

Annual Review

2017–18 highlights

The year of you

Last year was a year to celebrate people giving their time to support our work.

With the support of our Heritage Lottery Funded Natural Futures project, we worked with over 1,200 volunteers. We also worked with groups to develop employability skills and health and well-being. The project was recognised by us being awarded the Investing in Volunteers Quality Standard.

Local group Wirral Wildlife was acknowledged for their dedication over many years with a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Member Hilary Ash received the Points of Light Award, recognising outstanding volunteers who are making a change in their community and inspiring others.

With extra funding from People's Postcode Lottery and Children in Need, we involved more than 7,000 adults and children in nature-based activities across the region.

We were delighted with a fantastic response to Save our Marvellous Meadows and the appeal to extend our work in the Swettenham Valley. This enabled us to create new space for nature in the Swettenham Valley. Thank you to all our supporters, funders and partners. With your continued support, we look forward to doing even more for local wildlife this year.



Charlotte Harris, Chief Executive

Wellbeing and work experience group with award



Delamere's Lost Mosses ends on a high

Last year saw the culmination of five year's work by Cheshire Wildlife Trust to make Delamere mosslands a Living Landscape. Working alongside the Forestry Commission, we restored more than 50 'lost' mosses, opening up wildlife corridors and providing new habitats for the many rare species.

Alongside this work we successfully reintroduced the white-faced darter dragonfly. By translocating nymphs from sites in Shropshire and Staffordshire and providing habitat for the emerging dragonflies, we've seen the return of 'Delamere's dragon' for the first time since 2003.

The success of the project was recognised nationally in June 2017, when we were awarded the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management Best Practice Award. This award was a fitting culmination to the hours of work staff and volunteers had put in to this project to help make it a success.

Delamere in numbers



1 'dragon' reintroduced



110ha mossland habitat restored



Recovery of sphagnum across 9 sites



Delamere's jumping spider found on 2 new sites.



New recording of rare bog myrtle and green hairstreak butterflies on two restored sites



1,500 volunteer days, equivalent to an additional member of staff for the project

The year in summary:

Making space for nature

More than **178 hectares of new habitat** created and restored at Bickley Hall Farm, Delamere, Danes Moss and Holcroft Moss.

5 hectares of hay meadows created through our Pollinating Cheshire project.

More than **6,556 hectares of land protected** or enhanced for wildlife through our planning advice.

Helping people to enjoy nature



In 17/18, our 1,266 volunteers gave 9,425 hours of time and skills. Of these, 1,280 hours were spent improving their employment skills and 2,841 hours helping volunteered to help with their health and wellbeing.



7,176 adults and children enjoyed and explored nature in our school and family activities.



Highlights included TV coverage about HS2 on Granada Reports (Oct 2017) and the badger cull on BBC North West (Sep 2017). Our training courses were mentioned in *BBC Wildlife* magazine (Sep 2017) and we were referenced in a piece on the badger cull in *The Times* (Aug 2017).



10 work placements and 4 trainees supported. 24 training courses delivered.



More than 575 people took part in 30 Days Wild 2017 – connecting to nature.



44 press releases distributed resulting in 302 mentions in the media for Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

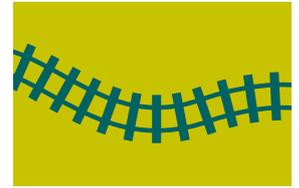


By the end of the year, we grew our social media presence to 4,313 followers on Facebook and 9,515 followers on Twitter.

Work included



10 neighbourhood plans completed



Advice to HS2 and Highways England



400 hectares of land better managed as a result of our work or advice



70 hectares of grassland Local Wildlife Sites surveyed in the Peak Park



Nick Baker helped the children make totem pole art using leaves and acorns



Martin Varley talking about HS2 on ITV's Granada Reports

Financial Summary

A big thank you to everybody who supports us – we can't do what we do for local wildlife without you.

We're very grateful to the thousands of individuals who support us as well as our funders, partners and corporate supporters.

These charts provide an illustration of our income and expenditure for 2017–18. The full audited accounts and Trustees, Report will be available from 28th September. You can obtain a copy from www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk or please contact us.

Thank you to those who left a legacy to the Trust including Shirley Ficken, Mary Doreen Garth, Audrey Eloise Mayer Oakes, Constance Margaret Morris and Joan Margaret Warrington. We received a total of £45,926 from gifts in Wills.

Funders

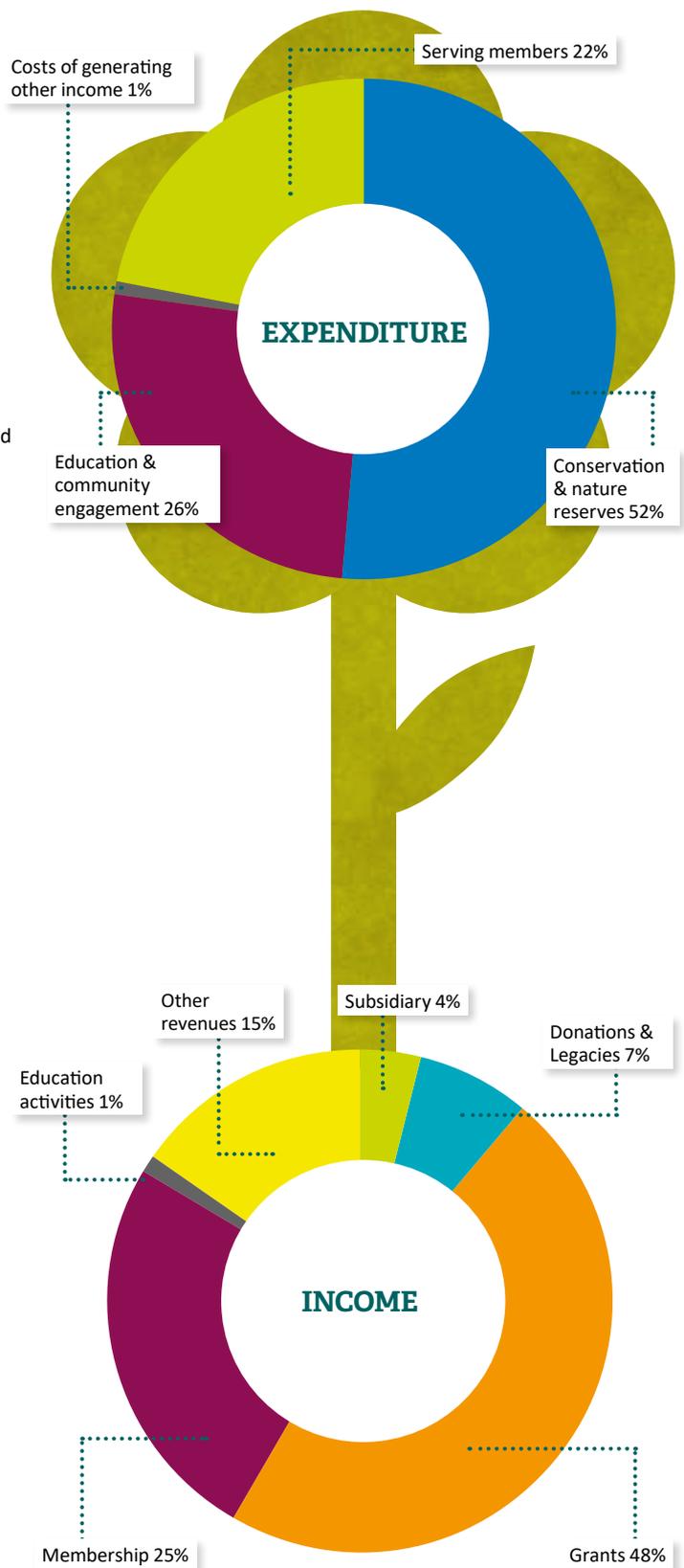
- Active Cheshire
- Cheshire East Council
- Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Children in Need
- ESSAR Oil UK
- Environment Agency
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Heswall Golf Course
- Leslie Wheeldon Trust
- Margaret Williamson Foundation Fund
- Natural England
- People's Postcode Lottery
- Sandstone Ridge Trust
- Tesco Bags of Help
- TransPennine Express
- United Utilities
- WREN Landfill Communities Fund

Partners

- Forestry Commission
- JobCentre Plus
- Liverpool John Moores University
- Liverpool University
- MAN Diesel & Turbo UK Ltd
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Phoenix Futures
- Reaseheath College
- Royal Liverpool Golf Club
- Silent Space
- The NeuroMuscular Centre
- University of Chester
- Vintage Blacon

Corporate Supporters

- AKD Electrical
- Alvaston Hall Hotel
- Amey
- Balfour Beatty
- Bathgate Silica Sand Ltd
- Brownlow Furniture
- CBRE Group
- CF Fertilisers UK Ltd
- Cheshire College–South & West
- Creative Play Ltd
- Custom Powders Ltd
- Eaton Golf Club
- Essar Oil (UK) Ltd
- Event Marketing Solutions Ltd
- H.W. Coates Ltd
- Hosokawa
- Imerys PCC UK Ltd
- Impact Services (Northern) Ltd
- Johnstone's Paints
- Laing O'Rourke
- MBNA Ltd
- Man Diesel & Turbo UK Ltd
- Manchester Airport Plc
- Manchester United Ltd
- Muse Developments
- Oliver and Co Solicitors
- Sanofi
- Scottish & Southern Energy PLC
- Siemens
- Select Plant Hire
- Sibelco
- Somewhere Off Grid
- Spitfire Doors Limited
- Taylor Wimpey
- The Big Hedge Company
- The Emerson Foundation
- Toyota Motor
- Manufacturing (UK) Ltd
- Vinci Construction
- Wienerberger Ltd



Wild at work

Get in touch if you want to get wild at work.

This year we've developed a variety of new and exciting ways of engaging with businesses in the community.

Wild in the workplace

We run wildlife engagement activities in the workplace, introducing staff to the natural wonders outside their office window. From bird, flower and mammal spotting, to bird box making and mini-meadow planting, we offer a host of activities that add real value to the workplace.

"The wildlife experience day was a fantastic way of connecting our staff with our green space in a completely new way. From identifying badger tracks and birdsong, to learning about the habits of our local owls, there was lots to educate and inspire."

Matthew Coates, Executive Director at HW Coates Ltd, Middlewich

"It was a great afternoon, with Cheshire Wildlife Trust and staff members from Cheadle Royal Business Park constructing bird boxes and learning about the wildlife on site. It was a fantastic day with lots of positive feedback from all who attended."

John Close, Park Manager at Cheadle Royal Business Park

Digging for treasure in The Three Hares Challenge



The Three Hares Challenge

For those organisations wanting to try something truly unique, we run a dedicated team-building day like no other. Hosted at Bickley Hall Farm, this immersive experience aims to energise teams, and encourage them to objectively evaluate how they work individually and collectively. Teams need to work together, having their wits about them as they delve into the 'ancient

mystery' of the Three Lost Hares of Bickley Hall. Against the backdrop of the rolling hills of South Cheshire, delegates piece together clues whilst encountering a variety of fiendishly clever challenges designed to highlight the different characteristics and strengths within the team.

See www.threehareschallenge.co.uk/ for more information.

Cheadle Park Wildlife Day



Team building

One of our most popular days is in our newly converted Create for Nature workshop, where teams of staff spend the day learning new skills, transforming waste wood into wonderful furniture. We also offer a whole variety of other team-building activities on our reserves around the county. Hedge-laying, bird ringing, orchard planting and even good old-fashioned scrub clearance all provide a fantastic platform for a team to develop while learning new skills with a sense of real purpose. ■

To discuss how we could work together with your business or colleagues get in touch with Sam Salisbury on SSalisbury@cheshirewt.org.uk