220
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(1,265)	5,220
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		7,536	2,316
		<u>7,536</u>	<u>2,316</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	10	6,271	7,536
		<u><u>6,271</u></u>	<u><u>7,536</u></u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2017

continued

3. INCOME

The income for the year has been derived from:-

	2017	2016
	€	€
Donations	932	1,315
Event & activities	6,042	3,495
Other operating income	14,789	1,795
	<u>21,763</u>	<u>6,605</u>

The whole of the company's income is attributable to its market in the Republic of Ireland and is derived from the principal activity of its not for profit activities.

4. OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)

	2017	2016
	€	€
Operating surplus/(deficit) is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	93	93
Government grants received	(14,789)	(1,795)
	<u>(14,696)</u>	<u>(1,702)</u>

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	€	€
Cost		
At 31 December 2017	742	742
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2017	186	186
Charge for the year	93	93
At 31 December 2017	279	279
Net book value		
At 31 December 2017	<u>463</u>	<u>463</u>
At 31 December 2016	<u>556</u>	<u>556</u>

6. CREDITORS

	2017	2016
	€	€
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	3,008	-
Accruals	850	650
Deferred Income	916	5,522
	<u>4,774</u>	<u>6,172</u>

Appendix 1. List of events organised and attended

List of events organised
Lizard walk, Ballycotton
Beaumont Quarry Clean up x3
Winter Bird walk, Blackrock
Murphy's Farm bug hunt
Daubentons Bats
Photographic exhibition
Beaumont Quarry picnic
Bird box talk in Fermoy
Talk on History, Land use and Nature
Talk on the value of trees
Talk on pollinators
Cork City Walk
Glengarriff woods walk
Invasive species talk
Buzzard talk and exhibition
Whale watching trip
Doneraile Park bug hunt
Fitzgerald Park children's event
Photo safari
Cork City Food Policy – Barrack St project

List of events attended
UK Mammal Society Symposium
Annual Meeting of Irish Freshwater Biologists at Dundalk Institute of Technology
Wildlife talk by Colin Stafford Johnson
Griffins Garden Centre. Bee Day stall
Irish Bat conference Leopardstown
Native species week stall and talk Fota Wildlife Park
SECAD Birdathon
Convergence Festival talk
HSE Children's event
SWAN flood plains workshop
Law and the Environment conference
Birdathon West Cork
Raptor Conference
Talk by ORC Ireland

Funders

Cork City Council. Local Agenda 21, Cork County Council Local Agenda 21, Lush, Patagonia, Heritage Council, HSE.SWAN and the Marine Institute. Cork Nature Network also receives donations at its public events plus membership payments.