

Friend of Sunnyhurst Wood Chair's Report June 2021

The last 12 months have been a trying time for the FOSW due to the impact of the Global Pandemic.

In the latter half of 2020 due to the restrictions imposed by the government we had to cancel our regular monthly volunteer mornings and planned events. This sadly included our annual Carol in the Woods event; this was a major blow as this is the event that we raise awareness of what the FOSW are trying to achieve and is also our main income generator.

Not to be phased by the restrictions the FOSW started to adapt to the new ways imposed on us, one of the main changes was the use of Teams for our meeting, although this caused some problems in that some members were unable to attend meetings and some issues with internet connections. In the main the meetings have been a success and have enabled the group to carry on all but in a limited capacity. The restriction also made us refocus our time and efforts onto things that we could attempt in the current situation. The main focus was placed on raising funds for current and future projects that the FOSW have planned, these included the desilting of the paddling pool and projects that are included in the Masterplan.

£3500 was raised from Darwen council for desilting the paddling pool, the work was carried out by STC builders at the end of March 2021.

The committee started to apply for funding from various pots and faced many rejections, most of which were down to one of three things: We were not financially impacted by the Corona virus, we are not BAME and our lack of skill/knowledge in applying for funding.

But eventually perseverance paid off. One of the funding pots that Les Slack applied to (Bannister Charitable Trust) made a donation to the FOSW of £25000. The Visitor Centre is now being sublet on a regular basis by another charitable group (Snowdrop Doula) which brings in a regular income. There is also ongoing discussion that this may increase, and other groups have also started to show an interest.

So, from what looked to be a bleak year financially for the FOSW is turning out to be a good one.

Up to now we have raised in the region of £30,000 which is probably our best year so far.

In the latter half of the year I attended a focus group for the Darwen Town Deal bid. At first it appeared that no money was going to be allocated to the green spaces in Darwen but by the end of discussion I think that between myself and other attendees who have links to green spaces this has now changed. Although I don't think any money will come to the FOSW directly I think some money will be allocated to the repairs of the paths leading up to the moors.

We have submitted an application for funding towards the Masterplan directly to the committee of the Darwen Town Deal bid but as of yet we have not received a response.

Discussions are ongoing with BWDC regarding the Masterplan and how to move forward with a Heritage Lottery Bid. There has been discussions that it may not be the right time to put in a bid at the moment due the lottery's bid criteria related to the pandemic and the number of bids being submitted from other groups in the local area

A big thank you to Brian Taylor who was integral in having the NHS bench located in Sunnyhurst Wood. This brought a bit of much needed publicity to the woods.

As a group we have decided that the projects we are going to focus on this year are

Repairs to a section of the Disabled Entrance.

Repairs and widening of the stream near the marble bridge.

Repairs to Falcon Ave gates.

Work will be starting on these projects once contractors and quotes have been finalised and agreed.

Since the restrictions have been eased and we are now able to run our monthly volunteer mornings attendance has improved significantly with quite a few new volunteers turning up for the first time and then returning. Hopefully, this is a trend that will continue.

Looking back at the past twelve months I would personally like to say a massive thank you to all the FOSW who have contributed in what has been achieved. It has been a very difficult year in more ways than one and I think what you have achieved has been amazing and you should be proud of yourselves.

It is a privilege to be the chair of such a determined, committed, and friendly group.

I will finish off as I did last year and reiterate, I would still like to step down as chair.

I still feel that a more suitable person with the right skills will be able to move the group forward in the direction that it needs to go in. This will only come into play once a suitable chair has been found who can take the group in the right direction. I will in no way be leaving the group and will still be taking a very active part in all that will be going on.

Dougie Wright
Chair

Friends of Sunnyhurst Wood

Financial Report

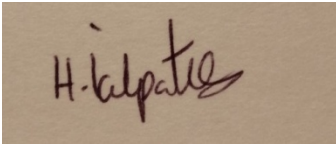
For the year ended
31st March 2021

Completed by Les Slack

Signature 

Date 20th May 2021

Audited by Hayley Kilpatrick

Signature 

Date 15th June 2021

Financial Position

The income of the group has increased substantially this year by £23055. This is due to United Utilities (UU) granting the release of the £4353 it had been holding for us from last year and also the £25000 funding we have received from Banister Charitable Trust.

From October 2020 to March 2021 we rented out the Visitor Centre to a Pre & Post Natal Women's support group on a regular basis and this brought in £900. Other donations include:-

£150.28 from the Coop box.

£70 from Wild One Adventures.

£200 from a Mrs Howson for us to maintain her parent's wooden bench. £82.16 of this was spent acquiring and fitting two new Stainless Steel plaques.

Fundraising from events normally held in the wood came in at zero due to no events because of Covid-19.

Expenditure

Our expenditure this year has significantly reduced by £6532. This is due mainly to Covid-19 which stopped us doing any events/fundraising, promotions or charitable activities. Also last year we had a large bill to pay to Newground for the Masterplan. We have had the paddling pool emptied which was kindly paid for by Darwen Town Council. Reduced Visitor Centre costs added up to £54. Our largest expenditure was for work done on the Falcon Avenue path £576, and maintenance of the Visitor Centre garden, £320 . £105.69 of this was offset from the CVS grant from last year.

Reserves

Once again our financial situation is very good and we can meet our target of £1500 in reserve in case of any emergencies.

Restricted Funding

- £1500 : Reserves for group emergencies
- £1800 : Darwen Town Council grant for upgrade to Falcon Avenue path.
- £200 : FOSW contribution for upgrade to Falcon Avenue path.

Detailed Account Breakdown

Date	Description	Type	Receipt No	Income	Expenditure	Total
01.04.20	Balance brought Forward					£8,553.58
15.04.20	Visitor centre garden	Garden Maintenance	94		£40.00	£8,513.58
14.05.20	Visitor centre garden	Garden Maintenance	95		£40.00	£8,473.58
04.06.20	Visitor centre garden	Garden Maintenance	96		£40.00	£8,433.58
22.06.20	Peppercorn Rent	Visitor Centre costs	Faster payment		£1.00	£8,432.58
30.06.20	Visitor centre garden	Garden Maintenance	97		£40.00	£8,392.58
30.06.20	Electric Kettle	Visitor Centre costs	98		£19.78	£8,372.80
26.07.20	Paint	Paint for benches	99		£17.99	£8,354.81
28.07.20	Co-op Box	Donation	PIB 500024	£58.57		£8,413.38
28.07.20	Visitor centre garden	Garden Maintenance	100		£40.00	£8,373.38
02.09.20	Visitor centre garden	Garden Maintenance	101		£40.00	£8,333.38
17.09.20	Wood filler	For wooden animals	102		£8.00	£8,325.38
21.09.20	Wood filler X2	For wooden animals	103		£16.00	£8,309.38
30.09.20	Visitor centre garden	Garden Maintenance	104		£20.00	£8,289.38
02.10.20	Co-op Box	Donation	PIB 500025	£39.93		£8,329.31
05.10.20	Tracey Howson	Donation for repainting and future maintenance of dad's bench				£8,429.31
09.10.20	Visitor centre garden	Garden Maintenance	105		£20.00	£8,409.31
19.10.20	Snowdrop Doula	Hire of Visitor	Invoice No	£20.00		£8,429.31

0		Centre	3			1
26.10.20		Hire of Visitor	Invoice No			£8,449.3
0	Snowdrop Doula	Centre	4	£20.00		1
26.10.20		Hire of Visitor	Invoice No			£8,469.3
0	Snowdrop Doula	Centre	5	£20.00		1
30.10.20	Post Office	Stationary & Postage to Lloyds Bank	106		£2.72	£8,466.59
02.11.20	Wild One Adventures	Donation		£20.00		£8,486.59
02.11.20		Hire of Visitor	Invoice No			£8,506.5
0	Snowdrop Doula	Centre	6	£20.00		9
02.11.20		Hire of Visitor	Invoice No			£8,526.5
0	Snowdrop Doula	Centre	7	£20.00		9
10.11.20		Hire of Visitor	Invoice No			£8,546.5
0	Snowdrop Doula	Centre	8	£20.00		9
10.11.20		Hire of Visitor	Invoice No			£8,566.5
0	Snowdrop Doula	Centre	9	£20.00		9
06.11.20		Laminator for FOSW use	107		£25.99	£8,540.60
11.11.20	Amazon Visitor centre garden	Garden Maintenance	108		£40.00	£8,500.60
16.11.20		Hire of Visitor	Invoice No			£8,520.6
0	Snowdrop Doula	Centre	10	£20.00		0
16.11.20		Hire of Visitor	Invoice No			£8,540.6
0	Snowdrop Doula	Centre	11	£20.00		0
23.11.20		Hire of Visitor	Invoice No			£8,580.6
0	Snowdrop Doula	Centre	12	£40.00		0
30.11.20		Hire of Visitor	Invoice No			£8,620.6
0	Snowdrop Doula	Centre	13	£40.00		0
07.12.20		Hire of Visitor	Invoice No			£8,660.6
0	Snowdrop Doula	Centre	14	£40.00		0
14.12.20		Hire of Visitor	Invoice No			£8,700.6
0	Snowdrop Doula	Centre	15	£40.00		0
17.12.20				£4,353.03		£13,053.63
0	United Utilities	Donation	109			
21.12.20	Wild One Adventures	Donation		£50.00		£13,103.63
23.12.20		Hire of Visitor	Invoice No			£13,143.63
0	Snowdrop Doula	Centre	16	£40.00		
30.12.20						£13,177.36
0	Co-op Box	Donation	PIB 500026	£33.73		
12.01.21		Hire of Visitor	Invoice No			£13,217.36
1	Snowdrop Doula	Centre	17	£40.00		
19.01.21		Hire of Visitor	Invoice No			£13,257.36
1	Snowdrop Doula	Centre	18	£40.00		
25.01.21	Tracey Howson	Money for two Memorial Plaques for her dad's bench		£82.16		£13,339.52
25.01.21						£13,357.36
1	Tracey Howson	Donation		£17.84		
26.01.21		Hire of Visitor	Invoice No			£13,397.36
1	Snowdrop Doula	Centre	19	£40.00		36

26.01.21	Brunel Engraving	Two Memorial Plaques	110		£82.16	£13,315.20
02.01.21	Snowdrop Doula	Hire of Visitor Centre	Invoice No 20	£40.00		£13,355.20
04.02.21	Post Office	Stationary & Postage for Mandate to Lloyds Bank	111		£7.25	£13,347.95
09.02.21	Snowdrop Doula	Hire of Visitor Centre	Invoice No 21	£40.00		£13,387.95
09.02.21	Post Office	Postage for old memorial plaque back to Tracey Howson	112		£1.53	£13,386.42
11.02.21	Domestic Supplies. Toilet Rolls & cleaning products	Visitor Centre costs	113		£6.97	£13,379.45
15.02.21	STC Services (Plant Hire) Ltd	Excavate water channel & install path drainage	114		£576.00	£12,803.45
16.02.21	Snowdrop Doula	Hire of Visitor Centre	Invoice No 22	£40.00		£12,843.45
23.02.21	Snowdrop Doula	Hire of Visitor Centre	Invoice No 23	£40.00		£12,883.45
02.03.21	Snowdrop Doula	Hire of Visitor Centre	Invoice No 24	£40.00		£12,923.45
08.03.21	Snowdrop Doula	Hire of Visitor Centre	Invoice No 25	£40.00		£12,963.45
10.03.21	Co-op Box	Donation	PIB 500027	£18.05		£12,981.50
16.03.21	Snowdrop Doula	Hire of Visitor Centre	Invoice No 26	£40.00		£13,021.50
17.03.21	Banister Charitable Trust	Donation		£25,000.00		£38,021.50
22.03.21	Snowdrop Doula	Hire of Visitor Centre	Invoice No 27	£60.00		£38,081.50
29.03.21	Snowdrop Doula	Hire of Visitor Centre	Invoice No 28	£60.00		£38,141.50

Account Summary

	Funds 2020/21	Funds 2019/20	
Income			
Donations	£420.28	£1,795.46	
	£25,000.0		
Fundraising	0	£1,618.99	
Grants	£4,353.03	£3,220.00	
Other	£0.00	£0.00	
Hire of Visitor Centre	£900.00	£40.00	
	£30,673.	£6,774.4	
Income for Year	31	5	
	£8,553.5	£9,396.6	
Balance brought forward	8	1	
	£39,226.	£16,171.	
Total Income	89	06	
 Expenditure			
Woodland Maintainance	£700.15	£5,100.92	
Charitable Activity	£0.00	£361.50	
Events/Fundraising	£0.00	£328.85	
Promotion	£0.00	£1,563.00	
Visitor Centre costs	£53.74	£256.45	
Visitor Centre garden costs	£320.00	£0.00	
Stationary & Postage	£11.50	£0.00	
Misc	£0.00	£6.76	
	£1,085.3	£7,617.4	
Total Expenditure	9	8	
Total Funds Carried Forward	£38,141.50	£8,553.58	
 Restricted Funds			
Reserves	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	
CVS Grant	£0.00	£196.17	#
DTC Grant for Falcon Ave Path	£1,800.00	£1,800.00	
FOSW contribution to Falcon Ave Path	£200.00	£200.00	
	£3,500.0	£3,696.1	
Total Restricted Funds	0	7	
	£34,641.	£4,857.4	
Unrestricted Carry Forward	50	1	
	£0.00	£4,303.5	
Money remaining from UU grant and held by UU		3	

CVS Grants

£196.17 remaining from last years CVS grants was put towards the Volunteer, Visitor Centre Garden Maintenance and Woodland Maintenance costs.

Budget Item	Budget	Actual Item	Actual	Remaining
External signs	£200.00	2 x promo flags	£162.27	
Volunteer expenses	£200.00	20 x high vis vests	£169.80	
		Food hygiene training	£12.00	
		Replace faulty kettle @ VC	£19.78	#
		Stationary & Postage	£2.72	#
		Laminator for FOSW use.	£25.99	#
Gazebo	£270.00	Gazebo	£268.00	
External notice board	£100.00	Chalk eraser (CVS)	£1.78	
		Chalk board (CVS)	£21.99	
		Chalk pens (CVS)	£12.14	
		Equipment for Whimsical		
		Day Activities	£11.50	
Refreshments	£130.00	Big Lunch refreshments	£6.90	
		Whimsical Day refreshments	£23.38	
		Carols in the Wood refreshments	£86.57	
Other VC improvements	£100.00	Games	£55.59	
		Decorating VC	£44.41	
Garden Maintenance	£220.00	Mulch for VC garden	£67.50	
		Garden Maintenance	£80.00	
		Garden Maintenance	£72.50	#
		Garden Maintenance	£33.19	#
Woodland Maintenance		Wood filler for wooden animals	£24.00	#
		Paint for Benches	£17.99	#
Total	£1,220.00		£1,220.00	

Friends of Sunnyhurst Wood

Financial Report

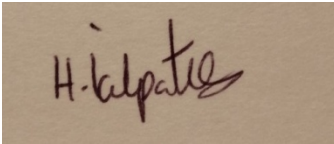
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Other	£0.00	£0.00	
Hire of Visitor Centre	£900.00	£40.00	
	£30,673.	£6,774.4	
Income for Year	31	5	
	£8,553.5	£9,396.6	
Balance brought forward	8	1	
	£39,226.	£16,171.	
Total Income	89	06	
 Expenditure			
Woodland Maintainance	£700.15	£5,100.92	
Charitable Activity	£0.00	£361.50	
Events/Fundraising	£0.00	£328.85	
Promotion	£0.00	£1,563.00	
Visitor Centre costs	£53.74	£256.45	
Visitor Centre garden costs	£320.00	£0.00	
Stationary & Postage	£11.50	£0.00	
Misc	£0.00	£6.76	
	£1,085.3	£7,617.4	
Total Expenditure	9	8	
Total Funds Carried Forward	£38,141.50	£8,553.58	
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Reserves	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	
CVS Grant	£0.00	£196.17	#
DTC Grant for Falcon Ave Path	£1,800.00	£1,800.00	
FOSW contribution to Falcon Ave Path	£200.00	£200.00	
	£3,500.0	£3,696.1	
Total Restricted Funds	0	7	
	£34,641.	£4,857.4	
Unrestricted Carry Forward	50	1	
	£0.00	£4,303.5	
Money remaining from UU grant and held by UU		3	

CVS Grants

£196.17 remaining from last years CVS grants was put towards the Volunteer, Visitor Centre Garden Maintenance and Woodland Maintenance costs.

Budget Item	Budget	Actual Item	Actual	Remaining
External signs	£200.00	2 x promo flags	£162.27	
Volunteer expenses	£200.00	20 x high vis vests	£169.80	
		Food hygiene training	£12.00	
		Replace faulty kettle @ VC	£19.78	#
		Stationary & Postage	£2.72	#
		Laminator for FOSW use.	£25.99	#
Gazebo	£270.00	Gazebo	£268.00	
External notice board	£100.00	Chalk eraser (CVS)	£1.78	
		Chalk board (CVS)	£21.99	
		Chalk pens (CVS)	£12.14	
		Equipment for Whimsical		
		Day Activities	£11.50	
Refreshments	£130.00	Big Lunch refreshments	£6.90	
		Whimsical Day refreshments	£23.38	
		Carols in the Wood refreshments	£86.57	
Other VC improvements	£100.00	Games	£55.59	
		Decorating VC	£44.41	
Garden Maintenance	£220.00	Mulch for VC garden	£67.50	
		Garden Maintenance	£80.00	
		Garden Maintenance	£72.50	#
		Garden Maintenance	£33.19	#
Woodland Maintenance		Wood filler for wooden animals	£24.00	#
		Paint for Benches	£17.99	#
Total	£1,220.00		£1,220.00	