



Lancashire,
Manchester &
N Merseyside

The Lancashire Wildlife Trust

— ANNUAL REVIEW 2019 —

www.lancswt.org.uk



A message from your chairman and chief executive

Badger's home destroyed

This year, your Wildlife Trust has continued to thrive in a challenging and unpredictable wider environment. We are now one of the United Kingdom's largest and most active Wildlife Trusts, at the forefront of a number of environmental and wildlife initiatives.

The Trust has grown significantly in the past few years. We continue to take action for local wildlife across our region, and indeed the North by working closely with our sister Trusts in Cumbria and Cheshire, making critical links for our marine environments and peatlands in particular.

As part of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts we have campaigned for wildlife at a national level. We continue to push for a strong Environment Bill, built around public payments for public good and with an over-riding aim to establish nature recovery networks across the country and also effective conservation of wildlife in our seas. We feel that we are making good progress and that Government is listening, but in such a volatile environment there is still much work to do.

Not only are young people our future, but they are also developing a stronger voice, as seen in recent events such as the Walk for Wildlife in September and recent Climate Change protests. Our new Youth Forum met for the first time in January and will certainly contribute to the Trust's future development. Also, young people from LWT were involved in two events at Westminster. In November, Claire Critchley attended a Parliamentary reception with me (Steve), hosted by Caroline Lucas and in January, three of our young people attended a Parliamentary event focusing on young people and the environment where they met and discussed issues with MPs.

Our Greater Manchester peatlands projects are re-establishing an active lowland peat bog at Little Woolden Moss as part of a much wider lowland peat bog nature recovery network. Not only will this bring back an ancient landscape for local people to enjoy, it will soon enable us to re-introduce the locally extinct large heath - once known as the Manchester Argus - and will contribute a significant amount to capturing carbon from the atmosphere to mitigate for climate change.

We continue to monitor and influence local planning and development in a positive way for nature. Issues that directly affect wildlife include expansion of housing and other development, HS2, re-emerging proposals for tidal barrages, offshore and onshore wind generation. In March 2019, we were partners in delivery of the second Greater Manchester Green Summit where Anne chaired a session and was a keynote speaker. This Summit is led by the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, who also took time to visit our peatland projects in September.

We continue to face new challenges, but underpinning everything is the urgent need to reverse the continuing decline in wildlife and nature across Lancashire and the UK. A new and effective Environment Bill will be key, but most important of all is the continued support of our members, volunteers, staff and other supporters. We thank you all for your continued support and hope that this year may prove to be a real turning-point in the fortunes of our wildlife in Lancashire.

Thank you to all our supporters, we couldn't do it without you.

OUR TRUSTEES

Mr S P Garland	Chair
Mr A R Thomas	Vice-Chair
Ms. H A Ryan	Vice-Chair
Mr J M Drury	Hon. Treasurer
Mr D J Craig	Hon Secretary Resigned 6th October 2018
Mr A D J Royce	Appointed Hon Secretary 11th October 2018
Mr G Higginbottom	
Ms. J Ashley Houldsworth	Resigned 6th October 2018
Dr C H Elphick	
Mr A G Hatton	Resigned 6th October 2018
Mr S Niven	
Mr R Wade	
Mr J M Wells	
Mr A J M Berry	
Mr J B Jackson	
His Honour Judge J R Duggan	
Professor Phillip James	Elected 6th October 2018
Mr Mustafa Desai	Elected 6th October 2018
Ms Gemma Grady	Elected 6th October 2018
Ms Deborah Shackleton CBE	Elected 6th October 2018
Mr Satyen Sinha	Co opted 21st November 2018
PRESIDENT	Mr C G Davies
VICE PRESIDENT	Mr E E Jackson MBE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	Mrs A Selby

Steve Garland,
Chairman

Anne Selby
Chief Executive



— Standing up — for wildlife



We are living in uncertain and difficult times with much of the focus now on Brexit. Yet, your Wildlife Trust continues to stress the importance of protecting wildlife and placing it at the forefront of discussions. We must drive the fight to ensure the Government keeps its promise for a strong and progressive Environment Bill.

As a movement, The Wildlife Trusts have been working together to put nature into recovery. Earlier this year, we launched the Wilder Future campaign which saw tens of thousands of people taking a stand for their local wildlife.

STRATEGIC INFLUENCE

We must ensure environmental legislation is adequately replaced and future agricultural systems are in place as we leave the European Union. At a local level, we continued to stand up for wildlife in the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework process and also fed into consultations on that city region's Industrial Strategy and its Culture Strategy.

Along with Cheshire Wildlife Trust, we also began initial engagement with Liverpool City Region's proposed spatial framework; and particularly with the City Region Mayor's proposals for tidal energy and City Region Green Summit.

We hosted Government directors from Defra and the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government to look at wildlife site protection.

We met with the MPs for Bolton West Chris Green, Bolton North East Sir David Crausby and South Ribble Seema Kennedy, making the case to all for a Nature Recovery Network to receive statutory underpinning in the forthcoming Environment Bill.

We introduced Mrs Kennedy to our My Place project on nature and mental health at our Mere Sands Wood nature reserve in her constituency. With Sir David, we promoted the need for blanket bog restoration in the West Pennine Moors to reduce the risk of out-of-control upland fires: major fires within our area in the summer of 2018 - on Winter Hill and on Saddleworth Moor - which lasted for many days and made national headlines.

Fire damaged area of the West Pennine Moors



Policy Officer Dave Dunlop, right, with Bolton West MP Chris Green at Doffcocker Lodge





Lancashire Wildlife Trust staff and volunteers take part in the Time is Now Climate Demonstration in London

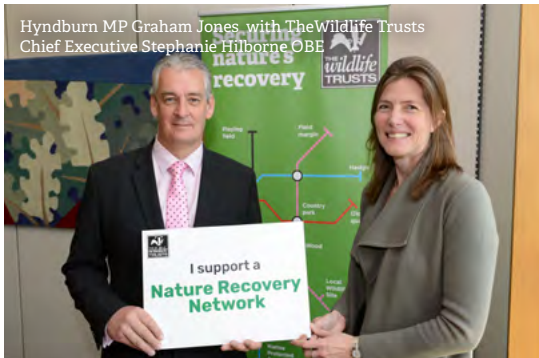
PROTECTING LOCAL WILDLIFE

There have been great fears over the planned HS2 railway line across the Great Manchester Wetlands Nature Improvement Area, and we continue to talk to the planners. We provided detailed responses to several local plan consultations during the year and made comments on a number of major development proposals.

We continued to monitor the proposals for a tidal energy development on the Wyre Estuary in Lancashire; not least for our intertidal Barnaby Sands and Burrows Marsh nature reserves. We made the case for a more complete and ecologically connected suite of Marine Conservation Zones in the Irish Sea.

With others, notably Lancaster University, we began to investigate the possibility of new local capacity enabling the revival of the long moribund Lancashire Local Nature Partnership.

We continue to lead the Greater Manchester Local Nature Partnership, which held a successful conference in January on the Natural Capital Investment Plan. There has been significant progress on a Bio Diversity Net Gain approach in Greater Manchester.



Hyndburn MP Graham Jones with The Wildlife Trusts Chief Executive Stephanie Hilborne OBE



President Emeritus of the Wildlife Trusts, Simon King at Brockholes



Vetch adds colour to grassland, farmland, waste ground and roadside verges



Protecting wild places

Leaving a legacy:
Leaving a gift in your will can help us to create a wilder future for everyone

Nationally, The Wildlife Trusts are creating Nature Recovery Networks providing habitats and corridors for plants and animals to flourish. This activity is helping to deliver the Government's 25-Year Plan for the Environment.

However, on a local level, this has been hampered considerably by the lack of resources made available to link habitats and invest in their management.



Wall butterfly at Warton Crag by Alan Wright

This has been good news, major projects were initiated by the Trust, at Warton Crag we are encouraging butterflies, creating rides through tree removal and there will be further work to restore the mossland at Heysham Moss.

The nationally recognised Red Squirrel Project has been another huge success for our Nature Recovery in Sefton and West Lancashire. Despite another outbreak of squirrel pox, the project is still helping a growing population in much of the area. The Red Squirrels United International Red Squirrel Knowledge Fair was hosted Southport in March.

Our nature reserve portfolio has 38 sites covering over 1,300 hectares. The Trust manages and advises on the wildlife management of many other sites in the sub-region – safeguarding, enhancing and influencing others to benefit wildlife. Providing resources for the management of this land is a challenge and we bid for agri-environment and other grants to enhance what we can achieve through membership fees alone.

Purchasing and replacing vehicles, tractors, mowers and tools are particularly difficult to fund through third party grants. Volunteers contribute a huge amount of time to the conservation work of the Trust on sites and through campaigning.

Chalara Ash Dieback disease, is now affecting trees all over the Trust's area and may cause significant landscape change. Trees are badly affected at Brockholes where some screening plantations planted during the quarrying phase are pure ash stands. Considerable energy went into removing dangerous trees and planning for further works.

An outbreak of Larch Phytophthora ramorum fungus at the Moor Piece reserve resulted in the removal of all larch in the affected part of the reserve and a plan is underway for the removal of rhododendron bushes that can carry the infection. Invasive plant removal is a time-consuming annual event on many of our nature reserves and a national problem.

Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve has benefitted from a new education facility which is already proving a valuable asset to the schools' educational work at the reserve. Plans are well underway for stage two of the redevelopment with a new café and event space, volunteer's facilities and an enlarged shop, possibly by the end of 2019.



Warton Crag – a high point for nature

Helping nature to recover

Volunteering:
For every £1 invested in The Wildlife Trusts' volunteering programmes, there is a £8.50 social return

(Research by University of Essex and Leeds Beckett University for the Wildlife Trusts).

Your Wildlife Trust extended Christmas again when more than 2,000 donated Christmas trees were planted in January by 227 volunteers, including corporate work parties.

Working as part of the Lancashire Dunes Project we are raising public awareness of the Irish Sea and its coast.



Volunteers creating new dunes at St Annes

The Connecting to Nature Project, at Heysham Nature Reserve, has been attracting families to the coast and more than 1,000 people participated during the year in a wide range of family and specialist events in partnership with EDF Energy.

The South Pennines Grassland Project has created more than 250 hectares of species-rich grassland and developed working relationships with many farmers. It is now in its last year and has provided a great basis for future improvements, which are great for birds, bees and other insects.

As many farmers lack the equipment needed to cut meadows, a grant from the Scout Moor Habitat Enhancement Fund was secured and equipment purchased to establish a "tools ring" where farmers can rent out the equipment at a reasonable price.

Up-to-date managements plans and better habitat monitoring have been factors in ensuring nature reserves are now meeting Conservation Key Performance Indicators.

Additional staff resources were put in place to develop strategic reserves work, such as better management planning, communications and grant/legal compliance.

While signs and interpretation on some reserves are now looking past their best, we are looking at innovative, digital ways of reducing the need for onsite interpretation.



Braving the weather at Lunt Meadows

Tackling the climate crisis

The purchase of the last remaining part of the Winmarleigh Moss SSSI, plus 20 hectares of neighbouring agricultural land, is proving that your Wildlife Trust is making major new investment in the mosslands.

That £800k funding came from Veolia Environmental Trust and the Casey Companies. This will not only help us protect the existing globally important habitat, but allow us to improve the quality of the site overall.

Little Woolden Moss has also had significant investment with more than £500k investment from a combination of the Defra Peat Fund, Veolia Environmental Trust and Heathrow Airport/British Airways. This is aimed at protecting and increasing the important carbon sink within the peat, whilst also restoring the site for biodiversity and people.

The Trust is also gearing up to launch our new Lancashire Peatland Initiative, with funding from Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. This will support two full-time officers to further develop our lowland peat work and to expand our work into key upland areas in Bowland and the West Pennines, while supporting the Lancashire Peat Partnership.

We are also part of an exciting EU Interreg project aimed at developing new policies and methods for managing and monitoring carbon reduction from peatlands. The project has nine partners from five EU countries with an overall budget of €6.23 million until June 2022. The Trust is the lead partner locally and will be working with Manchester Metropolitan University and Micropropagation Services Ltd.

With an overall budget of €444K, we will develop pilot projects to demonstrate methods for sphagnum farming on agricultural land over peat and develop a business case from our findings. Our trial sites will be the newly purchased land at Winmarleigh Moss and a smaller plot at Little Woolden Moss.

Large heath butterfly by Reuben Neville



Back from the brink

The Trust's two-year species reintroduction on the Manchester Mosslands sites, will see species such as large heath butterfly, bog bush cricket and white faced darter dragonfly reintroduced.



Little Woolden Moss by Paul Heyes

Meeting our aspirations



The Hive at Moss Bank Park

My Wild City in Manchester has been an aspiration for LWT for the last few years after visiting Avon Wildlife Trust to see how their model was working in Bristol. With £233,651k from Esmee Fairbairn Foundation over the next four years, the project began consulting people about the wildlife we can see in Manchester.

MyPlace, our £2million ecotherapy project for young people with mental health challenges, recently took on its 1,000th participant. Funded by Our Bright Future (Big Lottery Fund) and European Social Fund, it is now running at full capacity with referral pathways growing to ensure we reach out to those most in need. Other NHS Trusts are looking to adapt this approach which is creating a ground-breaking approach to fundamental issues.

The Carbon Landscape Partnership organises a wide variety of events and activities that include training people as landscape champions, carrying out vital citizen science activity and engaging local residents so that people use and appreciate our landscape. It is a partnership of 11 key partners across a significant part of the Great Manchester Wetlands Nature Improvement Area.

Our Young Lancashire Project, the **Woodlands Oases**, started with a fantastic launch event attended by lots of families and representatives from youth organisations. The wood in Penwortham was a hive of activity.



Children getting muddy at Moss Bank Park

This year we have taken on the **Café at Moss Bank Park** in Bolton, as a way in which we can sustain activity at The Hive and volunteering across the wider area. We took over the management in May 2018 and the cafe made a small profit complementing the exciting year of interactive events, school bookings, birthday parties and nature tots. The Hive is a much loved and valued facility in Bolton.

The **Our Irish Sea** project received a final payment from Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and, with the help of a grant from Coastal Communities Fund for £71,000, we were able to continue the work of our Lancashire Project Officer to organize events and promotional materials that encourage more nature tourism and an increase in visitors to our coastline.





Lady Shuttleworth meets children at the Woodland Oasis

In **Wigan** we have engaged members of the public through a variety of events, thanks to funding from Service Level Agreements that we have with Wigan Council.

Our **Volunteering** project continues to see a high level of volunteer support. Many of our volunteers are highly skilled achieving wildlife surveys, livestock lookering, support to activities, leading walks, giving talks, helping us to provide an excellent visitor experience at our visitor centres and helping in the office, in addition to the usual practical conservation work parties. Over 1,000 volunteers gave hours equating to the equivalent of approximately 38 full-time members of staff. Our biggest thanks goes out to our volunteers.



LWT officers Julie Simons and Molly Toal



Education has had its best year yet, with a fully booked summer season for school visits to Brockholes, with further increases in birthday parties and weekend events. The Trust has helped over 16,000 children engage with nature and had over 15,000 people attend our events.

Nature Tots received some funding which has enabled the team to introduce a second session at Brockholes and funding from players of Peoples Postcode Lottery (PPL) has allowed the team to set up sessions in Liverpool and Manchester. The Hive increased the number of sessions delivered due to demand.

Forest Schools training, activities and development of facilities, continues to grow as interest in the initiative gains momentum. Our Forest school level 3 courses are being fully booked months in advance. We expanded activities into Liverpool with funding (£116,000) from PPL through a partnership that has been developed at RSWT.

The Men In Sheds project in Bolton had outstanding success at engaging a wide range of men, all keen to put practical skills to use and make things for our centre. It is now exploring more ways to take products to market. The group has become an independent organisation and is self-sustaining.

The Trust continued to operate in a challenging economic environment as we see external funding, particularly in the public sector, continuing to face real cuts. Over the past few years the Trust has adapted and will continue to adapt to this environment.

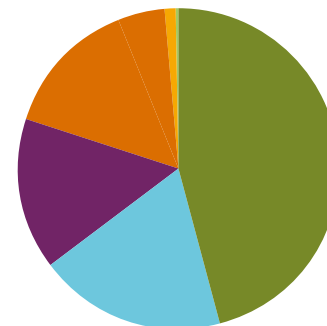
The Trust's membership income rose by 1.4% to £924k during the year owing to the continued work by our dynamic development department. Grant income for the Trust also increased by 17% mainly as a result of funding support for targeted projects. The operational financial performance of Brockholes improved in the year following a cost restructure.

This year we have made progress in securing new sources of income and will continue to diversify our funding sources, whilst exploring new ways of generating sustainable sources of income. This type of unrestricted income allows us to invest our resources in areas where there is the greatest conservation need.

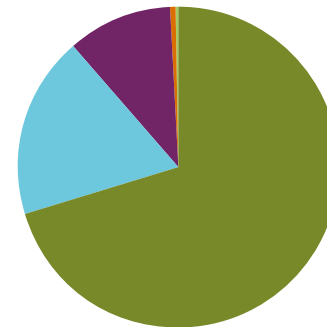
Our cash balance increased by £686k in the year reflecting strong cash-flow management and budget control. Unrestricted reserves decreased in the year following investment in fixed assets which were made to provide financial resilience enabling us to expand and enhance our Nature Reserves in the future.

Principal themes from our consolidated statutory accounts are summarised here. These incorporate the results of the Trust and its subsidiary Brockholes Enterprises Limited ("Brockholes"). A full set of accounts will be available after the AGM on request or can be accessed through the Charity Commission web site or at www.lancswt.org.uk

	2019	2018
Revenues:	£'000	£'000
Grants	2,783	2,372
Trading Activities	1,145	1,085
Membership	924	911
Contract	849	709
Donations	278	146
Legacies	75	27
Other	8	11
Total	6,062	5,261



	2019	2018
Expenditure:	£'000	£'000
Charitable Activities	3,991	3,699
Brockholes Enterprises	1,030	985
Fund Raising	600	625
Governance	39	36
Other	4	5
Total	5,664	5,350





The Blowfish meets the marine team

We continue to push for a strong Environment Bill with an over-riding aim to establish nature recovery networks across the country

The South Pennines Grassland Project created more than 250 hectares of species-rich grassland



Tawny owl by Peter Hunter

Our Myplace project, for people with mental health issues, recently took on its 1,000th participant

Our new Youth Forum met for the first time in January and will certainly contribute to the Trust's future development



Sand Dunes Logo Winner Gabryisia Cox meets Amy Pennington and Andy Mills



Starlings in a rumpus by Martin Jump

We will be working with partners from Ireland, France, Belgium and the Netherlands to promote sphagnum farming beginning this year

We are working to re-establish the Manchester Argus to Greater Manchester for the first time in 150 years



Female brown hawker by Martin Jump

Our nature reserve portfolio has 38 sites covering over 1,300 hectares



Greylag goose by Alan Wright

The Connecting to Nature Project attracted more than 1,000 people to Heysham Nature Reserve



Frog gathering by Martin Jump

We now manage cafés at Brockholes and Moss Bank Park. Mere Sands Wood will have a café later this year



Osprey at Brockholes by Ian McGill



Digger working on the bunding at Heysham Moss by Julia Simons

Underpinning everything is the urgent need to reverse the continuing decline in wildlife and nature across Lancashire and the UK



CORPORATE MEMBERS

GOLD

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United Utilities
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Tarmac

BRONZE

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Derek Fox & Sons
Dugdale Nutrition
Manchester Airport
Responsible Mailing

South Ribble Borough Council
Weinberger
ENI Liverpool
Neales Waste
Sykes Holiday Cottages

Special thank you to organisations contributing in different ways to our work:

BEAR Nibbles, Lucozade Ribena Suntry, Brewin Dolphin, RBS Service Optimisation Team, Siemens, Costain, Price Waterhouse Cooper, Tetley (Tata Global Beverages), Eric Wright Construction, John Lewis, Leyland Trucks, Nurture Lakeland, Opticron, Team JMC, Vine House Farm.

Thank you to all our funders:

Awards For All, Arnside and Silverdale grants fund, BAE Systems, Baxenden Community Forum, Big Lottery Fund, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Blackpool Council, Bolton Council, Bolton, British Science Association, Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund (Grantscape), CVS, Chester Zoo, Chorley Borough Council, Cory Environmental Trust in Britain, Costain, DEFRA, Department of Health, EDF Energy, Environment Agency, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, EU LIFE, ESF, First Transpennine Express, Forestry Commission Green Grants, Fylde Borough Council, Green Vale Homes, Heritage Lottery Fund, HSBC, Hyndburn Borough Council, Irlam Rotary Club, Knowsley Borough Council, Lancashire County Council - Local Initiatives Fund, Lancashire County Council – Central Gateway Grants Scheme, Lancashire Environmental Fund, Morgan Sindell, Natural England, Pendle Borough Council, People's Postcode Lottery, Pet's Choice, Ribble Valley Borough Council, Scout Moor Habitat Enhancement Fund, Sea-changers, Siemens, St Helens Borough Council, Tesco small grants, United Utilities, Veolia Environmental Trust, Viridor Credits, Volker Stevin, West Lancashire Borough Council, White Moss Community Fund, Whitworth Town Council, Wigan Council, Windfall Fund, WREN.



Lancashire,
Manchester &
N Merseyside

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The Lancashire Wildlife Trust is a Registered Charity (No. 229325) and a Registered Company. (No.731548) dedicated to the protection and promotion of wildlife in Lancashire, seven boroughs of Greater Manchester and four of Merseyside, all lying North of the River Mersey