

Lancaster Green Spaces

Registered UK charity, no. 1046701

Annual Report for the Financial Year ending 31st August 2017

We were successful in obtaining a grant of £1,994 from Lancaster University wind turbine fund, for the development of Lancaster District Coppice Group (now called the Forest Friends Project). In this financial year Paul Bullimore and Dave Brackey delivered two sets of 4 training sessions funded by this grant. 16 participants were able to attend all sessions, covering both practice and theory of woodland management. The remainder of the grant was spent on tools, delivering six mentored sessions in woodlands near the University, and in attending a volunteer conference organised by the Woodland Trust.

The Forest Friends project was developed further through a Woodland Trust community start-up grant of £1,000. This enabled Michael Hallam to be employed to identify and contact local voluntary organisations offering client support. This research resulted in 12 organisations expressing an interest in enabling their clients to take part in woodland activities.

A £600 grant from Lancashire Environment Fund enabled the purchase of materials to replace the footbridge over Newton Beck in Lancaster. Members of the Community Payback Team carried out the work, under the direction of one of our trustees.

A £20,000 grant was obtained from the Postcode Local Trust towards the creation of a new community garden next to De Vitre House, off Ashton Road in Lancaster. The project is currently at a design stage, but it is anticipated that work on the ground will take place next financial year. For this project, LGS is acting as grant fund-holder for the North Lancashire Community Land Trust.

Simon Gershon as trustee oversaw the building of a deer enclosure to protect the fruit tree nursery at Claver Hill community growing project. Simon also sat on an advisory panel to assess sites for 'Local Green Space' designation under the district's emerging Local Plan. This entailed visiting the proposed sites and helping build evidence for their community value.

Kamilla Elliot as trustee helped organise, and attended, meetings of the Lancaster District Greenspace Groups Forum. Several new Friends groups have formed this year and they find the forum very useful.

The charity was pleased to award three grants during the year to local voluntary groups: £1,000 to Friends of Miss Whalley's Fields, Lancaster, for interpretation materials
£1,000 to Bay Cottage children's' play area, for wild plants to enhance the area
£200 to the Fairfield Association, for tool replacement
We increased our grant offer made to the Friends of De Vitre Garden, from £200 to £500.

We ended the year with a shortfall in unallocated funds of £883.90, but anticipate donations that will return us to a positive balance.

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Our charitable objects are: The preservation, enhancement and maintenance of public areas and amenities in the city of Lancaster for the benefit of the public.