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The contracts team working on Smithills Moor.
The team work tirelessly offering an in-house solution
to many practical problems – whatever the weather!!!

The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside

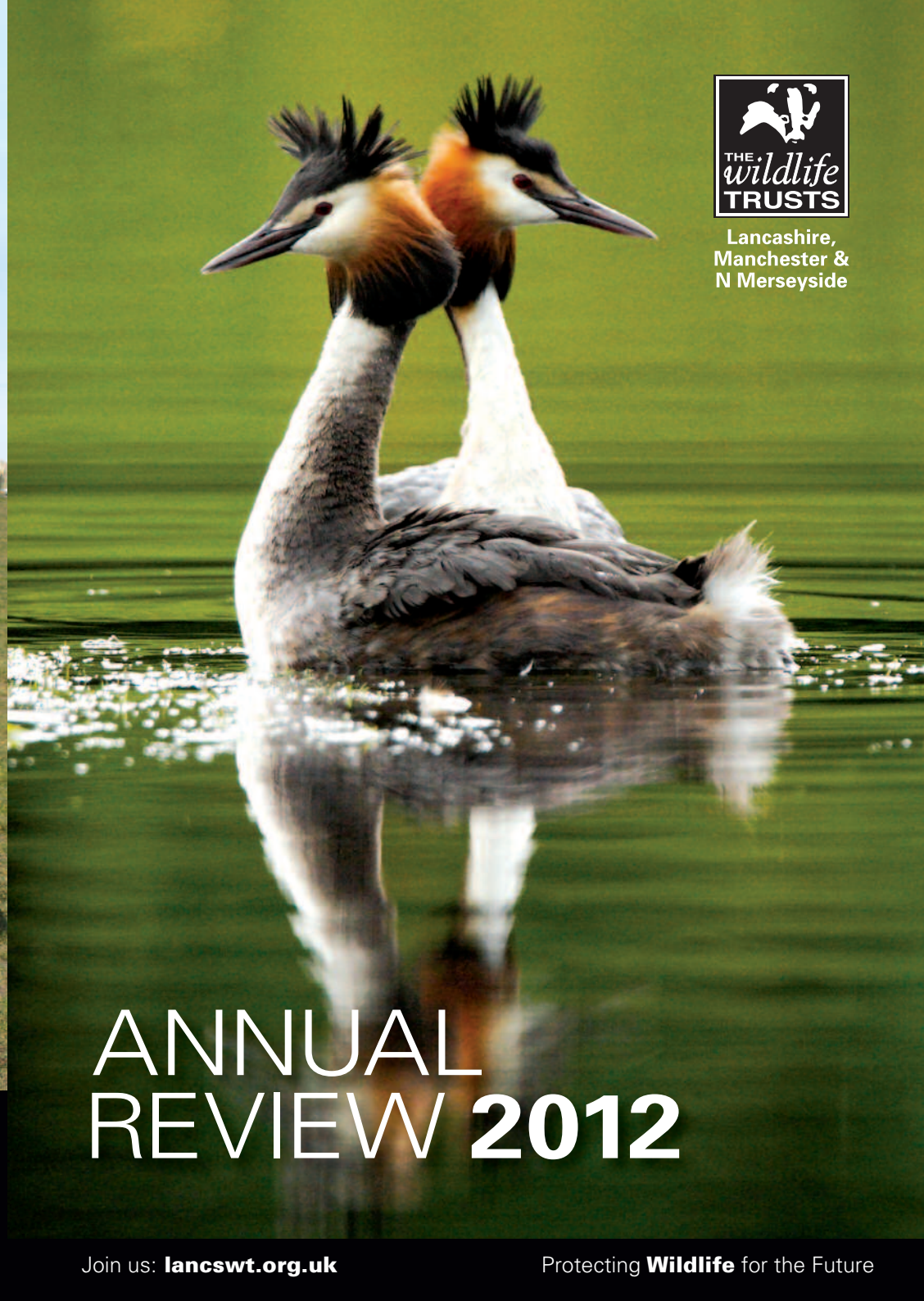
The Barn, Berkeley Drive, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6BY
t 01772 324129 f 01772 628849 www.lancswt.org.uk

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.

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Lancashire,
Manchester &
N Merseyside



ANNUAL REVIEW 2012

Join us: lancswt.org.uk

Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future

GOLDEN AGE FOR THE LANCASHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

This year is the Golden Anniversary of the Lancashire Wildlife Trust and we commenced a year of marking 50 years of protecting wildlife in our counties. At a national level, it is 100 years since our founding fathers created the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (which covers all 47 Wildlife Trusts in the UK). It is a year to celebrate our history. With our membership still growing it is clear that the task of protecting our precious wildlife is still as relevant as it was when we were founded.

Staying power was important this year because it has been one of our toughest financially. We saw around £800,000 of external income disappear from Government spending cuts and this resulted in quite dramatic reduction of staffing; our team dropping from around 190 to 110. At the same time we saw an increase in our landholdings and we are still bringing Brockholes on line, so essentially we are challenged to do more with less.

The saving graces in this challenging time have been a fantastic response from volunteers coming to help, a loan to help with our cash flow from the Wildlife Trust Partnership and a significant increase in legacies to the Trust.

These factors, in conjunction with our increasing membership and profile, have helped us steady the ship, ready for the next 50 years of championing the environment.

The Government has shown some interesting thinking in recent reviews and the recent Environment White Paper.

The Lawton Review on nature conservation and the National Ecosystems Assessment give us hope that nature conservation and ecosystems thinking should be higher on the agenda because it is a key part of our life support system.

The problem is that this new thinking does not seem to be getting the air time it needs in other parts of government and is not well understood. Environment is still demonized as being a brake on economic growth by some parts of the government. Thankfully there are also signs that a growing number of businesses are starting to realize that responsible treatment of the environment is good for them.

So at this pivotal time, the role of the Wildlife Trusts, as a force to stand up for wildlife, is still as relevant as it has ever been. We hope you enjoy the report. Despite the financial challenges you will see that the Trust has still been achieving a great deal, whether it is land purchase, education or campaigning.

Thank you for supporting us in this vital work and we look forward to your continuing support as we commence on our next 50 years of protecting wildlife havens, campaigning and inspiring.

Sir Tim Kimber DL, Ted Jackson MBE and Anne Selby



Volunteers restoring footpaths at Foxhill Bank in Oswaldtwistle, the Duke of Gloucester tucks into an ice cream at Brockholes, cutting the 50th birthday cake at Formby, more BBC filming on the moss.



PEOPLE & WILDLIFE

Volunteering

Volunteering in challenging times has grown at a steady rate from last year. A total of 975 people are recorded as having volunteered in the year totalling 54,407 hours. An interim project evaluation has shown that the demographic of LWT volunteer base matches that of Lancashire population as a whole. The volunteer conference attracted 184 volunteers with a further 45 attending the WATCH Leaders' conference. Approximately 340 volunteers attended training in species identification and habitat management techniques.

Over 200 volunteers regularly give their time at Brockholes in roles ranging from guided walk leaders to maintenance volunteers. In 2011/12 these volunteers contributed over 21,000 hours of their time. Our Guided Walk Leaders have led 108 reserve walks for visitors.

These are designed to inform and inspire people about the wildlife here at Brockholes and the work undertaken by LWT across the region. Over 700 people have joined a guided walk.

Working in partnership to benefit the local community

Despite funding cuts we are still receiving funding and working in partnership with a number of Local Authorities including Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Bolton Council (through Access To Nature funding), Chorley Council, Fylde Borough Council, Hyndburn Council, Lancashire County Council, Liverpool City Council, Preston City Council, South Ribble Borough Council, Wigan Council and Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, where we support natural greenspace improvements, inspire people about their local wildlife and engage local people in grass roots action.

Education

Our Penwortham Environment Education Centre sadly closed down this year as its upkeep was proving too costly for National Grid. However, this has given us the opportunity to now focus on developing Brockholes Nature Reserve as a flagship centre for environmental education. The National Grid has endeavoured to support our closure, move and development of facilities at Brockholes and bookings are now starting to increase.

Support for our work with young people continues to grow with the development of 'Project Trail' centred on Brockholes and Preston and with support from Oglesby Charitable Trust, JP Getty Charitable Trust and Children In Need. Our work with young people in Bolton also continues with funding from Heritage Lottery Fund's Young Roots programme, and funding from the Carrillion Natural Habitats Fund is enabling a youth focussed project in Rochdale.

Health and Wellbeing

With Reaching Communities and Target: Wellbeing funding coming to an end in Preston, our capacity in Preston greatly reduced, however after such success and demand for more activity we are hopeful that the project will take a new direction in assisting the local authority to develop their Asset Transfer policy.

We continue to work closely with Central Lancashire NHS and our food growing projects in Preston and Chorley are proving very popular. In Chorley this has resulted in a successful application to Reaching Communities, and in Preston we have secured funding from Local Food, both Big Lottery programmes.

Major projects that continue to receive a lot of demand and success include Activize Your Lives (Reaching Communities funded) that is helping us to increase the community usage of our Environmental Resources Centre in Bolton, Morecambe Bay's Wealth of Wildlife project (Access To Nature funded) in partnership with Cumbria Wildlife Trust, and Bolton Environment Action Team (Young Peoples Fund).



The Wildlife Trust has worked to introduce children to wildlife, get communities involved in conservation activities and keep older people involved in healthy food growing



One saving grace in this challenging time has been a fantastic response from volunteers.

Tom Charles's wonderful Brown Hare at Mere Sands Wood

STANDING UP FOR WILDLIFE

The publication of a White Paper on the natural environment gave new impetus to the Living Landscape initiative with the Trust developing a number of landscape scale initiative with partners. A proposal to join together the Wigan Flashes wetlands chain with the Chat Moss peatlands was presented to Government under their Nature Improvement Area initiative. Although unsuccessful, the partners are determined to find resources elsewhere. The Trust undertook development work with partners to submit a bid to the Lottery for work on the West Pennine Moors.

Several major development proposals have been submitted for planning permission during the year or been through consultations. Wind farm proposals and proposals to build a barrage across the River Mersey became of serious concern and we were successful in raising funds to engage in campaigning.

The Mersey barrage proposal was eventually shelved due to the economic climate. A planning application to extend peat digging on Chat Moss also resulted in considerable advocacy work culminating in a public inquiry – we await the decision.

The Trust maintained its key role in working to deliver the Biodiversity Action Plan although Government is refocusing priorities on this and the grant aid to fund the key biodiversity manager post has ceased.

Contract income was increased for the year with wildlife surveying in relation to Biodiversity Benchmark, wildlife sites monitoring and management plan writing.

With funding from Natural England, the Trust undertook a comprehensive review of habitats and management at Smithills Moor in Bolton, over the winter months. This is intended to be part of a wider initiative aimed at improving management of blanket bog habitat across the West Pennine Moors in the future.

The Trust is leading the applications for the Lancashire LNP and the CEO is chairing both the Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester Local Nature Partnerships.



Lapwings over Ice – A Brockholes photo competition entry by Robert Landsman

LIVING SEAS

A North West Trusts Marine Advocacy Officer post was created enabling greater effort in marine-related issues and discussions over the establishment of Marine Conservation Zones.

The Trust is working with the North West Wildlife Trusts in applying pressure on the Government to create four MCZs off the Lancashire/Merseyside coast – Fylde Offshore, Sefton Coast, Lune and Ribble Estuary.

The Government have stated that the public consultation on MCZs will be a three month consultation and will begin in December 2012.

All 127 recommended MCZs around the UK continue to go forward to public consultation with designation as a phased process, however the number of sites to be designated in the first tranche is seems to have regressed from 23 sites expected to 'unknown', and it will be summer 2013 before these designations take place.

ACQUISITIONS

Winmarleigh Moss and Cutacre purchases have gone through. Alt Washlands is in the pipeline, we currently have a management agreement with the Environment Agency. Burnt Edge in Bolton may be leased to us by Bolton Council, but this is in early stages of negotiation.

Little Woolden Moss is being purchased which means peat extractors will be our tenants. However, 70 hectares would be returned immediately to restoration and a longer term restoration agreement was being drawn up.

Highfield Moss, Wigan has no traceable owner and is used as common land. Wigan Council is taking management control of it. LWT is negotiating a 99 year management agreement with them and liaising with the commoners as well.



Grey Seals will flourish in cleaner seas
– Neil Aldridge



Staying power was important this year because it has been one of our toughest financially.

Oliver Wilks took this beautiful fox picture for the Mere Sands Wood competition

CREATING WILDLIFE HAVENS

Our nature reserve portfolio contains 39 sites covering over 1000 hectares. Keeping these sites in good ecological condition, safe and offering many opportunities for involvement and awareness raising is a major effort. During the year, staff have sought and secured project funding to help cover costs. Woodland Grant Scheme was secured for Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve and the Friends of Mere Sands Wood have contributed valuable equipment.

No new nature reserves were acquired over the year although two major sites, Cutacre and Winmarleigh Moss, were completed just after year end. Three sites were taken out of Trust management, Howick Hall Wood and Booth's Plantation in Penwortham and Croston Marsh.

A major new, Trust managed, wetland reserve was being developed at Lunt in partnership with the Environment Agency. Investment into our own livestock management continued with the establishment of a Conservation Grazing apprentice post. Major rewetting works occurred at a number of mossland sites.

We were successful in securing a grant offer from the Heritage Lottery Fund for £993k for the protection and enhancement of mossland habitat in the Chat Moss area. The grant focuses on work at Astley and Caddishead Moss and will fund the purchase of around 100ha of land, which is currently being worked for peat, at Little Woolden Moss.

The grant will fund part of a £1.89m programme of works on these sites over the next 5 years.

Land owner liaison work encourages other land managers to manage wildlife habitat for instance the North West Water Vole Project, the Forever Meadows Project and the Lancashire Dunes project.

It has been a changeable year for our Contracts and Training Department. The Government's New Deal and Future Jobs fund work experience schemes, for long term unemployed, finally came to an end in September. Both schemes have been useful in providing extra capacity and practical conservation work, as well as raising some revenue. Our contracts department had a difficult first six months financially, but business improved over the winter period. We are reviewing the operation for the coming year.



Children love to get close to nature in our wildlife havens

RESERVE HIGHLIGHTS

Brockholes

Over the year all major plant and animal groups were monitored to ensure that biodiversity has not been compromised by opening the reserve. The results were encouraging demonstrating that wildlife, particularly birds, responded positively to the reserve development. There was no negative impact caused by large visitor numbers. Two new breeding bird species were recorded for the reserve, Gadwall and Ringed Plover.

Since 2007 the number of target breeding bird species has increased, peaking in 2011 (2 years after most of the major earth works had been completed).

Reserve management consisted of reed propagation, planting up the Visitor Village reed bed and starting the 25 year coppicing regime in the hazel plantations.

Mere Sands Wood

The wildlife highlight of the year was the presence of three bitterns for several weeks in winter, all spending time in the open just 20m from the Rufford Hide. Our hardworking volunteers continued our programme of thinning woodland and clearing scrub from the lake edges to improve the habitat for birds and invertebrates.

We welcomed over 400 children in visits organised by their schools or other groups, in addition to those taking part in our regular holiday activities.

A successful art exhibition was mounted by the family of Eileen Hill, who had been a regular visitor to the reserve and requested in her will that the final exhibition of her work should be here, with all proceeds going to the Wood.



Bittern had birdwatchers flocking to Mere Sands Wood and the birds have been spotted at Brockholes



XXXX

Taking my 10-year-old granddaughter to Brockholes (she lives in London). She was standing overlooking the water and said: “I want to stay here forever, it is so peaceful.”

Patricia O’Beirne, Fylde Coast

A balancing act – Himalayan Balsam is an invasive pest but it is loved by our dwindling bee population.

THE LANCASHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account) For the year ended 31 March 2012.

	Unrestricted Funds 2012	Restricted Funds 2012	Endowment Funds 2012	Total Funds 2012	Total Funds 2011
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Voluntary income	905,263	-	-	905,263	751,723
Investment income	5,910	-	4,192	10,102	11,098
Activities for generating funds	291,962	-	-	291,962	-
	<u>1,203,135</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,192</u>	<u>1,207,327</u>	<u>762,821</u>
Incoming resources from charitable activities:					
Operations Department inc Brockholes Capital Conservation	424,376	1,843,306	-	2,267,682	7,531,386
Education	272,888	509,114	-	782,002	630,411
	73,578	287,414	-	360,992	334,392
	<u>770,842</u>	<u>2,639,834</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,410,677</u>	<u>8,496,189</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>1,973,977</u>	<u>2,639,835</u>	<u>4,192</u>	<u>4,618,003</u>	<u>9,259,010</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Cost of generating funds:					
Costs of generating voluntary income	512,339	-	-	512,339	470,566
Fundraising trading: costs of goods sold	467,336	-	-	467,336	-
	<u>979,675</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>979,675</u>	<u>470,566</u>
Charitable activities:					
Operations Department inc Brockholes Capital Conservation	643,356	2,128,940	-	2,772,296	2,203,148
Education	493,630	526,047	33,352	1,053,029	855,843
	116,877	117,670	-	234,547	378,993
	<u>1,253,863</u>	<u>2,772,657</u>	<u>33,352</u>	<u>4,059,872</u>	<u>3,437,983</u>
Governance costs	32,949	-	-	32,949	18,008
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>2,266,487</u>	<u>2,772,657</u>	<u>33,352</u>	<u>5,072,496</u>	<u>3,926,557</u>
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS					
Transfers between funds	(292,510)	(132,823)	(29,160)	(454,493)	5,332,453
	37,384	(37,384)	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	<u>(255,126)</u>	<u>(170,207)</u>	<u>(29,160)</u>	<u>(454,493)</u>	<u>5,332,453</u>
FUND BALANCES AT 1 APRIL 2011	<u>681,497</u>	<u>12,079,884</u>	<u>893,048</u>	<u>13,654,429</u>	<u>8,321,976</u>
FUND BALANCES AT 31 MARCH 2012	<u>426,371</u>	<u>11,909,677</u>	<u>863,888</u>	<u>13,199,936</u>	<u>13,654,429</u>

THE LANCASHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 March 2012. Registered Number: 00731548

Note	Group		Charity		
	2012	2011	2012	2011	
	£	£	£	£	
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	9	10,318,227	10,102,428	10,293,596	10,102,428
Heritage assets	10	1,449,960	1,449,960	1,449,960	1,449,960
Investments	11	184,891	189,453	184,891	189,453
		<u>11,953,078</u>	<u>11,741,841</u>	<u>11,928,447</u>	<u>11,741,841</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock		27,360	-	-	-
Debtors	12	1,199,358	1,591,388	1,627,404	1,591,388
Cash at bank and in hand		1,301,276	1,823,003	1,232,633	1,823,003
		<u>2,527,994</u>	<u>3,414,391</u>	<u>2,860,037</u>	<u>3,414,391</u>
CREDITORS:					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(1,001,136)	(1,501,803)	(914,052)	(1,501,803)
Net current assets		<u>1,526,858</u>	<u>1,912,588</u>	<u>1,945,985</u>	<u>1,912,588</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>13,479,936</u>	<u>13,654,429</u>	<u>13,874,432</u>	<u>13,654,429</u>
CREDITORS:					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(280,000)	-	(280,000)	-
NET ASSETS		<u>13,199,936</u>	<u>13,654,429</u>	<u>13,594,432</u>	<u>13,654,429</u>
CHARITY FUNDS					
Endowment funds	16	863,888	893,048	863,888	893,048
Restricted funds		11,909,677	12,079,884	12,051,595	12,079,884
Unrestricted funds - general funds		426,371	681,497	678,949	681,497
		<u>13,199,936</u>	<u>13,654,429</u>	<u>13,594,432</u>	<u>13,654,429</u>

These financial statements were approved by the members and signed on their behalf by:

Prof M Edmunds
(Vice Chairman)

P Bird
(Hon Treasurer)



WHAT THE ACCOUNTS TELL US

Profit and Loss

Overall revenues are down from £9,259,020 to £4,618,004, a drop of 50 per cent. This is mainly due to the near completion of Brockholes capital project, with an Easter 2011 opening, as shown under restricted funds operations department. Other categories, however, have improved over the previous year: voluntary income up £153,540 or 21 per cent at £905,263, due to legacy income; conservation and education also show increases of 25 per cent and eight per cent respectively.

Overheads, on the other hand, show an overall increase of 29 per cent or £1,145,939 to £5,072,496. Brockholes overheads amounted to £467,336. The operations department accounts for the majority of the balance by £569,147 being due to Brockholes depreciation of £397,914 charge and Mosslands activity of £99,924.

The net effect of these movements was that overall funds reduced by £454,493 of which unrestricted fell by £255,126, the main reason being Brockholes first year of trading made a loss of £283,963

Balance Sheet

Fixed assets increased by £211,237 to £11,953,078. Additions before depreciation were £800,356, again the majority being Brockholes.

Debtors have decreased overall by £392,030 to £1,199,358. This is mainly due to the first year of consolidation where intercompany balances are eliminated; this year's movements being £329,168. The main change within category (see note 11) is VAT is down £180,984 due to repayment by HMRC.

The cash balance has also decreased from £1,823,003 to £1,301,276 down by 32 per cent or £521,727. This has been supported by a loan from RSWT of £250,000 and a £30,000 short term loan from the Bannister Trust. This brings total outgoing cash to £801,727 or a reduction of 44 per cent. This is due to Brockholes Enterprises' first year trading incurring losses of £283,964 and thus being unable to clear their net intercompany balance of £499,566. Brockholes capital budget was overspent by £274,658 and various other projects finishing during the year.

Creditors have also reduced, down £500,667, which was mainly a reduction in accruals from previous year of £501,988 (see note 12) being for Mansell's, the Brockholes main contractor, invoices which have subsequently been paid.

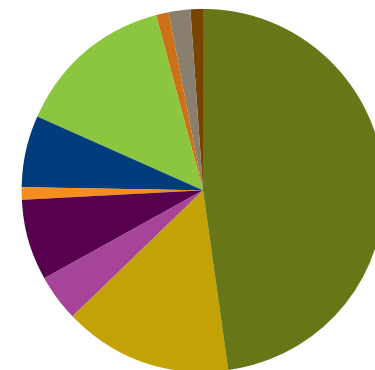
Overall Fixed Assets have increased by £211,237 which is offset by the Current Assets reduction of £385,730 and the long term loan of £280,000 to net down to the negative funds movement for the year of (£454,493).

Roger Hardman
Head of Services



REVENUES

	2012	2011
Legacies	50,024	7,193
Grants	2,210,375	2,231,126
Contract	693,486	546,506
Landfill	188,791	85,578
Donations	338,508	188,244
Sales	50,368	52,126
Enterprises	291,962	0
Membership	653,701	629,651
Other	57,884	49,692
Sponsorship	82,904	0
	4,618,003	3,790,116



SPEND

	2012	2011
Membership	220,721	175,651
Governance	32,949	18,008
Pro Wildlife	1,053,029	1,537,725
Inspire	3,006,843	1,774,212
Fusing Raising	291,618	294,915
Enterprises	467,336	0
	5,072,496	3,800,511

