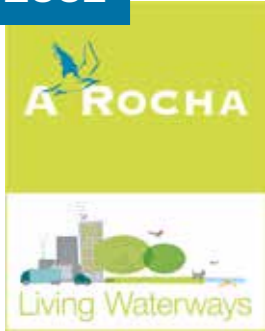


A Rocha UK: The first 20 years

The past two decades have been an amazing journey of hope for A Rocha UK. Space doesn't permit us to highlight everything that's happened or everyone involved, but here are just some of the key events and developments along that journey...

2001

 The journey begins: A Rocha UK co-founded by Dave and Anne Bookless.
 A Rocha Living Waterways launch event at Blair Peach Primary School, Southall.

2002

 Minet's pond: work in progress and the end result.
 A Rocha UK registered as independent charity. Planning permission granted for Minet Country Park.

2003
 Minet Country Park opens. Purchase of nursing home in Southall as new A Rocha UK Centre.

2004
 Launch of 'Genesis Programme' to connect with UK churches.

2005

 Volunteers at work in the Lea Brook Valley.
 Lea Brook Valley project in Dronfield links with A Rocha. 'Hope for the Planet' national conference for Christian leaders.

2006
 Launch of 'Living Lightly' personal lifestyle programme. First issue of new-style 20-page magazine.

2007
 A Rocha UK takes over management of EcoCongregation England and Wales. Launch of joint working with Steyning Downland and Chiltern Gateway projects.

2008
 First 'Hope for Planet Earth' national tour to 20 UK venues, in collaboration with Tearfund, John Ray Initiative and Share Jesus International.


2009

 Second 'Hope for Planet Earth' tour. Participation in 'The Wave' demonstration in London, with Tearfund, Christian Aid, church leaders and 50,000 people calling for UK action on climate change at the Copenhagen summit.

2010

 The Gower coast near St Madoc's.
 Launch of Associated Projects programme, with St Madoc's, Gower, becoming the newest project.

2011

 A Rocha UK National Conference and ten-year anniversary.

2012
 Associated Projects programme becomes Partners in Action.

2013

 Wolf Fields as it was.
 Civic leaders help to plant the orchard.

2014

 Successful appeal for funds to buy Foxearth Meadows as rural reserve.

2015
 Purchase of Foxearth Meadows completed. Trustees decide to seek more national impact in the next phase of the charity's development; Andy Atkins, previously of Friends of the Earth and Tearfund, appointed as new CEO.

2016

 Ruth Valerio launches Eco Church in St Paul's Crypt.
 Launch of new mission: to mobilise Christians and churches to care for the environment, with five-year goals on churches, species and engaging people, and first new programme, Eco Church.

2017

 House martin, one of our original Target Ten species.
 Agreement of new Partners in Action charter focusing on species and people engagement. Launch with Partners of 'Target Ten' initiative to slow and reverse species decline. Foxearth Meadows features on BBC's Countryfile.

2018
 Launch of Wild Christian, an online community connecting faith and environment, and enabling families and individuals to enjoy, nurture and protect nature.

2019

 A Rocha UK joins climate protests: 'The Time is Now' mass lobby of Westminster and the Climate Strike global day of action.

2020
 A Rocha UK co-chairs the Environmental Issues Network which launches the Climate Sunday initiative to prepare for COP26. Closes office, adapts programmes and accelerates remote working because of pandemic.

2021

 Following sale of Southall HQ, locates to new 'hub' office in Brentford, designed for collaboration and more remote working. New ambitious five-year goals adopted.
 The journey continues...