



# ANNUAL REVIEW

A SUMMARY OF  
LONDON WILDLIFE TRUST'S  
IMPACT IN 2016-2017



**London  
Wildlife  
Trust**

Protecting London's  
wildlife for the future

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE



pond-dipping at Camley Street Natural Park

2016-17 was an extremely exciting year for London Wildlife Trust. We celebrated the opening of Woodberry Wetlands as a new nature reserve in the heart of London, launched our four-year programme of conservation and community engagement in the ancient landscape of the Great North Wood, and reached over 16,000 children through our outdoor education programmes. All of this was supported by more than 14,500 members, 1,200 dedicated volunteers, and our many funders and partners.

Our income remained steady at £3.1 million, and we have taken steps to further diversify our unrestricted income streams. For instance our new private hire events and the opening of our first café at Woodberry Wetlands will encourage even more Londoners to engage with us, experience nature, and provide additional revenues. It is important that we continue to invest in diversifying and increasing unrestricted income so that we can be flexible and adaptive to change, whilst also ensuring our future sustainability.

London Wildlife Trust delivers a wide range of programmes, from restoring valuable wild habitats across the capital city, to supporting people from under-represented backgrounds to engage in nature. It can be difficult to encapsulate all that we do in one place – this review contains some key highlights of our year to give you a flavour of what can be achieved when we all work together for London's wildlife.

In it we highlight the progress we have made in delivering against our Strategic Plan 2015-2020 – *For a Wilder City*, and how you, our supporters, are enabling us to work towards our vision of **a London alive with nature, where everyone can experience and enjoy wildlife.**

I would like to say a huge thank you to our members, supporters, funders and volunteers for your generous ongoing support. Without your funding and time, we simply wouldn't be able to do what we do to stand up for London's wildlife.

**Gordon Scorer, Chief Executive**

### *Our vision*

A London alive with nature, where everyone can experience and enjoy wildlife

### *Our mission*

To stand up for London's wildlife, by:

- Protecting, restoring and creating wild places for nature
- Engaging, inspiring and enabling people to connect with nature
- Championing, challenging and influencing people to stand up for nature

### *Our aims*

- 1: London's wild spaces are protected, restored, created and continue to thrive
- 2: Everyone in London will have access to, value and help to protect our natural environment
- 3: London's infrastructure, development and regeneration should produce a net gain for the capital's wildlife and people's access to it

*Front cover image: Yellow-necked mouse, one of the small mammals tracked through our Vole Patrol project © Phil Winter*

# PROTECTING LONDON'S WILD SPACES

## Highlights from 2016-17



Braeburn Park

We opened the **22 hectare Braeburn Park** in Crayford, Bexley to the public



We care for **260 hectares of nature reserves** – an area equivalent to **364 premier league football pitches**



Volunteers helped us to restore **2,100m of the River Crane and Yeading Brook** towards their natural state



We secured **4 Green Flag Awards** (the national standard for well managed green spaces) at the Centre for Wildlife Gardening, Crane Park Island, Gunnersbury Triangle, and Yeading Brook Meadows



Common shrew © Huma Pearce

## CASE STUDIES

### Vole Patrol

Our Vole Patrol project sought to discover which species of vole, shrew and mouse were populating nine woodland sites in west London, and which types of woodland structure and management they favoured. Small mammals play an important, but often overlooked, part in the ecosystem, for example as prey for some of London's rarer wild predators, such as owls.

We trained more than 80 volunteers to undertake small mammal surveys and, with their support, completed an 18-month survey in 2016-2017. Results show that high numbers of common shrew, pygmy shrew, wood mouse, yellow-necked mouse, bank vole and field vole live in these woodlands, and probably across much of London. The survey results suggest that for a small mammal, a wood with a somewhat untidy structure, open sunlit glades, plentiful fruit and nut-producing trees, along with plenty of leaf litter and fallen branches, is close to a perfect home.

#### Throughout the project:



**1,892 small mammals** were recorded



**85 survey volunteers** were trained and engaged



children at the launch of the Great North Wood

### Great North Wood

The Great North Wood was once a large landscape of ancient woodland and wooded pasture in south London. By the 20th century, much of this had been lost to the growing city, but fragments remain in the form of small woodlands, parks and gardens, whilst new woodland has grown along railway embankments and in other green spaces.

In 2016 we launched a programme to raise awareness of the ancient Great North Wood living landscape, to improve these important remaining woodlands for wildlife and people, and to connect them up in people's minds. Over the next four years and working across 13 wooded sites, we will work with volunteers, community groups, local councils and other landowners to encourage people to explore, enjoy and value the woodlands on their doorsteps, and to help improve them for the wildlife that still survives in these special spaces.

#### So far the Great North Wood project has seen:



**71 community events** attended by **2,600 Londoners**



**69 volunteers** carry out practical conservation at **3 Great North Wood sites**



Banded demoiselle © Iain Leach

### Water for Wildlife

In July 2016 we launched Water for Wildlife, focused on freshwater habitats in the capital. Over four years these waterbodies will be monitored and mapped, with practical conservation improvements made to key sites across London to strengthen their wildlife value.

Water for Wildlife will be the catalyst to upscale our surveying and monitoring activity, practical conservation work, and influence on conservation policy. We are also delivering a high-quality training programme to upskill volunteers in surveying, monitoring, and specialist practical conservation activities, with a focus on dragonflies and damselflies (*Odonata*), a key indicator species of good water quality. Our Dragonfly Detectives citizen science survey will help to pool data to ultimately produce a London atlas of Odonata.

#### Since the start of the project:



**85 volunteers** have helped to improve habitat on **8 sites**



We have surveyed **15 sites** and recorded over **2,500 dragonflies and damselflies**, including **3 very rare species** now breeding in the capital

# SUPPORTING PEOPLE IN LONDON TO ACCESS AND HELP PROTECT NATURE

Highlights from 2016-17



volunteers at Hutchinson's Bank

An estimated **350,000** members of the public visited our nature reserves



**16,000** children took part in outdoor education sessions and family activities at our nature reserves



**1,208** people carried out **3,358** days of volunteering for the Trust, helping with land management on 32 Trust nature reserves and 17 other sites



**27,000** people attended our events



Wild Talent trainee



Wild Talent trainee

## CASE STUDIES

### Wild Talent

Now in its third year, our innovative Wild Talent training programme challenges the barriers that exclude people from under-represented backgrounds gaining employment in environmental conservation, simultaneously addressing skill shortages in the sector and increasing the diversity of its workforce.

On completion of the one-year full-time course, Wild Talent trainees gain a work-based Diploma or Certificate in Environmental Conservation, and professional certificates in chainsaw usage and pesticide application.

Trainees receive a training bursary and work at our nature reserves alongside professional conservation staff. Here they develop a broad range of skills required for future employment in the conservation sector, including practical reserve management; surveying and monitoring; and community engagement and education.

**This year:**



**6** more trainees completed our accredited 'Wild Talent' training programme



**67%** of trainees from years one and two of Wild Talent are now either working in the conservation sector or in further education



The Coal House visitor centre at Woodberry Wetlands



Sir David Attenborough © Penny Dixie

### Woodberry Wetlands

In 2016 we opened Woodberry Wetlands as a brand new nature reserve, fully accessible to visitors for the first time since the reservoir was built nearly 200 years ago. The site in Manor House, Hackney, was opened by Sir David Attenborough, with widespread coverage in national media. The reserve includes 11 hectares of wetland habitat with a boardwalk, visitor centre and education centre. Woodberry Wetlands is a thriving habitat for migratory birds and is one of the Trust's top visitor attractions. We deliver a busy programme of outdoor education for schools, family learning and community volunteering at the site, as well as a full programme of wildlife events.

**This year:**



**100,000** people visited Woodberry Wetlands in its first year



Volunteers cut **2,800** square metres of reedbed habitat (an important part of reedbed management), with the reed cuttings used as mulch for new hedgerows



volunteer at Woodberry Wetlands © Penny Dixie

### Volunteering for London's wildlife

Volunteers are at the heart of what we do – last year, over 1,200 active volunteers helped look after wildlife in London. Our volunteers support London Wildlife Trust with practical conservation activities such as grassland management, building fences, citizen science surveys and tree care; delivering outdoor education sessions; volunteering on our projects; and welcoming people to our visitor centres and nature reserves.

**In our 2016 survey, volunteers reported the following\*:**

**79%** said that volunteering has improved their connection with nature and wildlife

**77%** said their knowledge of nature and wildlife has improved

**61%** said their practical skills have improved

**49%** said volunteering has improved their general health and wellbeing

\*figures based on 7% response rate

# ENSURING LONDON'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT PRODUCES A NET GAIN FOR WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE

Highlights from 2016-17



Kidbrooke Village



team work with Siemens at Hutchinson's Bank

## WORKING TOGETHER

### TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

From community outreach to outdoor education to landscape conservation, charitable trusts support a broad range of our exciting and inspiring initiatives across London, for the benefit of people and wildlife. If you are involved in a charitable trust and our activities fit with your aims and objectives, please do get in touch with us.

Contact **Amy Warner:**

020 7803 4291 or [awarner@wildlondon.org.uk](mailto:awarner@wildlondon.org.uk)

### BUSINESS PARTNERS

We believe by working together we can achieve more to help transform the capital's natural environment for people and wildlife. Your business can work with us through membership, employee 'Wild Workdays', sponsorship, or a bespoke package to suit your teams' needs.

Contact **Rosie Oldham:**

020 7803 4274 or [roldham@wildlondon.org.uk](mailto:roldham@wildlondon.org.uk)

### INDIVIDUALS

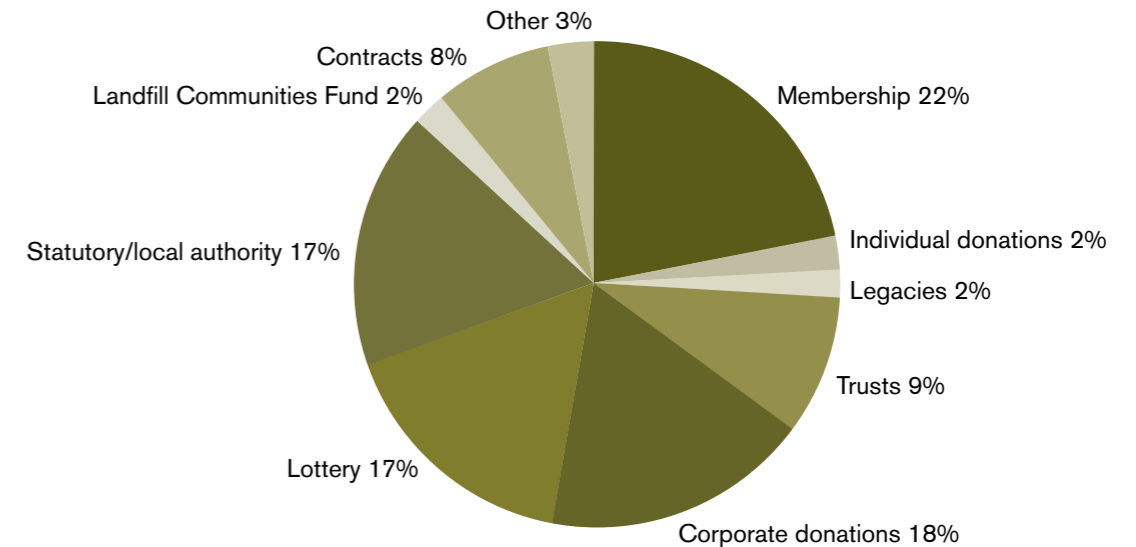
We welcome the support of individuals who share our aim of keeping London wild and green, now and for future generations. Building a lasting relationship with our supporters is vital to achieving this. If you are interested in helping us through individual support of our core work, specific projects or leaving a legacy, please do get in touch.

Contact **Cathy Gale:**

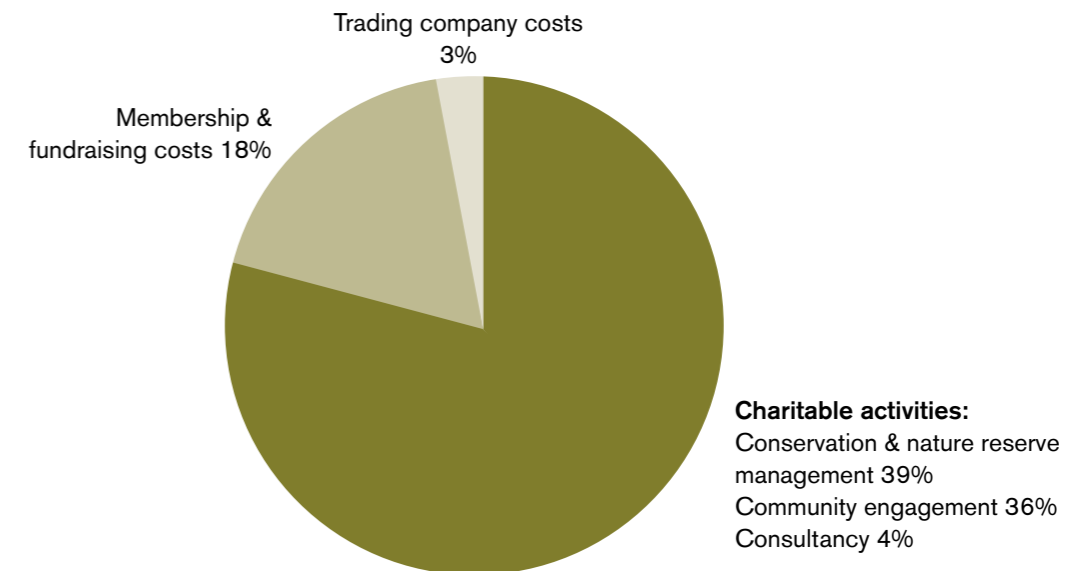
020 7803 4276 or [cgale@wildlondon.org.uk](mailto:cgale@wildlondon.org.uk)

# HOW WE RAISE AND SPEND MONEY

## How we raised our funds in 2016-17



## How we spent our funds in 2016-17



*We contributed to and helped shape the London Assembly's Housing Committee At Home with Nature report*



*We presented evidence to the House of Commons HS2 Select Committee to seek to reduce the impact of HS2 on Frays Farm Meadows and other sites. We continue to influence the potential impacts of HS2 in west London, through membership on the HS2 Colne Valley Regional Park Panel*



*We provided technical advice to Berkeley Homes on the design of their new developments at Kidbrooke Village and Southall Waterside, helping to maximise the benefit for biodiversity*

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2017	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted & endowment funds £'000	Total 2017 £'000	Total 2016 £'000
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>				
Donations and legacies	963	557	1,520	1,131
Charitable activities	356	1,157	1,513	2,075
Trading activities	88	-	88	-
Investments	-	-	-	1
Other	-	6	6	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,407</b>	<b>1,720</b>	<b>3,127</b>	<b>3,207</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Raising funds	609	-	609	711
Charitable activities	760	1,496	2,256	2,349
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,369</b>	<b>1,496</b>	<b>2,865</b>	<b>3,060</b>
<b>Net income</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>147</b>
Transfer between funds	89	(89)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>				
Total funds brought forward	733	467	1,200	1,053
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>1,462</b>	<b>1,200</b>

Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2017	Group	
	2017 £'000	2016 £'000
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible assets	962	936
Investments	-	-
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>936</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors	567	640
Cash at bank and in hand	411	279
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>919</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Creditors:		
Amounts falling due within one year	(478)	(655)
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>264</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>1,462</b>	<b>1,200</b>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>		
Restricted income funds	499	365
Endowment funds	103	102
Unrestricted funds	860	733
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>1,462</b>	<b>1,200</b>

These summarised accounts have been extracted from the full audited accounts. To obtain a copy of the full accounts please contact London Wildlife Trust or visit our website.

# THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you to all of our supporters, whose generous donations helped us to keep London alive with nature and enable people to enjoy wildlife in 2016-17.

## MEMBERS AND INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

Including those who have generously left legacies to the Trust

## GRANT FUNDERS

Biffa Award	London Borough of Hillingdon	Richmond Civic Pride
DEFRA	London Borough of Hounslow	Sutton and Merton CCG Charitable Fund
Environment Agency	London Borough of Lambeth	Suez Communities Trust
Greater London Authority	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames	Veolia Environmental Trust
Heritage Lottery Fund	London Borough of Southwark	Viridor Credits Environmental Company
London Borough of Barnet	Players of People's Postcode Lottery	Western Riverside Environmental Fund
London Borough of Camden		

## TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

Ashdene Trust	Heathrow Communities for Tomorrow	Miss RCR Angel Charitable Trust
Banister Charitable Trust	Ironmongers' Company	Montague Thompson Coon Charitable Trust
The Barleycorn Trust	John Lyon's Charity	The Peter Stebbings Memorial Charity
Barnett and Sylvia Shine No 1 Charitable Trust	Joseph Strong Frazer Trust	Richmond Civic Pride
Brian Woolf Charitable Trust	Kestrelman Trust	Richmond Parish Lands Charity
CHK Charities	Linley Shaw Foundation	Schroder Charitable Trust
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	The MacRobert Trust	Spear Charitable Trust
Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity	The Maudsley Charity	Wates Foundation
	Mercers' Company	

## BUSINESS PARTNERS

Argent	Lendlease	The Green Well
Berkeley Homes	Mace	University College London
Britvic	My Claim Solved	UK Power Networks
DLA Piper	NatWest Skills and Opportunities Fund	Vine House Farm
Genesis Housing	Tesco Bags of Help	
Jurlique	Thames Water	



Hedgehog at Walthamstow Wetlands © Penny Dixie

**London Wildlife Trust**, formed in **1981**, is dedicated to protecting the capital's wildlife and wild spaces, engaging London's diverse communities through free access to our nature reserves, volunteering, campaigning and outdoor education.

We are one of **47** Wildlife Trusts across the UK, delivering on the ground and reflecting local priorities and character.



Great crested grebe © Full Moon Images



Bug hotel at Centre for Wildlife Gardening © Magnus Anderson

### Acknowledgements

**Images:** London Wildlife Trust unless credited otherwise

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London Wildlife Trust is a registered charity no. 283895.  
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Protecting London's  
wildlife for the future



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### Contact us

London Wildlife Trust  
Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road  
London SW1P 2AF

enquiries@wildlondon.org.uk  
Tel: 020 7261 0447

**wildlondon.org.uk**