

THE BYTHAMS WOODLAND TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1182600

Details

Other names THE BYTHAM'S WOODLAND TRUST, BWT, AND THE SPINNEY

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-03-22

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Old Wheatsheaf
1 Castlegate
Castle Bytham
Grantham
Lincs
NG33 4RQ

Phone 07876806646

Email candlershome@btinternet.com

Website www.bythamspinney.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE PURPOSES OF THE CIO ARE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT:1) TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE SPINNEY WOODLAND AMENITY AND RELATED AREAS.2) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF THE SPINNEY WOODLAND AND RELATED AREAS.3) TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THOSE LIVING OR WORKING AND VISITORS TO THE AREA OF BENEFIT.

Activities: To conserve and maintain the Bytham woodland and other areas as open spaces for the purposed of exercise and recreation for the benefit of the inhabitants of Lincolnshire and Rutland.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Lincolnshire
- Rutland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£2,006	£28,569	-	-
2024-03-31	£62,812	£31,139	-	-
2023-03-31	£6,675	£5,946	-	-
2022-03-31	£2,943	£5,830	-	-
2021-03-31	£5,277	£4,296	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr PATRICK CANDLER	Chair	2019-02-12
GAVIN PYE		2019-02-12
Richard Joyce		2019-02-12
Sam Adams		2019-02-12
Simon Garbutt		2019-02-12

THE BYTHAMS WOODLAND TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1182600

Accounts



THE BYTHAMS WOODLAND TRUST
(Registered Charity 1182600)
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL TRUSTEE REPORT 2024/25

Introduction

I am very pleased to introduce the twenty first Chairman's Annual Report for the Bythams Woodland Trust (BWT).

Constitution

There have been no changes to our constitution. We remain a registered charity and have an up to date and strengthened constitution.

Our annual returns to the Charity Commission have been submitted. Committee co-options were confirmed at the AGM in 2024 and all of these have made a positive contribution to the work of the Trust. The Trustees and Management Committee met on three occasions, including the AGM.

Funding

After the incredibly successful 2023/24 year in respect of our fund raising, 2024/25 was relatively quiet.

No major funding applications were made and only smaller donations were received from the SKDC Lottery, with other funding from our local Parish Councils and the Castle Bytham Midsummer Festival.

Refurbishment Works and Re-Opening

At the beginning of the year, the site was still in the hands of the contractors and though we held a formal opening ceremony on 12th April, we were only able to open up to the public on 4th May.

Thereafter, there has been a significant increase in visitors who have really enjoyed using the new equipment.

Site Works

The purpose of our regular work sessions is to maintain the site in a good condition. Our fortnightly work schedule focusses on general maintenance - mowing, strimming, leaf clearing, tree felling and gleaning fallen branches, coppicing and general tidying, repairing play equipment, planting and weeding the sensory garden by hand!

The Meadow is looking very much like the wildflower site we have always wanted and our seed planting during the past couple of years has paid off with a wonderful sward of meadow flowers in the summer.

In the Spring, Simon Garbutt secured new funding from SKDC for us to plant a Coronation Orchard as part of our commitment to nature improvement and combatting climate change. We purchased 17 different species of fruit tree and associated tree guards and managed to get them in the ground before the end of March.

Publicity and Promotion

At our formal opening morning we were able to thank our key funders - FCC Communities Foundation and SKDC for their support. Their representatives were invited to meet Trustees and key local supporters. We appreciated some good PR from the Stamford Mercury.

Thereafter, it seems that the Spinney simply promotes itself - mainly through word of mouth attracting new visitors as well as frequent returners.

We were aware that some users were disappointed in the delays in re-opening, but since then, the increase in usage has more than justified the new investment in the site.

Gavin Pye has regularly updated our website at www.bythamspinney.co.uk and took the lead on our social media platforms. However, we recognise that the web-site is in need of a refresh, so this will be a project for the coming year.

Health and Safety

This remains a key priority and a continuing requirement of our insurance arrangements. While the Spinney is a natural wild woodland, there will always be an element of risk and adventure in what we do.

Our annual ROSPA Play Area Safety Inspection visit took place in August and it is very pleasing to note that in their Report, there were no major issues. We used the report to guide us with the management of our refurbishment programme.

Future Plans

Our key action is to complete the upgrade of the site, especially the replacement of the embankment swing which had to be taken down during the refurbishment works. The main driveway has been greatly worn down and needs resurfacing. However, both these projects need new funding to make them happen.

Volunteers

The BWT is always looking for more volunteers to help our work at The Spinney and we welcome all offers of support. We realise that not everyone can attend all our work sessions, but if you can do so when able, your help is greatly appreciated.

And of course, while the adults are working, we want to encourage children to come to the site to take part in some of the most fantastic play experiences that nature can offer - adventurous, dirty, rough, creative, imaginative, active, physical, healthy - the sort of play opportunities many of us probably had thirty or so years ago, but sadly do not seem so prevalent today.

In a very uncertain and changing world, there remains a strong national drive to compensate for the stresses and pressures faced by children and families. There is a concern about the 'nature deficit' for children who may miss out on the wonders of the natural environment. It is pretty clear that there is no such deficit at the Spinney as we have a wonderful natural play experience to offer.

What is more, as access and usage of the Spinney is free, it is a good place to visit at very little cost and is something that helps mitigate the present cost of living challenges.

Thanks

There are so many people who deserve to be thanked for the significant time and effort that they have put into the Spinney during this year.

All the Trustees and Advisors use their different skills and experiences to ensure that the BWT is well managed to do what needs to be done. We have a really solid Saturday morning maintenance crew who put in the time week in, week out. Many thanks to Gavin, Simon G, Richard, Simon C, Tim, Luke, Gillian, and Pete.

We also have had great support from our Duke of Edinburgh students - James, Thomas and Donald. Though these have formally finished their placements, we are delighted that they have said that they would continue to help out.

Thanks to The Glenside News for regularly publishing our news and stories; Trevor Harris, who services all our mechanical equipment; Tim Rasell, who advises on plants and good horticulture tips; Aqualoos, who provide toilets for our events; Gilbert Elson, who cuts the hedges and the meadow.

Aside from the main funders referenced above, we are very appreciative of the help given by the local Parish Councils, the Castle Bytham Mid-summer Festival Committee, and all those individuals who have made very kind donations throughout the year. This continued support is greatly valued.

Finally, our warmest thanks must go to the local community and especially the children who use the site for their play, adventure, learning or simple relaxation and without whom, the whole thing would simply not be worthwhile.

Dr Patrick Candler, Chairman of BWT
26.8.25



The Bythams Woodland Trust
Little Bytham
Grantham
Lincs Charity Ref 118 2600

Annual Accounts 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Date	IN For	Amount	Date	Type	OUT For	Amount
	Opening Balance	£ 31,139.32				
9-Apr-24	Lottery SK	£ 38.00	12-Apr-24	bacs	Grass cutting GH Elsen	£ 240.00
1-May-24	PayPal donation	£ 49.10	12-Apr-24	bacs	Gavin Pye - bunting	£ 20.44
8-May-24	Lottery SK	£ 45.00	17-Apr-24	bacs	Playscape Ltd	£ 12,000.00
8-May-24	PayPal donation	£ 9.66	17-Apr-24	bacs	P Candler - refreshments opening	£ 46.76
22-May-24	PayPal donation	£ 9.66	7-May-24	bacs	Hinch Plant - plannings	£ 4,500.00
4-Jun-24	Lottery SK	£ 36.00	7-May-24	bacs	Tim Smith pathways	£ 4,631.25
2-Jul-24	Lottery SK	£ 36.00	13-May-24	bacs	Playscape Ltd	£ 2,700.00
13-Aug-24	Lottery SK	£ 55.00	20-May-24	bacs	Simon Garbutt - seeds & plants	£ 227.79
3-Sep-24	Castle Bytham Mid Fair	£ 600.00	6-Jun-24	bacs	T HARRIS mower	£ 26.50
10-Sep-24	Lottery SK	£ 40.00	27-Jun-24	bacs	G PYE strimmer wire	£ 390.93
15-Oct-24	Lottery SK	£ 47.50	16-Jul-24	bacs	P CANDLER petrol	£ 8.45
5-Nov-24	Lottery SK	£ 37.00	31-Jul-24	bacs	T HARRIS mower	£ 28.00
3-Dec-24	Lottery SK	£ 42.00	2-Sep-24	bacs	PLAYSAFE Ltd BWT INVOICE 82694	£ 127.20
9-Jan-25	SKDC	£ 775.13	2-Sep-24	bacs	T HARRIS mower	£ 46.00
14-Jan-25	Lottery SK	£ 47.00	4-Sep-24	bacs	ANDREW MCDONALD - mower repairs	£ 30.00
27-Jan-25	Western Power	£ 72.00	23-Sep-24	bacs	G PYE Strimmer cord	£ 25.25
11-Feb-25	Lottery SK	£ 34.00	23-Sep-24	bacs	GH ELSEN Grass cutting	£ 720.00
11-Mar-25	Lottery SK	£ 34.00	27-Nov-24	bacs	P CANDLER benches	£ 644.48
			13-Jan-25	bacs	Simon Garbutt - seeds & plants	£ 555.68
			12-Feb-25	bacs	T HARRIS mower	£ 35.50
			14-Mar-25	bacs	NFU MUTUAL Insurance 2025	£ 1,385.16
			14-Mar-25	bacs	Simon Garbutt - seeds & plants	£ 177.42
					Closing Balance	£ 4,579.56
		£ 33,146.37				£ 33,146.37

THE BYTHAMS WOODLAND TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1182600

Accounts



THE BYTHAMS WOODLAND TRUST
(Registered Charity 1182600)
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

Introduction

I am very pleased to introduce the twentieth Chairman's Report for the Bythams Woodland Trust (BWT).

Constitution

There have been no changes to our constitution. We remain a registered charity and have an up to date and strengthened constitution.

Our annual returns to the Charity Commission have been submitted. Committee co-options were confirmed at the AGM in 2023 and all of these have made a positive contribution to the work of the Trust. The Management Committee met on five occasions, including the AGM.

Funding

It was an incredibly successful year in respect of our fund raising - arguably our best ever.

In June, we were awarded £98,988 from the FCC Communities Foundation towards the refurbishment plans that had been submitted for their consideration. This was a wonderful contribution without which the works could not have proceeded. The third party contribution which is integral to the working of this landfill-tax scheme was generously provided by Electrical Installations.

The award also had a positive match funding impact to secure further fund valued at £60,000. This was awarded in September from South Kesteven District Council as part of their UKSPF levelling up programme.

Taken together we were able to invest £159,988 in the new equipment.

We also received regular funds from the SKDC Lottery and funding from our local Parish Councils and the Castle Bytham Midsummer Festival.

Refurbishment Works

Our plans for the refurbishment works had begun in the previous year when we had secured planning permission and had already successfully tendered for Playscape Playgrounds to carry out the works. After contractual negotiations, they were able to start on October 30th.

It was initially anticipated that the works would be completed before Christmas. However, the wettest winter in many years, alternating with ground that were frozen and undiggable, meant that this target was not met. Subsequent completion dates in January, February and March were missed, because of the

continuing poor weather conditions where the ground surface was very much a quagmire for weeks on end.

Indeed, by the end of the financial year, the final site works had still not been completed, though progress had been achieved.

We also had new gates fitted and damaged fences repaired by Gilbert Elson, while Tim Smith of Complete Maintenance was poised to upgrade the main pathway and car park.

Main Site Works

The main focus of our regular work sessions is to maintain the site in a good condition to ensure a continued enjoyable use by visitors. When we were open, our schedule focussed on general maintenance - mowing, strimming, leaf clearing, tree felling and gleaning fallen branches, coppicing and general tidying, repairing play equipment, planting and weeding the sensory garden by hand!

The Meadow is looking very much like the wildflower site we have always wanted and our seed planting during the past couple of years has paid off with a wonderful sward of meadow flowers in the summer - with most of the ragwort now pulled.

We were delighted to install a new noticeboard and information point to advise visitors of the breadth of flora within the meadow. Special thanks must go to Elizabeth who was able to secure funding from the NFU to make this happen. We had a formal sign in day event on September 13th

Events

In view of the closure of the site, we were not able to organise any significant events during the year.

Publicity and Promotion

As the site was closed for nearly 6 months, publicity was kept to a minimum, though keeping our visitors updated with the recurrent delays did cause disappointment. We were able to comply with the press relations required of both our funders.

Gavin Pye regularly updated our website at www.bythamspinney.co.uk and took the lead on social media.

Health and Safety

This remains a key priority and a continuing requirement of our insurance arrangements. The Spinney is a natural wild woodland and there will always be an element of risk and adventure in what we do.

We had our annual ROSPA Play Area Safety Inspection Report in August and it is very pleasing to note that in all areas, there were no major issues. We used the report to guide us with the nature of our refurbishment programme.

Future Plans

Our key plan has been to complete the major upgrade of the majority of our play equipment

Volunteers

The BWT is always looking for more volunteers to help with what we are trying to achieve at The Spinney and we welcome all offers of support. And of course, while the adults are working, we want to encourage children to come to the site to take part in some of the most fantastic play experiences that nature can offer - adventurous, dirty, rough, creative, destructive, imaginative, active, physical, healthy - the sort of play opportunities many of us probably had thirty or so years ago but sadly do not seem so prevalent today.

In a post pandemic world, there remains a strong national drive to compensate for the stresses and pressures put on children and families, and what is called the 'nature deficit' for children who may have missed out on the wonders of the natural environment. It is pretty clear that there is no such deficit at the Spinney.

What is more, as usage of the Spinney is free, it becomes a good place to enjoy at minimal cost something that helps mitigate the present cost of living challenges.

Thanks

There are so many people who deserve to be thanked for the tremendous time and effort that they have put into the Spinney during this year.

All the Trustees and Advisors use their different skills and experiences to ensure that the BWT is well managed to do what needs to be done. We have a really solid Saturday morning maintenance crew who put in the time week in, week out. Many thanks to Sam, Gavin, Simon G, Richard, Simon C, Tim, Luke, Gillian, James and Thomas.

We have had great support from Donald and James who have been our Duke of Edinburgh students.

Thanks to The Glenside News for regularly publishing our news and stories; Trevor Harris who services all our mechanical equipment; Tim Rasell who advises on plants and good horticulture tips; Aqualoos who provide toilets for our events; Gilbert Elson, who cuts the hedges and the meadow.

Aside from the main funders referenced above, we are very appreciative of the help given by the local Parish Councils, the Castle Bytham Mid-summer Festival Committee, and all those individuals who have made very kind donations throughout the year. This continued support is greatly valued.

Finally, our warmest thanks must go to the local community and especially the children who use the site for their play, adventure, learning or simple relaxation and without whom, the whole thing would simply not be worthwhile.

Dr Patrick Candler, Chairman of BWT
13.6.24

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Candler', written in a cursive style.

26.6.24

The Bythams Woodland Trust
Little Bytham
Grantham
Lincs

Charity Ref 118 2600

Annual Accounts **1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024**

Date	IN		Date	OUT	
	For	Amount		For	Amount
	Opening Balance	£ 5,945.97			
12-Apr-23	Lottery SK	£ 32.00	13-Apr-23	Gavin Pye - Notice board repairs	£44.36
24-Apr-23	Amazon Europe Core	£ 5.36	4-May-23	Aqualoos - repairs	£46.80
10-May-23	Lottery SK	£ 32.50	7-Jun-23	Gavin Pye - Postcrete	£8.15
19-May-23	Amazon Europe Core	£ 22.03	2-Aug-23	Nature Sign Design	£272.00
31-May-23	National fund donate	£ 103.38	2-Aug-23	Gavin Pye - Fuel	£13.13
13-Jun-23	Lottery SK	£ 42.50	2-Aug-23	Gavin Pye - Postcrete	£24.44
26-Jun-23	Paypal	£ 34.57	29-Aug-23	Hedge cutting GH Eisen	£660.00
4-Jul-23	Lottery SK	£ 34.00	13-Sep-23	Gavin Pye - Signage	£11.09
8-Aug-23	Lottery SK	£ 42.50	14-Sep-23	Playsafety Ltd RSPA	£119.41
11-Aug-23	Castle Bytham Mid Fair	£ 400.00	10-Nov-23	Playscape Ltd	£8,968.00
13-Sep-23	Lottery SK	£ 33.00	10-Nov-23	Fencing GH Eisen	£2,280.00
3-Oct-23	Lottery SK	£ 30.50	12-Dec-23	NFU insurance premium increase	£55.85
10-Oct-23	SKDC Grant	£ 60,000.00	2-Jan-24	Gavin Pye - mince pies	£8.28
7-Nov-23	CoOp donation	£ 1,669.62	10-Jan-24	Playscape Ltd	£23,683.00
8-Nov-23	Lottery SK	£ 38.00	6-Feb-24	Gavin Pye - gazebo repairs	£102.58
12-Dec-23	Lottery SK	£ 30.50	18-Mar-24	NFU insurance premium 2024	£1,321.98
28-Dec-23	CBVH Raffle	£ 80.00			
9-Jan-24	Lottery SK	£ 32.00			
29-Jan-24	Western Power	£ 70.96			
7-Feb-24	Lottery SK	£ 43.00			
12-Mar-24	Lottery SK	£ 36.00			
				Closing Balance	£31,139.32
		£ 68,758.39			£ 68,758.39

Finlan 26.6.24

The Bythams Woodland Trust
 Little Bytham
 Grantham
 Lincs
 Charity Ref 118 2600

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		£ 68,758.39				£ 68,758.39

AUDITORS REPORT

I have examined the receipts and payments account for the year ended 31st March 2024 together with the documents on which they are based. Accordingly, I can confirm that they represent an accurate record of the charity's receipts and payments for the year and the bank balance at the year end. *RT Goss - Chartered Accountant*

THE BYTHAMS WOODLAND TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1182600

Accounts



**THE BYTHAMS WOODLAND TRUST
(Registered Charity 1182600)
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

Introduction

I am very pleased to introduce the nineteenth Chairman's Report for the Bythams Woodland Trust (BWT).

Constitution

There have been no changes to our constitution. We remain a registered charity and have an up to date and strengthened constitution.

Our annual returns to the Charity Commission were submitted on time. New Committee co-options were made at the AGM in 2022 and all of these have made a positive contribution to the work of the Trust. The Management Committee met on five occasions, including the AGM, either via ZOOM virtual conferencing or, more recently, live in Castle Bytham.

Funding

It was another relatively quiet year in respect of fund raising as no major applications were made. However, we were delighted to receive £3k from the Jack Patston Trust which will greatly help with our annual running costs. We also receive regular funds from the SKDC Lottery and received funding from our local Parish Councils.

On the downside, the container was broken into during the spring and all the mowers and strimmer were stolen. While this has proven to be very frustrating, we were able to settle quickly with our insurers, the NFU.

Site Works

The main focus of our regular work sessions is to maintain the site in a good condition to ensure a continued enjoyable use by visitors. Our schedule during the year focussed on general maintenance - mowing, strimming, leaf clearing, tree felling and gleaning fallen branches, coppicing and general tidying, building new steps for the main slide, repairing play equipment, planting and weeding the sensory garden by hand!

During a wet spring, the site became very waterlogged and we had to re-create a whole new network of pathways using bark chippings in order that visitors could simply walk about without slipping over.

The Meadow is looking very much like the wildflower site we have always wanted and our seed planting during the past couple of years has paid off with a wonderful sward of meadow flowers in the summer - with most of the ragwort now pulled. We have started work to install an information point to advise visitors of the breadth of flora within the meadow.

We have maintained our wooded area within the Meadow and surprisingly, most trees managed to survive the very dry summer period.

Events

A major disappointment was the sudden cancellation of our Spinney Spring Thing which had been scheduled to take place on 19th March. Cold and wet weather was forecast on a site that was already sodden, so we took the view to postpone - sensible in the circumstances.

Publicity and Promotion

Judging by the numbers of people who visited the Spinney, our publicity and promotion in all its forms is working extremely well. We continue to get many more visits not only from local people but also those who come in from much further afield. On some days the main car park and access road are completely full, so the overflow area on the meadow has proven to be invaluable.

Gavin Pye regularly updates our website at www.bythamspinney.co.uk.

We are on Facebook (www.facebook.com/bythamsSpinney) and our 'likes' have reached well over 4000. We have investigated how best we might optimize voluntary donations through <http://www.charitygiving.co.uk/bythamswoodland>.

Health and Safety

This remains a key priority and a continuing requirement of our insurance arrangements. The Spinney is a natural wild woodland and there will always be an element of risk and adventure in what we do.

We had our annual ROSPA Play Area Safety Inspection Report in August and it is very pleasing to note that in all areas, there were no major issues. We have used the report to guide us as we carry out the repairs that were identified as needing remediation.

Future Plans

Our key plan is to implement a major upgrade of the majority of our play equipment, some of which has been on the site since we opened. We want to link this into our 20th birthday celebrations in 2023.

A design brief was prepared and sent out to 6 potential suppliers. We received 3 responses, each of which had their own interpretation of the brief with a different costing. We will need competitive quotes in order to comply with the requirements of likely funders as we will be seeking funds in excess of £100k.

However, even though we are only replacing existing equipment with something similar in each location on the site, we are required to get full planning permission and conditional planning was approved in September.

We then reviewed the tenders that we had received, given the time delays and the huge increase in equipment costs, and by December we were able to select a preferred supplier.

During January and February we worked on a major submission to FCC Communities who operate the Landfill Site at Colsterworth within which range we fit. A final 158 page application was submitted in early March for a decision in mid June. It is hoped that a formal announcement can be made at the AGM.

To complete all our improvement works costs in the region of £160k, so a further application was made to South Kesteven District Council under their Shared Prosperity Fund. We will know the outcome later in summer 2023.

Volunteers

The BWT is always looking for more volunteers to help with what we are trying to achieve at The Spinney and we welcome all offers of support. And of course, while the adults are working, we want to encourage children to come to the site to take part in some of the most fantastic play experiences that nature can offer - adventurous, dirty, rough, creative, destructive, imaginative, active, physical, healthy - the sort of play opportunities many of us probably had thirty or so years ago but sadly do not seem so prevalent today.

In a post pandemic world, there is a strong national drive to compensate for the stresses and pressures put on children and families, and what is called the 'nature deficit' for children who may have missed out on the wonders of the natural environment. It is pretty clear that there is no such deficit at the Spinney.

What is more, as usage of the Spinney is free, it becomes a good place to enjoy at minimal cost something that helps mitigate the present cost of living challenges.

Thanks

There are so many people who deserve to be thanked for the tremendous time and effort that they have put into the Spinney during this year.

All the Trustees and Advisors use their different skills and experiences to ensure that the BWT is well managed to do what needs to be done. We have a really solid Saturday morning maintenance crew who put in the time week in, week out. Many thanks to Sam, Gavin, Simon G, Richard, Simon C, Tim, Luke, Gillian, James and Thomas.

We said goodbye to our excellent team of Duke of Edinburgh students who have worked incredibly hard to help shift barrowloads of bark to put under the play equipment and create new paths all over the site. Thanks to James, James, Oliver, Oscar and Harry. We wish them all the best as they go off to University.

We have received great support from FOBS and those at the Bythams School, while Jo Schofield continues to make some amazing woodland creations at all our events.

Thanks to The Glenside News for regularly publishing our news and stories; Trevor Harris who services all our mechanical equipment; Tim Rasell who advises on plants and good horticulture tips; Aqualoos who provide toilets for our events; Gilbert Elson, who cuts the hedges and the meadow.

We are also very appreciative of our funders - the local Parish Councils, the Castle Bytham Mid-summer Festival Committee, and all those individuals who have made very kind donations throughout the year. Their continued support is greatly valued.

Finally, our warmest thanks must go to the local community and especially the children who use the site for their play, adventure, learning or simple relaxation and without whom, the whole thing would simply not be worthwhile.

Dr Patrick Candler, Chairman of BWT
26.6.23

The Bythams Woodland Trust
Little Bytham
Grantham
Lincs Charity Ref 118 2600

Annual Accounts 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Date	IN For	Amount	Date	Type	OUT For	Amount
	Opening Balance	£3,855.18				
15-Apr-22	Lottery SK	£ 26.00	11-Apr-22	bacs	J Scofield Spring Thing 2022	£181.32
26-Apr-22	Donation C Applegate	£ 3,000.00	25-Apr-22	bacs	DBS checks Lincs CC	£30.00
4-May-22	Lottery SK	£ 26.00	27-Jun-22	bacs	Gavin Pye - tarmac & tea	£120.08
9-May-22	Amazon Europe Core	£ 9.87	5-Jul-22	bacs	Gavin Pye - tarmac & spray	£105.74
7-Jun-22	Lottery SK	£ 32.50	5-Jul-22	bacs	S & J Adams Lawnmowers Direct	£1,215.00
12-Jul-22	Lottery SK	£ 26.00	29-Jul-22	bacs	Gavin Pye - tarmac & spray 3	£60.23
9-Aug-22	Lottery SK	£ 26.00	19-Aug-22	bacs	SKDC planning application	£553.00
16-Aug-22	Amazon Europe Core	£ 6.47	5-Sep-22	bacs	Playsafety Ltd RSPA	£113.40
12-Sep-22	Lottery SK	£ 32.50	20-Sep-22	bacs	Meadow cutting GH Elsen	£600.00
23-Sep-22	Donation	£ 180.00	23-Sep-22	bacs	Meadow cutting GH Elsen	£60.00
28-Sep-22	Mid summer fair donation	£ 350.00	14-Oct-22	bacs	Gavin Pye - biscuits	£2.36
4-Oct-22	Lottery SK	£ 22.50	23-Oct-22	bacs	Gavin Pye - website domain	£28.62
15-Nov-22	Amazon Europe Core	£ 11.60	24-Nov-22	bacs	Gavin Pye - padlocks & fuel	£73.59
15-Nov-22	Lottery SK	£ 27.50	12-Dec-22	bacs	Gavin Pye - Xmas cheer	£18.51
17-Nov-22	NFU Claims	£ 64.34	21-Dec-22	bacs	S & J Adams - Spinney Meeting	£22.80
17-Nov-22	NFU Claims	£ 2,183.90	10-Feb-23	bacs	Hedge cutting GH Elsen	£240.00
2-Dec-22	A Hoyle donation	£ 154.44	30-Mar-23	bacs	NFU insurance	£1,052.14
6-Dec-22	Lottery SK	£ 26.00	31-Mar-23	bacs	Aqualoos - Spring Thing	£108.00
21-Dec-22	CBPC Jubilee Donation	£ 300.00				
10-Jan-23	Lottery SK	£ 28.00				
8-Feb-23	Lottery SK	£ 39.00				
7-Mar-23	Lottery SK	£ 32.00				
17-Mar-23	Western Power	£ 70.96			Closing Balance	£5,945.97
		£ 10,530.76				£ 10,530.76

THE BYTHAMS WOODLAND TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1182600

Accounts



THE BYTHAMS WOODLAND TRUST
(Registered Charity 1182600)
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021/22

Introduction

I am very pleased to be able to introduce the eighteenth Chairman's Report for the Bythams Woodland Trust (BWT).

Constitution

There have been no changes to our constitution. We are a registered charity and have an up to date and strengthened constitution.

Our annual returns to the Charity Commission were submitted on time. New Committee co-options were made at the AGM in 2021 and all of these have made a positive contribution to the work of the Trust. The Management Committee met on five occasions, including the AGM, either via ZOOM virtual conferencing or, more recently, live in Castle Bytham.

Covid 19

During the first nine months of the year when national Covid 19 restrictions were still in force, the Spinney remained fully open for visitors, but signage was put up asking the public to be responsible for their own health protection on their visit.

Funding

It was another relatively quiet year in respect of fund raising as no major applications were made. That said, we did receive grant funding from the Jack Patston Trust, we signed up to the SKDC Lottery which brings in a regular monthly payment, and received funding from our local Parish Councils.

Site Works

The main focus of our regular work sessions is to maintain the site in a good condition to ensure a continued enjoyable use by visitors. Our schedule during the year focussed on general maintenance - mowing, strimming, leaf clearing, tree felling and gleaning fallen branches, coppicing and general tidying, building new steps for the main slide, repairing play equipment, planting and weeding the sensory garden by hand!

During a wet spring, the site became very waterlogged and we had to re-create a whole new network of pathways using bark chippings in order that visitors could simply walk about without slipping over.

The Meadow is looking very much like the wildflower site we have always wanted and our seed planting during the past couple of years has paid off with a wonderful sward of meadow flowers in the summer - with most of the ragwort now pulled.

We added to our wooded area within the Meadow with whips of a variety of species as part of our Spinney Spring Thing.

During the early summer, we were able to complete a new hard surface overflow car park on the Meadow. This has bedded down really well, looks attractive and has been well used by visitors, especially when we have our Spinney events.

Events

A major disappointment was the sudden cancellation of our 'live' Tree Dressing Day planned for November 27 because of very cold and wet weather.

Instead, we were able to organise The Spinney Spring Thing on March 19th. This followed a similar format to Tree Dressing and included Jo Schofield helping to celebrate the Queens Green Canopy by making clay models of the figure 70, Overall, holding the event in warmer weather was much better received by volunteers and visitors alike.

Publicity and Promotion

Judging by the numbers of people who visited the Spinney, our publicity and promotion in all its forms is working extremely well. We continue to get many more visits not only from local people but also those who come in from much further afield. On some days the main car park and access road are completely full, so the overflow area on the meadow has proven to be invaluable.

Gavin Pye regularly updates our website at www.bythamspinney.co.uk.

We are on Facebook (www.facebook.com/bythamsSpinney) and our 'likes' have reached well over 4000. We have investigated how best we might optimize voluntary donations through <http://www.charitygiving.co.uk/bythamswoodland>.

Health and Safety

This remains a key priority and a continuing requirement of our insurance arrangements. The Spinney is a natural wild woodland and there will always be an element of risk and adventure in what we do.

We had our annual ROSPA Play Area Safety Inspection Report in August and it is very pleasing to note that in all areas, there were no major issues. We have used the report to guide us as we carry out the repairs that were identified as needing remediation.

Future Plans

Our key plan is to implement a major upgrade of the majority of our play equipment, some of which has been on the site since we opened. We want to link this into our 20th birthday celebrations in 2023.

A design brief was prepared and sent out to 6 potential suppliers. We received 3 responses, each of which had their own interpretation of the brief with a different costing. We will need competitive quotes in order to comply with the requirements of likely funders as we will be seeking funds in excess of £100k.

However, even though we are only replacing existing equipment with something similar in each location on the site, we are required to get full planning permission. The process was started and we are awaiting a decision later in the current year.

The BWT is always looking for more volunteers to help with what we are trying to achieve at The Spinney and we welcome all offers of support. And of course, while the adults are working, we want to encourage children to come to the site to take part in some of the most fantastic play experiences that nature can offer - adventurous, dirty, rough, creative, destructive, imaginative, active, physical, healthy - the sort of play opportunities many of us probably had thirty or so years ago but sadly do not seem so prevalent today.

In a post pandemic world, there is a strong national drive to compensate for the stresses and pressures put on children and families, and what is called the 'nature deficit' for children who may have missed out on the wonders of the natural environment. It is pretty clear that there is no such deficit at the Spinney.

Thanks

There are so many people who deserve to be thanked for the tremendous time and effort that they have put into the Spinney during this year.

All the Trustees and Advisors use their different skills and experiences to ensure that the BWT is well managed to do what needs to be done. We have a really solid Saturday morning maintenance crew who put in the time week in, week out. Many thanks to Sam, Gavin, Simon G, Richard, Simon C, Tim, Luke, Gillian, James and Thomas.

We have managed to retain our excellent team of Duke of Edinburgh students who have worked incredibly hard to help shift barrowloads of bark to put under the play equipment and create new paths all over the site. Thanks to James, James, Oliver, Oscar and Harry. We wish them all the best as they go off to University.

We have received great support from FOBS and those at the Bythams School, while Jo Schofield continues to make some amazing woodland creations at all our events.

Thanks to The Glenside News for regularly publishing our news and stories; Trevor Harris who services all our mechanical equipment; Tim Rasell who advises on plants and good horticulture tips; Aqualoos who provide the much needed toilets for our events; Gilbert Elson, who cuts the hedges and the meadow. Tim Smith did a brilliant job on the overflow car park and also some re-landscaping on the main site.

We are also very appreciative of our funders - the local Parish Councils, the Castle Bytham Mid-summer Festival Committee, and all those individuals who have made very kind donations throughout the year. Their continued support is greatly valued.

Finally, our warmest thanks must go to the local community and especially the children who use the site for their play, adventure, learning or simple relaxation and without whom, the whole thing would simply not be worthwhile.

Dr Patrick Candler, Chairman of BWT
8.9.22

The Bythams Woodland Trust
Little Bytham
Grantham
Lincs Charity Ref 118 2600

Annual Accounts **1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022**

Date	IN For	Amount	Date	Type	OUT For	Amount
	opening balance	£6,742.20				
7-Apr-21	Lottery SK	£ 55.00	26-Apr-21	bacs	P Candler - mower repairs	£145.36
8-Apr-21	CBPC	£ 400.00	20-Jul-21	bacs	Tim Smith Car park	£3,100.00
11-May-21	Lottery SK	£ 44.00	20-Sep-21	bacs	Gavin Pye - mower wheel	£20.14
11-May-21	Amazon Europe Core	£ 14.60	20-Sep-21	bacs	Playsafety Ltd RSPA	£147.60
11-Jun-21	Lottery SK	£ 55.00	21-Sep-21	bacs	Meadow cutting GH Elsen	£600.00
30-Jun-21	Paypal	£ 2.00	5-Oct-21	bacs	Gavin Pye - refreshments	£5.12
6-Jul-21	National fund donate	£ 97.64	19-Oct-21	bacs	Men in Sheds 50% deposit	£100.00
6-Jul-21	Lottery SK	£ 40.00	1-Nov-21	bacs	Gavin Pye - unleaded fuel	£24.28
29-Jul-21	Paypal	£ 1.00	25-Nov-21	bacs	Gavin Pye - bunting	£23.98
10-Aug-21	Lottery SK	£ 35.00	3-Jan-22	bacs	J Scofield Tree Dressing 2021	£192.28
17-Aug-21	Amazon Europe Core	£ 16.05	12-Jan-22	bacs	S & J Adams padlocks	£61.64
27-Aug-21	Paypal	£ 7.00	9-Feb-22	bacs	Men in Sheds 50% final	£100.00
15-Sep-21	Lottery SK	£ 40.00	4-Mar-22	bacs	Gavin Pye - tools	£32.92
5-Oct-21	Sth Kesteven	£ 200.00	17-Mar-22	bacs	NFU insurance	£1,073.08
5-Oct-21	Lottery SK	£ 34.50	27-Mar-22	bacs	Aqualoos - Spring Thing	£84.00
19-Oct-21	CAF	£ 200.00	27-Mar-22	bacs	Medic - Adrian Clark Spring Thing	£100.00
10-Nov-21	Lottery SK	£ 34.50	27-Mar-22	bacs	Patrick - use of van	£20.00
13-Dec-21	Amazon Europe Core	£ 13.15				
13-Dec-21	CAF	£ 10.00				
14-Dec-21	Lottery SK	£ 37.50				
20-Dec-21	E Squire donation	£ 120.00				
31-Dec-21	National fund donate	£ 97.38				
11-Jan-22	Lottery SK	£ 27.00				
12-Jan-22	NFU Claims	£ 1,220.56				
12-Jan-22	Lottery SK	£ 32.50				
15-Feb-22	Amazon Europe Core	£ 12.28				
23-Feb-22	Western Power	£ 70.72				
15-Mar-22	Lottery SK	£ 26.00				
					Closing Balance	£3,855.18
		£ 9,685.58				£ 9,685.58

THE BYTHAMS WOODLAND TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1182600

Accounts



THE BYTHAMS WOODLAND TRUST
(Registered Charity 1182600)
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020/21

Introduction

I am very pleased to be able to introduce the seventeenth Chairman's Report for the Bythams Woodland Trust (BWT) and to report on a year like no other that anyone has experienced.

Covid 19

The Covid 19 pandemic and the associated national 'lockdowns' which were implemented after March 23 have had a significant impact on the work of the Trust and on the site itself - but in ways that we might not at first have appreciated.

For the first three months of the year (April/May/June) the site was closed to visitors, but after the re-opening in July, there was a huge increase in users which, at times, almost overwhelmed the site. It is evident that as we were one of the few places that could remain open in the second half of the year, especially during lockdowns two and three, we attracted many new people to visit and take their exercise.

Constitution

There have been no changes to our constitution this year. We are a registered charity, but we have an up to date and strengthened constitution.

Our annual returns to the Charity Commission were submitted on time. New Committee co-options were made at the AGM in 2020 and all of these have made a positive contribution to the work of the Trust. The Management Committee met on six occasions, including the AGM, all via ZOOM virtual conferencing.

Funding

Not surprisingly, it was another relatively quiet year in respect of fund raising as no major applications were made. That said, we did receive a grant funding from the local CO-OP community scheme and also from the TESCO Bags of Help. We signed up to the SKDC Lottery which brings in a regular monthly payment.

We are always grateful to receive financial support from the Castle and Little Bytham Parish Councils, whose contributions are vital to help with the day to day running costs of the Spinney.

Site Works

The main focus of our regular work sessions is to maintain the site in a good condition to ensure a continued enjoyable use by visitors. And, in many ways, a positive outcome of the site closure during spring was the remarkable growth of trees and plants and use of the site made by natural wildlife. As there were no visitors, coupled with a warm and sunny spring, the site physically blossomed and bloomed and looked in as good health as at any time since we started the project.

Though our regular work parties did not take place when we were closed, we were extremely fortunate that Gavin Pye was able to use some of his furlough time to complete a wide range of repairs and improvements to the play equipment that we had been meaning to complete for some time, but never got round to doing.

Once the site re-opened, our work schedule during the year picked up in terms of general maintenance - mowing, strimming, leaf clearing, tree felling and gleaning fallen branches, coppicing and general tidying, building new steps, repairing play equipment, planting and weeding the sensory garden by hand!

During one of the wettest springs for decades, the site became very waterlogged and we had to re-create a whole new network of pathways using bark chippings in order that visitors could simply walk about without slipping over.

Another outcome from the winter season was the damage caused to the overflow car park which had to be closed off from October onwards. Plans are in hand to put in a hard surface area to allow for winter parking.

The Meadow is looking very much like the wildflower site we have always wanted and our seed planting during the past couple of years has paid off with a wonderful sward of meadow flowers in the summer - with most of the ragwort now pulled. We again contracted with Gilbert Elson to trim and shape all the hedges in February.

We added to our wooded area within the Meadow with whips of a variety of species given by the Woodland Trust as part of their Charter for Trees project.

Events

A major disappointment was the cancellation of our 'live' Tree Dressing Day planned for November because of Covid 19 restrictions. However, as an alternative we organised a competitive virtual event, where we encouraged our visitors to dress a tree in their home or garden and then send us the images. We had some really excellent responses with some lovely designs and it was really hard to pick a first, second and third winner. Our thanks to all the entrants and it may well be that this becomes a regular Spinney activity.

Publicity and Promotion

Judging by the numbers of people who visited the Spinney, our publicity and promotion in all its forms is working extremely well. We are getting many more visits not only from local people but also those who come in from much further afield. On some days the main car park and access road are completely full, so the overflow area on the meadow has proven to be invaluable.

Gavin Pye regularly updates our website at www.bythamspinney.co.uk.

We are on Facebook (www.facebook.com/bythamsSpinney) and our 'likes' have reached well over 4000. We have investigated how best we might optimize voluntary donations through <http://www.charitygiving.co.uk/bythamswoodland>.

Health and Safety

This remains a key priority and a continuing requirement of our insurance arrangements. The Spinney is a natural wild woodland and there will always be an element of risk and adventure in what we do.

We had our annual ROSPA Play Area Safety Inspection Report in August and it is very pleasing to note that in all areas, there were no major issues. We have used the report to guide us as we carry out the repairs that were identified as needing remediation.

Future Plans

High quality, regular maintenance and upkeep of the woodland and meadow will be critical to keep the site in good condition. We have discussed the need to make a substantial new grant application to one of the major charity funders to replace or upgrade the play equipment that was installed nearly 20 years ago and is nearing the end of its shelf life.

We commissioned a new playground design company to review our equipment provision and we received their designs at the same time as the start of the first lockdown. When we contacted them later in the year, to our disappointment we learnt that the company had been put into administration. Fortunately, we still have some good contacts in the play equipment sector, and at the time of writing, new design plans are being prepared.

The BWT is always looking for more friends to help with what we are trying to achieve at The Spinney and we welcome all offers of support. And of course, while the adults are working, we want to encourage children to come to the site to take part in some of the most fantastic play experiences that nature can offer - adventurous, dirty, rough, creative, destructive, imaginative, active, physical, healthy - the sort of play opportunities many of us probably had twenty or so years ago but sadly do not seem so prevalent today. In a post pandemic world, there is a strong national drive to compensate for the stresses and pressures put on children and families, and what is called the 'nature deficit' for children who may have missed out on the wonders of the natural environment. It is pretty clear that there is no such deficit at the Spinney.

Thanks

There are so many people who deserve to be thanked for the tremendous time and effort that they have put into the Spinney during this most challenging of years.

All the Trustees and Advisors use their different skills and experiences to ensure that the BWT is well managed to do what needs to be done. We have a really solid Saturday morning maintenance crew who put in the time week in, week out. Many thanks to Sam, Gavin, Simon G, Richard, Simon C, Tim, Luke, Gillian, James and Thomas.

We have managed to retain our excellent team of Duke of Edinburgh students who have worked incredibly hard to help shift barrowloads of bark to put under the play equipment and create new paths all over the site. Thanks to James, James, Oliver, Oscar and Harry.

We have received great support from FOBS and those at the Bythams School, while Jo Schofield continues to make some amazing woodland creations at our events - both live and virtual.

Thanks to The Glenside News for regularly publishing our news and stories, Trevor Harris who services all our mechanical equipment, Tim Rasell who advises on plants and good horticulture tips, and Aqualoos who provide the much needed toilets for our events.

We are also very appreciative of our funders - the local Parish Councils, the Castle Bytham Mid-summer Festival Committee, and all those individuals who have made very kind donations throughout the year. Their continued support is greatly valued.

Finally, our warmest thanks must go to the local community and especially the children who use the site for their play, adventure, learning or simple relaxation and without whom, the whole thing would simply not be worthwhile.

Dr Patrick Candler, Chairman of BWT
4.6.21



The Bythams Woodland Trust
Little Bytham
Grantham
Lincs

Charity Ref 118 2600

Annual Accounts

1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

Date	IN For	Amount	Date	Type	OUT For	Amount
	opening balance	£5,741.31				
7-Apr-20	Lottery SK	£41.50	26-Apr-20	bacs	H Sharpe wood chips	£588.00
9-Apr-20	CoOp	£632.64	15-Apr-20	bacs	Gavin Pye - wheel	£10.99
3-May-20	Tesco Bags Gnd Work	£1,166.00	3-May-20	bacs	Gavin Pye - fuel and paint	£43.66
12-May-20	Lottery SK	£38.00	12-May-20	bacs	IC Stafford	£180.00
21-May-20	Amazon Europe Core	£5.00	9-J un-20	bacs	Gavin Pye - paint & fuel	£95.88
2-J un-20	Lottery SK	£37.50	9-J un-20	bacs	Gavin Pye - cutting line	£13.85
3-J ul-20	Zellis donation	£210.41	30-J ul-20	bacs	Gavin Pye - wheel barrow	£58.68
7-J un-20	Lottery SK	£45.00	30-J ul-20	bacs	Gavin Pye - Verdon timber	£166.56
4-Aug-20	Lottery SK	£38.00	18-Aug-20	bacs	Gavin Pye - Screw fix	£17.97
4-Aug-20	Paypal	£7.26	14-Sep-20	bacs	Gavin Pye - T45 & Verdon	£19.59
8-Sep-20	Lottery SK	£55.00	24-Sep-20	bacs	Gavin Pye - T45 & Verdon	£99.94
8-Sep-20	Lottery SK	£41.00	28-Sep-20	bacs	Playsafety Ltd RSPA	£147.60
2-Nov-20	PayPal	£2.00	6-Oct-20	bacs	Gavin Pye - Signage	£39.12
6-Nov-20	LCF - CoOp	£1,596.48	22-Oct-20	bacs	Gavin Pye - Signage	£25.81
18-Nov-20	LBPC	£350.00	9-Nov-20	bacs	Gavin Pye - posts and rope	£198.24
10-Nov-20	Lottery SK	£42.50	7-Dec-20	bacs	Meadow cutting GH Elsen	£600.00
16-Nov-20	Amazon Europe Core	£12.03	9-Dec-20	bacs	M Truscott 2nd prize	£30.00
27-Nov-20	National Fund Donate	£170.58	9-Dec-20	bacs	R Fuller 3rd prize	£20.00
27-Nov-20	Next PLC	£200.00	10-Dec-20	bacs	J Skinner 1st prize	£50.00
16-Dec-20	Hermes	£300.00	21-Dec-20	bacs	H Sharpe wood chips	£588.00
9-Dec-20	Lottery SK	£42.50	12-J an-21	bacs	Hedge cutting GH Elsen	£240.00
23-Dec-20	Paypal	£25.00	15-Feb-21	bacs	Gavin Pye - fuel & barrow wheel	£32.54
29-Dec-20	D Morrow	£50.00	15-Mar-21	bacs	NFU insurance	£1,029.22
5-J an-21	Lottery SK	£39.00				
2-Feb-21	Lottery SK	£44.00				
11-Feb-21	Amazon Europe Core	£12.73				
11-Feb-21	Western Power	£71.40				
	Lottery SK	£44.00				
		£7.00				
	CBPC	£400.00			Closing Balance	£7,172.19
		£11,467.84				£11,467.84