

ANNUAL REVIEW 2015-16

A step forward...

Cheshire Wildlife Trust is the only voluntary organisation devoted solely to the conservation of wildlife and wild places in Cheshire. Our vision is simple but ambitious. Within a generation we want there to be more space for wildlife to thrive and for more local people to value nature. We aim to do this by creating a network of bigger, better and healthier spaces for wildlife on land and at sea. We want local people to become knowledgeable and passionate about nature so that they will take better care of it. And we want the needs of wildlife to be valued in decision making in balance with the needs of people.

Over the past financial year (April 2015-March 2016) we've made great progress towards achieving the goals which are set out in our **2015-2020 Strategy**. In this **Annual Review** we give

“It's because of your vital support that we have been able to do so much already to care for wildlife”

you a snapshot of the breadth of our impact as a charity since we launched our new vision.

2015-16 saw us complete the **Goway Connect** project, a large-scale Living Landscape scheme funded by the Environment Agency, WREN, Broxton Barn Owl Group and supported by Natural England. Over four years, almost 200 hectares of wetland and grassland habitat were restored for wildlife such as otter, water vole, barn owl and lapwing. Two new landscape scale projects got off the starting blocks. Through the **Saltscape Landscape Partnership**

we surveyed habitats and species and gave management advice to 13 Local Wildlife Site landowners in mid-Cheshire and delivered wildlife education days to local primary schools. We also embarked upon a **Living Landscape** scheme for Cheshire's peak fringe and started giving catchment management advice to landowners in Macclesfield on behalf of United Utilities. The **Delamere's Lost Mosses** and **Delamere's Dragons** projects, funded and supported by Forestry Commission England, WREN, Natural England, Heritage Lottery Fund, Cheshire West and Chester Council, the Lindley Shaw Foundation and the British Dragonfly Society, continued apace, gaining national recognition on ITV's *Countrywise* in the autumn. **Living Seas** work continued as we maintained pressure on the Government to designate

more Marine Conservation Zones and the **Love My Estuary** project saw us working with partners across the Dee estuary to improve water for wildlife.

Our Heritage Lottery Fund volunteering project **Natural Futures** got off to a fantastic start, galvanising existing volunteers, welcoming new faces to help us, and connecting us with community groups so that there are more local people, doing more for nature in Cheshire. Work with children and families expanded with over 4,000 people taking part in an environmental experience, whether that was through **Nature Tots**, **Forest School**, school visits, or one of our public events such as **Open Farm Sunday**.

And what about the wildlife on our reserves? We saw the return of the green hairstreak butterfly to Delemere, and recorded the highest concentration of spawning natterjack toads at Red Rocks for 30 years. We recorded the locally rare marsh tit nesting at Warburton's Wood, and at Goway Meadows new species were



discovered, including glossy ibis and a cuckoo bee which was previously unrecorded in Cheshire. We also teamed up with Cheshire Bat Group to add more bat boxes at Marbury Reedbed – home to the rare nathusius pipistrelle – and Macclesfield RSPB Wildlife Explorers to install bird boxes to encourage species such as willow tit at Danes Moss.

Some of the ground work done in this Annual Review year set us up for 2016-17. We've started our Coronation Meadows restoration project at Swettenham Meadows, launched our Brightlife-funded **Great Outdoors Malpas** project, opened a **Forest School** at The Quinta, and launched new **Beach School** and **WildPlay** initiatives.

But we're not complacent. Although this is a celebration of all the things that you have helped us to achieve, there is much more to do. These remain difficult times for wildlife. Nature continues to decline and both the financial and political climate are making our work to protect local wildlife even harder. It's because of your vital support that we have been able to do so much already to care for wildlife, whether it's through practical conservation, inspiring others, or raising environmental awareness. We don't receive any direct Government funding, so it's only through your membership, donations and gifts in wills that we can keep protecting Cheshire's precious wildlife, across our countryside, in our towns, and out to sea.

With your help we know we can do more, please keep supporting us and please encourage others to do so as well.

Thank you,
Charlotte Harris, Chief Executive



Creating space for nature



We completed our Gowy Connect project, restoring 200 hectares of wetland and grassland for species such as otter, water vole and lapwing.



Barn owls bred in one of our bird boxes installed at Gowy Meadows.



Our barn owl appeal raised almost £10,000 thanks to the kind support of people like Erin, above, making donations.



Our highest number of natterjack toads were recorded at Red Rocks in Wirral, and numbers of calling males increased to a nine year high!

We worked with Cheshire Bat Group to install more bat boxes at Marbury Reedbed in Northwich.



As part of the North West Wildlife Trusts we continued to lobby the Government to designate more Marine Conservation Zones in the Irish Sea.

Through this national campaign we engaged with hundreds of new wildlife supporters.



Thanks to funding from Ureco we've launched new WildPlay sessions for youngsters in the west of the county.

We held our first ever Big Garden Bee Count to help RECORD to create a bee atlas for Cheshire.



We began our Coronation Meadows restoration project at our Swettenham Meadows reserve.



Our ongoing Delamere's Dragons and Delamere's Lost Mosses projects were profiled on ITV's Countrywise show.

Helping people to enjoy nature



Volunteers helped us collect seeds from across Cheshire for Kew Gardens' UK Tree Seed Project.

We launched Natural Futures, our £1.2million Heritage Lottery Fund volunteering project.



By teaming up with Heaton Mersey Village Conversation Group we restored an orchard in Stockport.



Supporters opened their wildlife friendly gardens to raise money for our work.



We've gained approval for a Net Gains for Nature policy, which gives guidance to planners and developers.



Our commercial arm, Cheshire Ecological Services, worked with Jones Homes on its Chester development, Backford Park. CES ensured minimum disturbance for protected species, like great crested newts and pipistrelle bats, and advised on how to enhance the new properties for wildlife.



As one of the partners in the Saltscape project saw us undertake conservation work to help water voles and education work with schools in mid Cheshire.



We're connecting older people at risk of isolation to nature through our Brightlife-funded Great Outdoors Malpas project



Our new Forest School at The Quinta nature reserve has been launched.

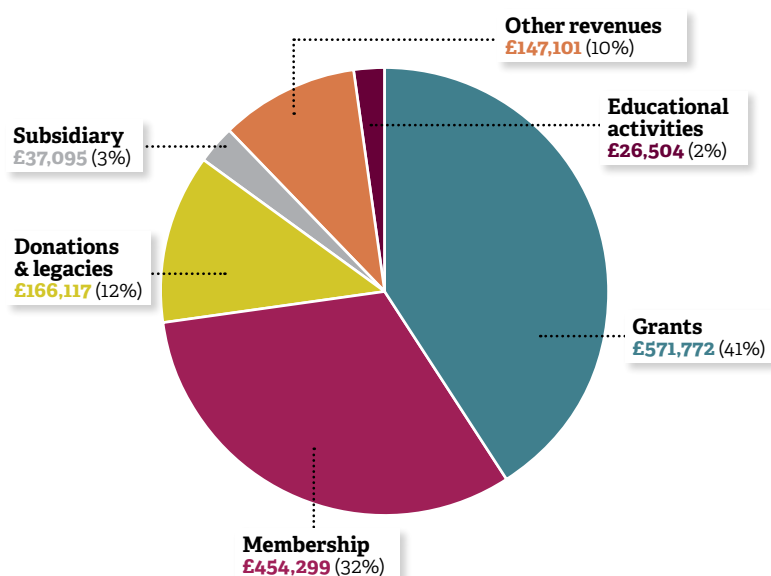


We've started giving catchment management advice to landowners in Macclesfield on behalf of United Utilities.

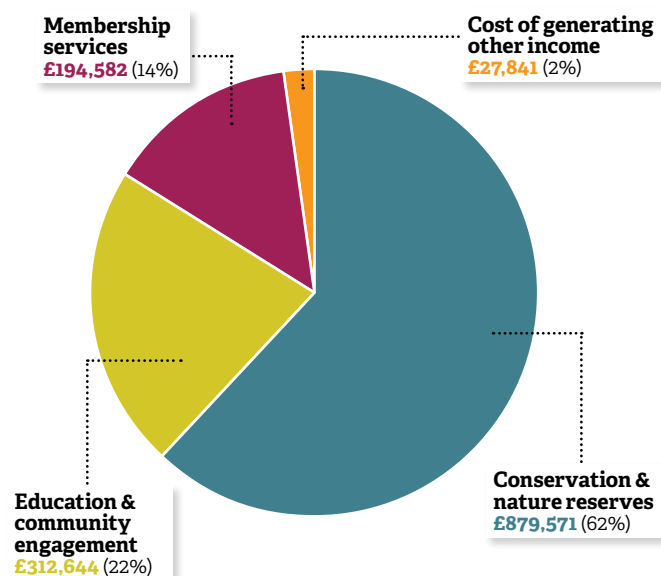
Finances

These charts give an illustration of our income and expenditure for the year 2015-16. The full audited accounts and Trustees Report will be available from September 30. You can obtain a copy by contacting Cheshire Wildlife Trust or from www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

INCOME: £1,402,888



EXPENDITURE: £1,414,638



We'd like to say a big thank you to everybody who supports us. As a charitable organisation we couldn't do our work without you. We're really grateful to the thousands of individuals who support us, as well as our funders, partners and corporate members.

CORPORATE MEMBERS

- Platinum**
- Befesa Salt Slags Ltd
 - Ureco
- Gold**
- EH Booth Supermarket
 - The Emerson Foundation
 - Manchester Airport
 - MBNA
 - Impact Solutions
- Silver**
- Bathgate Silica
 - Essar
 - HW Coates
 - Scottish and Southern Energy
- Bronze**
- Ashley and Dumville
 - Carrillion
 - Event Marketing Solutions
 - Imerys PCC UK Ltd (Solvay)
 - Inovyn
 - Manchester United
 - Orbitas
 - Weinerberger
- Standard**
- Chester Golf Club
 - Custom Powders
 - Eaton Golf Course
 - LaFarge
 - Sibelco
 - Sanofi

FUNDERS

- APEM
- Bank of America Merrill Lynch
- Barclays
- Befesa Salt Slags Ltd
- Big Lottery Fund
- Brightlife
- Bristol Myers Squibb
- Carillion Rail
- Cheshire Community Foundation
- Compass Minerals
- Defra
- Delamere Café
- Essar
- Environment Agency
- Frank Roberts & Sons
- Frank Vernon Plant Hire Ltd
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Inovyn
- Natural Resources Wales
- Shropshire Wildlife Trust (Meres and Mosses
- Landscape Partnership Scheme)
- Linley Shaw Foundation
- MAN Diesel
- SHB Vehicle Hire UK
- Sprayway
- Tesco 'Bags of Help'
- United Utilities
- Ureco
- Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd
- The William Dean Foundation
- Wren

PARTNERS

- Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services UK Ltd
- British Dragonfly Society
- Canal & River Trust
- Cheshire East Council
- Cheshire Life Magazine
- Cheshire West & Chester Council
- Chester Voluntary Action
- Chester Zoo
- Cotebrook Shire Horse Centre
- Forestry Commission
- Groundwork (Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside)
- Halton Borough Council
- Natural England
- People's Trust for Endangered Species
- RECORD
- Saffrey Champness
- Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
- Tameside Met Borough
- Trafford Council
- The Sandstone Ridge Trust
- Warrington Borough Council
- Wirral Borough Council
- Woodland Trust

We are also very grateful to those who left a legacy to the Trust, or made in memoriam donations, including: Nanette Bryce; Mary Williamson; Edward Maxwell Kirby; Alan Taylor; the Chalk Cliff Trust; Brenda Mary Willis, Christine Langley.