

Westmorland Damson Association.

Trustees' Annual Report - Year ended 31 December 2021

TRUSTEES

The Trustees who served during the year were:

Mark Basey-Fisher – Chair
Angela Slater - Secretary
Hilary Fitch – Membership Secretary
Peter Hensman – Treasurer
Desmond Holmes
Simon Paterson
Hartley Trotter
Adam Walker

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The Westmorland Damson Association is a Charity operating under a Constitution adopted on 2nd March 2010. Membership of the Association is open to anyone who supports the objectives of the Association. The day-to-day affairs are managed by an Executive Committee comprising Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and up to 6 other members who are appointed each year at the Annual General Meeting.

The Association can be contacted at Ingilnook, Charney Well Lane, Grange over Sands, Cumbria, LA11 6DB.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Westmorland Damson Association seeks to enhance the economy and landscape of traditional damson growing in Cumbria by supporting the growing, picking and use of Westmorland damsons. The objectives of the Association are:

- To encourage for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and expansion of damson orchards and the preservation of their genetic biodiversity, landscape and heritage value in Cumbria
- To advance the education of the public in the growing, cultivation and preservation of the Westmorland damson variety common to Cumbria.

To pursue these objectives, the Association:

1. Organises an Annual Damson Day in April every year. This public event provides opportunities for those attending to learn about the history and techniques of damson growing in the area, to purchase damson trees for planting and to buy and sell damson-based and other local products.
2. Encourages the growing, picking and use of damsons by buying in damsons from growers at harvest-time, freezing them and then selling them to those requiring them throughout the year.
3. Encourages the planting of new damson orchards through its Orchard Grant Scheme and the supply of damson suckers.
4. Promotes the growing and use of damsons by providing advice to members and the public through the circulation of a regular newsletter and other publications.

By pursuing these objectives, the Trustees continue to give due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

Disappointingly, the Covid-19 pandemic, for the second year running, caused the cancellation of Damson Day which should have been held in April 2021. This meant that a key feature of the Association's work to promote damsons and damson growing in Westmorland was lost.

The damson crop in 2021 was poor. Late frosts badly affected the lower lying orchards. The Association agreed to purchase 794 kg from 13 growers. Because 2020 sales had been badly affected by the pandemic, stock at the beginning of the year was higher than normal and, despite the poor harvest, the Association still had adequate stocks to sell. Demand, however, was disappointing with the larger purchasers generally remaining absent. Sales of damsons amounted to some 480kg leaving a stock at 31 December 2020 of approximately 1870 kg.

The arrangements for the storage and sale of damsons in collaboration with Witherslack Estate continued to work well.

A potential new site for Damson Day was located during 2021. Sadly, because of Covid-related delays, it could not be made ready for the 2022 Damson Day which had to be cancelled.

During the year, one application for an Orchard Grant of £120 was received. In addition, the Association responded to a number of requests for damson suckers to enable new planting.

Association officers also gave advice on damson tree planting and care and participated in a video recording about the history of the Lyth valley and its damsons. A successful stall promoting damsons and their use was organised at the Westmorland County Show.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

As a result of the low level of damson sales and the lack of any income from Damson Day, the Association made a loss of £1822 in the year. However, a balance of £38678 remained in unrestricted funds at 31 December.

The Trustees aim to hold sufficient cash reserves to enable them to fund both a Damson Day and the purchase of a year's damson crop. They estimate that cash reserves required would be of the order of £20,000. Reserves are currently in excess of this level which the Trustees believe to be prudent in view of the extra costs that are likely to be incurred in establishing the new site for Damson Day.

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

During the year permission was received from the Charity Commission to set up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the same name and objectives as the existing Charitable Trust. This comparatively new form of organisation will relieve the Trustees of personal liability for the activities of the Association which they do not consider to be appropriate in the current litigious world. As a result, and with the agreement of members at the 2021 AGM, the activities, assets and liabilities of the Charitable Trust were transferred to the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 1 January 2022 and the Charitable Trust was subsequently closed.

Approved by the Trustees on 24th May 2022.



M. Basey-Fisher
Chairman

WESTMORLAND DAMSON ASSOCIATION CHARITY (No 1134749)
Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
		£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES (all unrestricted)					
Donations and grants					
Membership subscriptions		675.00		670.00	
Gift Aid Tax recovered		103.59		100.78	
Grants received	1	0.00		6,000.00	
Donations received		<u>50.00</u>		<u>306.00</u>	
			828.59		7,076.78
Charitable Activities					
<u>Damson Day</u>					
Receipts					
Sponsorship and donations		0.00		0	
Displays and stalls		0		0.00	
Gate and walks		<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
		<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
Expenditure					
Setting -up		0.00		0.00	
Advertising and printing		0.00		0.00	
Entertainment		0.00		0.00	
General		<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
		<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
Net incoming resources from Damson Day			0.00		0.00
<u>Sale of Damsons</u>					
Sales		<u>2,067.30</u>		<u>9,167.00</u>	
Cost of sales	2	1,280.80		5,654.00	
Storage costs		1,152.88		1,007.45	
Depreciation of cold store		<u>732.00</u>		<u>732.00</u>	
		<u>3,165.68</u>		<u>7,393.45</u>	
Net incoming resouces from Sale of Damsons			-1,098.38		1,773.55
Interest on cash balances			71.83		117.21
Total Incoming Resources			<u>-197.96</u>		<u>8,967.54</u>

WESTMORLAND DAMSON ASSOCIATION CHARITY (No 1134749)

Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY (continued)

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable expenditure					
Orchard Grant Scheme for regeneration of Westmorland damson orchards			120.00		0.00
 Premises					
Rent		0.00		2,160.00	
Rates		<u>0.00</u>		<u>193.73</u>	
			0.00		2,353.73
 Management & Administration Costs					
Establishment & other costs	3	1,500.13		1,695.44	
Staff Costs - Honoraria		<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
			1,500.13		1,695.44
 Total Resources Expended			<u>1,620.13</u>		<u>4,049.17</u>
 Net Movement in Funds for the year			-1,818.09		4,918.37
 Fund Balances at 1st January 2021			<u>40,499.38</u>		<u>35,581.01</u>
Fund Balances at 31st December 2021			<u>38,681.29</u>		<u>40,499.38</u>

WESTMORLAND DAMSON ASSOCIATION CHARITY (No 1134749)
Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2021

BALANCE SHEET at 31st DECEMBER 2020

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2021</u> £	<u>2020</u> £
Fixed Assets			
Share of cold store	4	5,856.00	6588.00
Investments at cost, less provision for write down	5	0.00	0.00
		<u>5,856.00</u>	<u>6,588.00</u>
Current Assets			
Stock of damsons	2	4,986.00	4,150.00
Debtors & Prepayments	6	103.59	100.78
Bank and cash balances	7	27,940.70	29,865.60
		<u>33,030.29</u>	<u>34,116.38</u>
Less Creditors and advance receipts	8	<u>205.00</u>	<u>205.00</u>
Net Current Assets		32,825.29	33,911.38
Total Net Assets		<u>38,681.29</u>	<u>40,499.38</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted funds	10	<u>38,681.29</u>	<u>40,499.38</u>

The attached notes form part of these financial statements.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

M Basey Fisher

PRW Hensman

Date:

WESTMORLAND DAMSON ASSOCIATION CHARITY (No 1134749)
Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2021

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
1. Grants Received		
Local Authority Covid-19 Grant	<u>0.00</u>	<u>6000.00</u>
2. Sale of damsons - cost of sales		
Opening stock	4150.00	5524.00
Purchases	<u>2116.80</u>	<u>4280.00</u>
	6266.80	9804.00
Closing stock	<u>4986.00</u>	<u>4150.00</u>
Cost of sales	<u>1280.80</u>	<u>5654.00</u>
Stocks are valued at cost or realisable value, if lower .		
3. Establishment and other costs		
Insurance - Stock, buildings, cash in transit	1003.45	1359.81
Miscellaneous	196.68	0.00
Accounts Inspection	300.00	300.00
Newsletter	0.00	0.00
Website	<u>0.00</u>	<u>35.99</u>
	<u>1500.13</u>	<u>1695.80</u>
4. Fixed Assets		
50% share of Cold Store	7320.00	7320.00
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>1464.00</u>	<u>732.00</u>
	<u>5856.00</u>	<u>6588.00</u>
Depreciation is charged to write off the cold store over 10 years		
5. Investment Assets		
Shares in the Witherslack Community Shop, at cost.	5,000.00	5,000.00
Less provision for write down	<u>-5,000.00</u>	<u>-5,000.00</u>
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
6. Debtors		
Gift Aid Claimable	<u>103.59</u>	<u>100.78</u>
7. Bank and cash balances		
Barclays Bank	7,345.27	9,342.00
Skipton Building Society	20,595.43	20,523.60
Cash in Hand	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>27,940.70</u>	<u>29,865.60</u>
8 Creditors and advanced receipts		
Stall deposits carried forward	<u>205.00</u>	<u>205.00</u>

9. Trustees and related parties

No fees or expenses were paid to Trustees in the years ending 31st December 2021 or 2020

10. Reserves

The Trustees aim to hold sufficient cash reserves to enable them to fund both a Damson Day and the purchase of a year's damson crop. They estimate that the reserves required would be of the order of £20,000. Reserves are currently in excess of this level which the Trustees believe to be prudent in view of the extra costs that are likely to be incurred in establishing a new site for Damson Day.