

Funders BBC Children In Need, Beacon Children Centre, Biffaward, Big Lottery Fund, Blackburn Borough Council, Bolton @ Home, Bolton Council, Bulldog Tools, Bury Council, Central Lancashire NHS, Cheshire Wildlife Trust, Chester Zoo, Chorley Borough Council, Chorley Community Housing, Community Gateway, Co-op, Countryside Stewardship, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, EDF, Environment Agency, First Steps Children Centre, Forestry Commission, Friends of Mere Sands Wood, Geo Lancashire, Greater Together, Hammamelis CT, Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund, Herptosure, Heritage Lottery Fund, Hyndburn Borough Council, JP Getty Trust, Johnson Matthey Catalysts, Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Environmental Fund, Lancaster City Council, Liverpool City Council, Liverpool PCT, Myerscough College, Natural England, Oglesby Trust, Opticron, Peirce, Places for People, Preston City Council, Prospects Foundation, Ribble Valley Borough Council, Sir Geoffrey Leigh Charitable Trust, SITA Trust Ltd, South Ribble Borough Council, St Helens S106 Landscape Fund, The Greenbank Trust, The Prince of Wales CF, United Utilities, Veolia Environmental Trust, Willis, Wigan Council, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, Wren.

Grants and Trusts Alan Evans, Awards for All, Bannister Trust, Chester Zoo, Hamamelis, Nurture Lakeland, Pilkington, Prince of Wales CF, Zochonis CT

Legacies MA Davies, R Goldring, MT Haworth, K Pickett, G Sandiford.

Corporates Albany Training, Aggregate Industries, Ameon, Amey, Banks Developments, Beaverbrooks the Jewellers, BHP Billiton Petroleum, Birchall Blackburn, Bourne Leisure, Capernwray Diving and Leisure Ltd, City West Housing Trust, Community Gateway Association, Crowberry Consulting, Derek Fox & Sons (Timber) Ltd, DewLay Ltd, Dugdale Nutrition, EDF Energy, EH Booths, Fort Vale, Halite, Hanson Cement, Herpetosure Ecological Solutions, Ignition CBS Ltd, Institute of Quarrying, Keith Walton Brickwork Ltd, Knotweed Eradication, KPMG, Liverpool Mutual Homes, Manchester Airport, MDL, Myerscough College, Neales Waste, Management, NCS Support Services Ltd, Responsible Mailing Ltd, Royal Bank of Scotland, Qualitel Wyre Power, Scottish Power, Solomon Commercials, South Ribble Borough Council, Spectrum Telecommunications Ltd, Springfields Fuels Ltd, Tarmac Central Ltd, TEG Environmental Ltd, Trade Plate Logistics, United Utilities, University of Central Lancashire, Warburtons, Wienerberger, Wilkinson Cameras.



Lancashire,
Manchester &
N Merseyside



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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ANNUAL REVIEW 2013

Join us: lancswt.org.uk

Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future

MAKING OUR VOICE LOUDER

What a year! It leaves us and we hope you, our members and supporters, bursting with pride. The Trust began the year with a bleak future. We had seen a series of redundancies and cutbacks as a result of the reduction in available funding. This hasn't meant we have dropped activities but rather pooled our resources.

By no means are we out of the woods yet but our team of passionate and dedicated staff and volunteers are determined to keep fighting and the improved position we find ourselves in is a testament to this. We couldn't do any of this without the support of our members, helping make our voice louder.

A saviour of the Trust this year has been legacy donations. This vital, unrestricted income has given us the boost we need to continue our work and protect more habitats for wildlife.

A large gift of land, Cutacre was passed to the Trust as compensation for open cast coal mining. We now hold 1,337 HA of land for nature conservation. The value of the land looks good in the accounts but we are not in the business of selling nature reserves to release income.

That would be counter-productive, as these are the most precious sites for nature. So whilst our land holdings look good our cash position is tight.

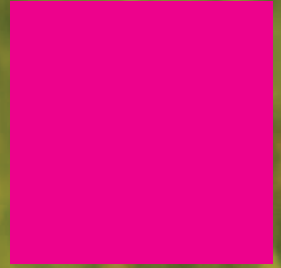
We have had amazing success in our campaign to stop peat extraction at Chat Moss. The next year is crucial, not only for the Trust but for nature conservation. We will continue to be a leading influence, working tirelessly with other Wildlife Trusts on issues such as Marine Conservation Zones, the Badger Cull and High Speed Rail 2 (HS2). Fracking is increasing its demand on our time and we are working with the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts to develop a joint policy.

The worst summer ever did not help our first full year of trading at Brockholes. This combined with teething problems of the new building and the car parking machines, made it a tough year for staff. Their perseverance has paid off and 2013 started with good weather, the installation of the long fought-for brown and cream signs, a great programme of events and new facilities, resulting in a whopping increase in visitors and wildlife.

Our aim is to get Brockholes self-financing so it can be resourced into the future for the benefit of people and wildlife. In summary, the Trust is showing its resilience and staying power in these austere times. Our membership and volunteers continue to be our lifeblood and wildlife is better protected because of you.

Ted Jackson Chair
Anne Selby CEO

The purchase of land at Cutacre has been a major boost to LWT finances this year. The Trust is now in a stronger position to campaign for local and national issues, including opposing the planned badger cull.



REVIEW 2013 – BROCKHOLES AND SOUTH LANCASHIRE

Brockholes has a growing team of dedicated volunteers who give their time to help with everything from scrub clearance to improve habitat for wading birds, to delivering our many events and activities for visitors.

Every year our volunteers clear vegetation from the island in No 1 Pit lake to ensure ideal conditions for the target birds for which Brockholes was built, such as migrating wading birds, sandpipers, greenshank, curlew and overwintering lapwing. In 2012 as a direct result the five-acre island accommodated more than 30 pairs of target breeding wading birds.

Since 2007 little ringed plover numbers have increased by 330 per cent and lapwing by 950 per cent. Redshank bred for the first time in 2010 and ringed plover for the first time in 2011.

Scrub control and reed planting has also been showing its effectiveness with increases in breeding reed warbler, up by 130 per cent since 2007, sedge warbler, up by 225 per cent since 2007 and reed bunting, up by 178 per cent since 2007.

These numbers are set to increase once again with the development of a new three-hectare reed bed, built using funding from Chester Zoo.

Our volunteers provide an excellent visitor experience at Brockholes, and helped to deliver over 350 events ranging from guided walks and pond-dipping sessions to open-air theatre and vintage market days. Over the Easter weekend nearly 5,000 people visited the reserve. Work also began on "The Lookout", an observation and group education space located next to No 1 Pit.

The reintroduction of coppicing at Dean Wood and Longworth Clough is being used to break up the uniform nature of the woodlands. This will benefit wildlife by creating a variety of "niches" allowing a broader range of species to feed and breed.

Invasive species are a major problem in the North West. Rhododendron has now been eradicated from Longworth Clough, most of Red Scar Woods and is being controlled at Dean Wood. Himalayan balsam is being controlled at Red Scar Woods and Longworth Clough with Pleasington LNR being almost totally clear.



REVIEW 2013 – NORTH AND EAST LANCASHIRE

This year saw the reintroduction of coppicing within the woodland areas at Warton Crag to provide additional habitat for the reserves important population of pearl-bordered fritillaries and other species. The first coppice plot was completed in Strickland Wood as well as the opening up of an old ride to link with existing habitat on Westfield.

Restoration work at Heysham Moss, which included capital works as part of the large heath butterfly re-introduction project, received a setback when arsonists set fire to the moss in March. Re-wetting works over the winter certainly helped limit the effects of the fire, although it is still uncertain how quickly much of it will recover.

The plans for the captive breeding and re-introduction elements of the project, undertaken in partnership with Chester Zoo and funded by Lancashire Environmental Fund, were finalised.

After the fire Community Officer Emma Garston has been working with the community fire office and police to put together a programme for local schools.

The purchase of Winnmarleigh went ahead and Trust staff and volunteers got to see this area during a conservation team visit.

Work at our Moor Piece Reserve has focused on helping declining woodland breeding birds. This has included fencing off areas with deer-proof fencing, as well as thinning of the woodland to produce more glades and rides. Birds such as pied flycatcher and redstart have benefited.

Blackburn Conservation Volunteers won Volunteer Group of the Year at the BwDCVS Volunteer Awards.

We were also successful in receiving £21k from Veolia to carry out habitat management work at River Darwen Parkway.

HLF funded Coal and Cloth project has seen an improvement to the paths at Woodnook Vale Nature Reserve, Accrington. We have installed interpretation boards and, with partners Prospects Foundation, we have run 40 practical volunteer sessions over eight sites.

We have very successful partnership with Hollins Technology school with their students volunteering their time to help manage the reserve and learn new skills.



REVIEW 2013 – MANCHESTER

The purchase of Little Woolden Moss and the victory over Sinclairs to end peat extraction at Chat Moss were the highlights for the mosslands team. However the work on the mosses has also seen many victories – egrets nesting on Cadishead Moss, bog bush cricket found on Little Woolden after an absence of 30 years and sphagnum lawns already appearing on extraction-ravaged areas of the latter. The contracts team and volunteers are well ahead in preparing the moss for returning wildlife next year.

The Great Manchester Wetlands Partnership, led by the Trust, has quadrupled its area of interest to around 400 sq km, and has been adopted by the GM Local Nature Partnership as a “Local Nature Improvement Area”.

The press were quick to pounce on the “willow tits to stop HS2” line, but the real story here is how Mark and the Wigan team have worked tirelessly to create habitats for this threatened little bird. Wigan, Bolton and St Helens are home to 10 per cent of the UK’s populations of willow tits.

The NIA designation means conservation can move forward looking at the landscape as a whole, combining the many important mossland and post-industrial sites to maximise benefits to both people and wildlife

This year has seen further improvements in the number of people we are actively engaging in our work in Bolton. Nature Tots was launched to offer a workshop programme for under-fives and their parents. We have continued to expand and improve our services for individuals with disabilities.

Our volunteer opportunities expanded with the launch of The Hive at Moss Bank Park. The Hive is linked to food growing and volunteering opportunities have been created to engage and inspire local people. Bolton has continued to deliver vast amounts of practical volunteering on nature reserves– particularly focusing on the fantastic landscape alongside Bradshaw Brook and the River Croal.

The Environmental Resource Centre is building strong links with the BBC and we are hoping the corporation will see us as a satellite of Media City in future.



REVIEW 2013 – NORTH MERSEYSIDE AND WEST LANCASHIRE

The Red Squirrel Project has seen numbers of the mammal increase to 80 per cent of pre-pox levels.

Major tree felling and coppicing work, coinciding with native under-storey tree planting, has opened up areas of Mere Sands Wood previously in deep shade and infested with rhododendron. Some felled timber has been sold as firewood and charcoal, raising much-needed funds.

Red squirrel, common tern, cuckoo, nuthatch and reed warbler all enjoyed conspicuously successful breeding seasons. Meanwhile green woodpecker and willow tit were observed for the first time in years.

Haskayne Cutting remains one of the few areas where northern marsh orchid thrives.

A staff work day introduced everyone to Lunt Meadows, near Maghull, which will be managed by the Trust. While The Environment Agency has worked to prepare the land as a flood management area for the River Alt, an HLF bid is being written to help interpret nationally important archaeological finds.

When work began to move all of Seaforth Nature Reserve's remaining "rubble mounds" to build an extension to an animal feed warehouse in the snow, we were downheartened watching tree after tree being lifted by bulldozer. Six months on and every willow and alder that was transplanted is growing and virtually every plant species has been recorded. The air is filled with tern calls and plans for a building incorporating, office, workshop and visitor space are now in progress, helping to cement its future in the Liverpool Docks.

Also in Merseyside, we have Adam Graham has two new projects at Otterspool Park, in Liverpool, and Mill Brow and Mill Wood, near Eccleston. Both projects are similar, essentially working on under-managed local wildlife sites with a view to enhancing their value for wildlife and local people.

This is a mix of habitat and access work, led by volunteers – a combination of Adam's Wednesday Group (Liverpool Conservation Volunteers) and local volunteers. The projects will eventually be designated as Local Nature Reserves. Each project will involve volunteers.





A huge contribution

It is with great sadness that we announced the death of our President, Sir Tim Kimber. His support of the Trust and deep concern over the future of wildlife made the Trust a better organization.

We also lost one of Lancashire's greatest ecologists, Dr Jennifer Newton who had made a huge contribution to the Trust over the years. People often forget that Trustees of a charity are also volunteers, who add to the huge wealth of volunteering within the charity.

STANDING UP FOR WILDLIFE

The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside saw staff numbers halved in 2011-12, but it did not stop colleagues that remained leading and winning crucial campaigns in 2012-13.

Catching the most headlines was the campaign to end peat extraction on Chat Moss. While Mick Weston, Martyn Walker and Chris Miller continued to do sterling work on the ground, Dave Crawshaw braved top barristers to fight peat extractor Sinclairs in court.

Dave was supporting Wigan and Salford Councils as they fought the peat extractor's appeal against planning permission for more workings, and evidence that swung from common sense to some heart-tugging moments helped to sway Secretary of State Eric Pickles to find in our favour. Tom Heap, from BBC Countryfile, had described the peat extracted moss as "like looking at the devastation caused by logging in the rain forests."

Chat Moss was also part of a vast area given added protection when Great Manchester Wetlands was adopted as a local Nature Improvement Area. And the adoption could help to boost jobs and the economy in deprived areas of the region.

The Wetlands stretches from Wigan and Bolton in the north, down to Woolsten on the edge of Warrington in the south and Salford in the east, taking in Chat Moss, Wigan Flashes and Woolsten Eyes. A major part of the plan is to join these areas using wildlife corridors.

Dr Amanda Wright from Natural England north west said: "This is great news for the protection and improvement of rare species and habitats in our area, but it's also great news for carbon emissions and the local communities."

The Trust continues to campaign to ensure the planned HS2 high speed railway would not cause major damage to wildlife and conservation sites and deliver on the Government's own commitments to a net gain for wildlife. We were taken by surprise by the Government's announcement of the route, which would slice through land close to SSSIs.

While the Trust was commenting on the route through southern Manchester to Piccadilly Station, it has been rocked by news of an offshoot linking it to the West Coast Mainline, within metres of Lightshaw Meadows.

Trust Advocacy Officer Dave Dunlop said: "The proposed route is shown close to our Lightshaw Meadows nature reserve, near Wigan, and to the Abram Flash SSSI that forms part of it. The proposed route through the city of Manchester has the potential to impact on internationally and nationally vulnerable species; most notably roosting bats and, perhaps, breeding sites of the rare Black Redstart."



CAMPAIGNING FOR LAND AND SEA

More than 4,000 Lancastrians called for the protection of the Irish Sea and its inhabitants at a reception in Westminster last year. The Wildlife Trusts handed over our 250,000-name Petition Fish which calls for the designation of 127 Marine Conservation Zones around the country, including more than a dozen in the Irish Sea.

The Government recently agreed to consider 31 designated sites with just one – Fylde Offshore – off the coast of Lancashire and North Merseyside and four in the Irish Sea as a whole.

Dave said: “We rely on our seas for countless benefits from the seafood that we eat to the air that we breathe. However, if our seas are to continue to provide for us, we need to start taking much better care of them.”

Lancashire Wildlife Trust added its support to colleagues in Gloucestershire and Somerset, pressing North West MPs to vote against the planned badger cull. The Trust continues to oppose the cull and is asking members to support the Wildlife Trusts in its vaccination programme.

We’ve also been campaigning through the planning system to ensure that “ecological networks” are identified in local councils’ development plans; and working with the Lancashire Environment Record Network to ensure these are identified, mapped and kept up to date in that county, as they already are in Merseyside and Greater Manchester.

This work will play a vital part in the delivery of our vision of a Living Landscape across our three counties and the whole country.

And we’ve been working behind the scenes and in partnership to try to secure the future of the West Pennine Moors as reduced local government funding has led to uncertainty over the future management of this upland area, which is so important for wildlife, landscape, heritage, recreation and water supply.



PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

x

4150 young people inspired through education sessions

Worked with 109 schools and groups

987 volunteers contributing 56,000 hours

Education

The Trust was hit hard by the loss of the environmental education centre in Penwortham, but we continue to develop our education offer and inspire the young environmentalists of the future.

We work with children of all ages, from our new Nature Tots scheme aimed at toddlers, to Project Trails, our current youth which engages those children and young people living close to Brockholes. at risk.

The Trust has also been working closely with children's centres to develop educational activities and a pilot project has been launched with Beacon Children Centre in Nelson.

Out of school activities continue to be a major success with Project Trails (Preston), Young Adventurers (Bolton) and the Family Badge Scheme (Bolton) aimed at families with children who have disabilities. The BEAT project finished this year, and our evaluation has highlighted key successes and lessons to learn for future schemes.



PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

x

Community

We have seen major successes for our community activity. Our Activize Your Lives project demonstrates community empowerment at its best, and is making sure that the community supports a lasting legacy and continued support our Environment Resource Centre in Bolton.

We have trained Health Champions to encourage staff and volunteers to lead healthy activities. We have been exploring Asset Transfer projects with Preston and Bolton and trialing out new ways in which we can encourage more community ownership of local green spaces.

Our venture into developing a Local Food facility at Animal World, Moss Bank Park in Bolton, took significant steps to fruition with a successful application to Local Food.

Our Morecambe Bay Wealth of Wildlife has successfully delivered a wide range of events and developed several wildlife trails, working with all ages in the local community.

Volunteering

Into our last year of our HLF funded Volunteering and Wildlife project we continue to grow our volunteer numbers, and the latest collated statistics show that nationally The Wildlife Trusts are the largest conservation volunteering organization.

In our own region we had 987 volunteers contributing nearly 56,000 hours of valuable support to the Trust. A recent staff evaluation day highlighted the need for this project to continue, and we are looking into ways in which we can sustain this long term.

The volunteer conference has been the biggest success to date with over 150 people attending.



FINANCE

Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Finances 2012-13

In spite of a difficult funding environment, bad weather and reduced internal resources following the difficult decisions last year, the Trust has continued to achieve significant successes in promoting and protecting the wildlife and environment in. Ongoing we are likely to find increasing demands being placed on us whilst having to chase harder for funding. We believe we can meet those challenges, with the support and dedication of our staff, members, volunteers and funders.

Key Points from the Accounts:

- In the Annual Report we provide a short interpretation of the consolidated statutory accounts. These incorporate the results of the Trust and its subsidiary Brockholes Enterprises Limited. A full set of accounts is available or can be accessed through the Charity Commission website.
- The donation of a significant parcel of agricultural land and buildings (value £840,000) together with a small net surplus on our normal activities resulted in the Trust generating an overall realised surplus for the year of £928,000.
- Income rose by 10%, helped by some timely donations and legacies, including the donation above. These coupled with increased membership income have offset reductions in areas such as grants and contract income.
- Resources expended fell by 18% reflecting in large part the effect of our cost reduction initiatives undertaken towards the end of the previous financial year. These unfortunately included a reduction in staff numbers.
- Brockholes continued to experience tough trading conditions. The worst summer for years hampered its second year of operation. However indications for the early part of the coming year are that visitor numbers have risen helped by better weather and a number of new initiatives.
- At the end of the year the Trust had net assets of just over £14m but the majority of this is tied up in fixed assets and in particular land and buildings which have been acquired for nature conservation and public enjoyment. This year we acquired three major sites and our nature reserve portfolio now contains 39 sites covering over 1,300 hectares. These are fantastic assets and show our commitment to wildlife and conservation but they are not usable in money terms to fund our activities.
- The tables and pie charts show where our income came from and how we spend the majority on protecting wildlife and engaging people in conservation activities.
- A quick calculation shows that for every pound we receive in membership we raise over £6 to match it – so your membership money goes a long way.

FINANCE