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**Friends of Nature Czechia**

**Annual Report 2021**



## What have the Czech Friends of Nature behind after the second year of coronavirus?

**They nation-widely celebrated their holiday, contributed to an environmental project and managed to meet on the national level again**

Which successes and good moments in the second strange year in a row, 2021, for the Czech branch of the Friends of Nature movement on its national level should be recalled and not forgotten? The activities of the association were influenced by the state of emergency, which lasted with several breaks during most of the year. Nevertheless, the Czech Friends of Nature managed, besides the activities on the local level realized by the local groups, organize some nation-wide events: it was the celebration of the Day for Nature in June, the national gathering of the association's members in Chocen in early October and again also the charitable St. Nicholas Collection, from which the money raised supported a nature conservation project in Beskydy mountains in east Czechia.

It is also important to mention the three-day meeting of the leaders of the association and its local groups, which took place in November in Olomouc under the title "inventory and plans". The aim was to name the current problems and challenges of the association and local groups and try to find a road map to solve them.



**Inventory and plans of the Czech Friends of Nature: representatives of the groups of the association debated in Olomouc about their common condition and future**

Saturday, 6 November 2021, was the day in the diary of the leaders of the local groups of the Friends of Nature Association, when they would all meet in Olomouc, bring other colleagues and discuss together where their association is, what affects its condition and what needs to be focused on for the future. The Olomouc Friends of Nature have prepared

for them a venue in one of the city's clubs for the elderly, as well as an accompanying programme for Friday evening and Sunday morning.

On Friday, the guests joined the local Friends of Nature and walked around the sights of Olomouc's military history. After a full day on Saturday focusing on current and possible future issues, they then spent the evening in a genuine Greek taverna and on Sunday morning they toured the Art Nouveau gem, Villa Primavesi.







### **St. Nicholas collection of Czech Friends of Nature: a contribution to the preservation of a Wallachian forest**

For the third time last year, members and supporters of the association were able to pool their voluntary contributions into one pile, which the association will hand over to a selected non-profit project aimed at connecting people and nature.

The St. Nicholas Collection of the Czech Friends of Nature, with a name commemorating the generous saint and announced around his feast day, supported the preservation of the Ščúrnica forest in the Little Carpathians and its preservation in its natural evolution towards a forest in 2021. Our contribution will be used to save the biodiversity of the former pastoral forest, which is an example of the original natural landscape of the White Carpathians on the Moravian-Slovak border.







## The ninth year of the national gathering of Czech Friends of Nature took place in Choceň

Fifty participants of the Friends of Nature Gathering visited the eastern Bohemian town of Choceň for a long weekend from 30 September to 3 October 2021. The ninth year of the national meeting of the members of the association brought the traditional mix of the programme, which included hiking, cycling and excursions to the attractions of the region, an evening sitting with guitars, a bowling tournament, an art workshop and an exchange of experiences and tips for further activities.

Representatives of several groups of the association from different regions of Czechia, who after last year's enforced covid break continued the eight years of their national meeting, looked forward to and actively enjoyed this program in Choceň. This year their Gathering was all the more significant as the association celebrates in 2021 the thirtieth anniversary of its re-establishment.





## A selection of our local groups' activities



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### The Day for Nature 2021 at Friends of Nature in Jablonec nad Nisou

A hiking trip of grandparents with grandchildren on the route Hejnice - Libverda - Hejnice. Password of the day: *We were not discouraged by the covid time last year - we will not be discouraged this year either!*

On the contrary, after a long enforced break in our group's activities, we really took the trouble to prepare the celebration of the "Day for Nature", the name of which stands for the Czech national Naturefriends' feast. We stayed true to our principle that grandparents should use their influence on their grandchildren and show them the beauty of our nature, our Jizera Mountains, and we really took it seriously. This year was our sixth year of trips with grandchildren. On Saturday, June 5, 2021, we took a rented bus from Jablonec to Hejnice. The bus was almost full, 21 children of different ages, 17 adults.

We managed to do a lot during the whole day. We visited the environmental education centre in Hejnice, went for a walk with views over the Libverda Spa and visited the Wilderness in the City nature trail in Hejnice. This trip cost the grandparents a few lemonades and ice creams or popsicles that the kids begged for, but it was definitely a good investment.







## Friends of Nature Olomouc celebrated their holiday by making music on St. Michael staircase

*"If you play something, bring it along and show it off! If not, come and listen and join the guitar and other instruments in the pleasant environment of Michalské stairs, the entrance to Olomouc parks. We don't plan anything, it will happen somehow."*

This was the invitation to this year's first musical gathering on Thursday, June 3, 2021, called Music at The Park. The historical St. Michael's staircase in the centre of Olomouc proved to be an excellent impromptu amphitheatre, the invitation spread by its own way, and the event found a surprising - absolutely great - line-up of performers and spectators. Together, they created a beautiful musical atmosphere that will surely be fondly remembered for a long time to come. Thanks to all of them for that!

With an impromptu concert on the St. Michael's staircase, we celebrated in advance the Day for Nature, a holiday of Czech members and supporters of the Friends of Nature movement.







### **Friends of Nature Liberec: Four days in June in the Kokořín region**

The first four days of June were spent by the members of the Local group Liberec in the landscape of the Kokořín Natural Park. The first multi-day event of this year was attended by 18 participants. On the way from their home North Bohemia they stopped in Jestřebí, Ždár - timbered cottages and visited Houska Castle. On the second day they climbed Kokořín Castle, then they went on another climb to the rock caps on foot to Mšeno.

The next day they headed towards the rock maze and after a little wandering had a well-deserved experience in the rock labyrinth. Lunch awaited them in the Lobeč brewery, then they went under Vrátenská hora and climbed up to the lookout. Then Kadlín - the agricultural museum and finally the lookout tower in Hradiště - and some of them walked to Mšeno.

On the day of departure, they still managed to visit the Stránov Castle and Mnichovo Hradiště. The trip was not a mistake and the weather was beautiful again.







## Friends of Nature Prague: Tracking the “miraculous” lithium at Cínovec

On Saturday 18 September 2021, the Zvonečnik Association and Prague Friends of Nature went to Cínovec to see lithium. The weather was not in our favor, it was quite cold and foggy in the distance (not for sightseeing), but at least it didn't rain. We arrived at the Cínovec II heap, where there was a Diamo company restricted area and the next place was already excavated. There are no places with truly valuable nature on the heap, from a forestry point of view only larch monocultures were interesting.

However, we agreed unequivocally with Zelené Ústí association that it would be quite a crime to mine a tin deposit just for lithium for a number of reasons. Lithium prices are rising and economically questionable mining could become very lucrative in the future. Less interesting now is rubidium, which, although heavy in terms of its atomic number, may be attractive for use in non-mobile electrochemical devices in the future. Journalists with lithium often write mainly about smartphones and electric cars, but the electric power industry is not so much about battery weight, but more about price and recyclability. In this respect, lithium may be beaten by other elements.

Otherwise, we agreed on the overall unpreparedness of the country for the expansion of battery electric vehicles. Sockets for electric cars are not yet being installed en masse even in new car parks, photovoltaics are even absent in parking houses, etc. We will address this with another letter to the director of CEZ. And next year we will hopefully send a whole bus to Cínovec.



### **Friends of Nature Nové Město na Moravě: Our efforts in 2021**

In March, to mark the start of spring, we held our annual membership meeting in the chalet on Buchta Hill and from there we took a trip to the Vír pine tree, the European Tree of the Year 2021.

In April, on the occasion of Earth Day, we met again on Buchta Hill and from there we took a hiking trip again to the nearby “Singing Lime Tree” in the village of Telecí, which this year also aspired to be the Tree of the Year, but unfortunately... (Two trees of the year a year in a row, we would like that too much.)

In the meantime, we visited the Nature House of the Žďár Hills Protected Landscape Area in the village of Krátká and the Animal Rescue Station in Světlá nad Sázavou.

Of course, we have been continuously cleaning and maintaining the Fryšávka stream next to our wooden cabin in Javorek.





Another local group of the Czech Friends of Nature association, the Nordic Lords of Krnov, which is dedicated to everything related to life in the Middle Ages, has had a good year as well. In 2021, among other things, they were a prominent part of their town's festivities called "Let's Experience the City in a Different Way" in the middle of September 2021.



## Friends of Nature Czechia

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**We are keen on nature, history and culture. We like influencing the world around us**

**Friends of Nature Czechia** is a Czech national non-profit organization whose local groups and associate members are active in several regions of Czechia. The association deals with nature, culture and history of the Czech Lands, exploring other regions and cultures and actively collaborates with like-minded groups in Czechia and elsewhere in the world. It gives the opportunity for self-fulfilment, active leisure, space for volunteering and interpersonal contact.

The association is part of the international movement of the Friends of Nature (Naturfreunde Internationale). In whole Czechia, the movement of the Friends of Nature unites about 500 members active in several regions. **Friends of Nature Czechia** is also an associate member of Green Circle - a Czech national association of environmental organizations.

The local groups and associate members of **Friends of Nature Czechia** promote healthy relationships between people and nature, raise awareness about natural and cultural attractions of the Czech Lands and commemorate their rich history, are not afraid to travel elsewhere in the world, actively participate in solving current social issues, meet and collaborate with other like-minded people and help to cross various boundaries that divide societies. The association and its members maintain partnerships within Czechia as well as with Friends of Nature in other countries, both at central and especially at the local level and are open to new trends and contacts.

## Přátelé přírody, z. s. / Friends of Nature Czechia

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