



CROXTETH PARK VOLUNTEER GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2024



ABOUT US

Our Mission

Croxteth Park Volunteer Group undertakes a variety of projects on a voluntary basis. We aim to contribute to providing a legacy for future generations so they can also enjoy the natural environment across all 500 acres of park and woodlands of this amazing place which was gifted to the people of Liverpool by the Late Earl Sefton

The objects of the CIO are:

- To promote the conservation and protection of Croxteth Hall and Country Park for the public benefit
- Conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment
- Advance the education of the public in the Conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment
- Record and monitor biodiversity in and around Croxteth Country Park





Volunteers set off on yet another mission!

Overview

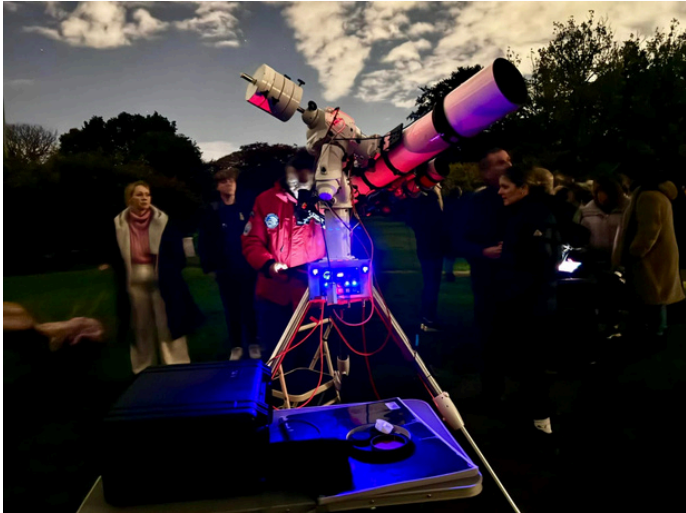
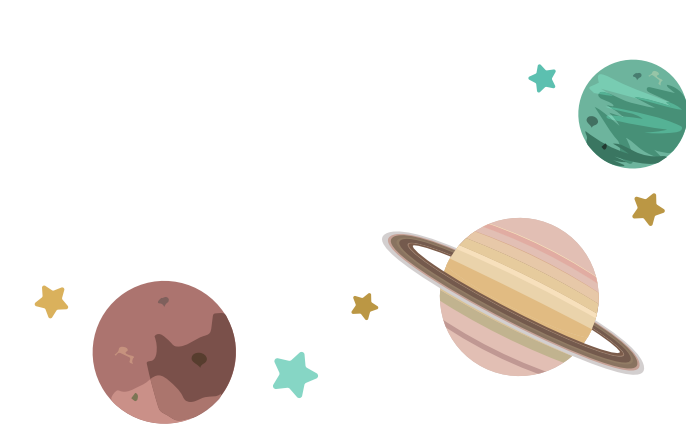


In addition to our core tasks and the management, maintenance and caretaking of The Kennels, Grade II listed building – tasks have included, painting the interior and exterior, installation of a new security system, planting memorial trees, clearing gutters and generally maintaining the physical integrity of the building.

We have had a very busy year, details of which are contained in this report.



Astronomy Nights at Croxteth



In the past year, CPVG has been proud to offer a range of engaging astronomy education events, aimed at inspiring and educating the public about the wonders of the universe. Through a variety of activities, including stargazing nights, workshops, public talks, and school outreach programs, we have reached over 300 participants, fostering curiosity and learning about astronomy.

Our stargazing events provided attendees with the opportunity to observe celestial phenomena through telescopes, while our workshops and talks, led by expert volunteers, covered topics ranging from basic stargazing techniques to advanced concepts in astrophysics. We also partnered with the Liverpool Astronomical Society to bring hands-on astronomy experiences to the local community igniting a passion for science and space exploration at an early age.

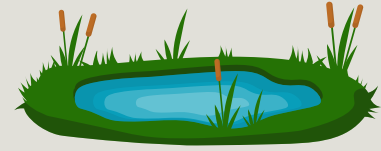


These events have not only deepened the community's understanding of the cosmos but have also created a welcoming environment for individuals of all ages and backgrounds to engage with science in a fun and accessible way.

We look forward to continuing to expand our reach in the coming year, with even more exciting and educational opportunities for all.



Partnership with Mersey Rivers Trust

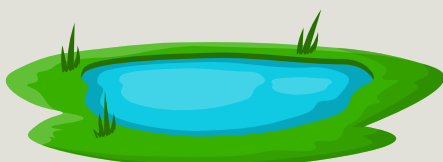


In collaboration with the Mersey Rivers Trust, we have made significant strides in environmental conservation and community engagement over the past year. One of the highlights of our partnership was the successful staging of a Bioblitz event, where volunteers and local residents came together to document and identify a wide variety of species in the area. This event not only raised awareness of local biodiversity but also fostered a deeper connection to the natural environment.

Additionally, we have been involved in the installation of Leaky Dams as part of a wider effort to improve water management and reduce flooding in our local ecosystem. These innovative structures help slow water flow, enhance soil retention, and support wildlife habitats. By working with the Mersey Rivers Trust, we have contributed to more sustainable, nature-based solutions to address local environmental challenges.

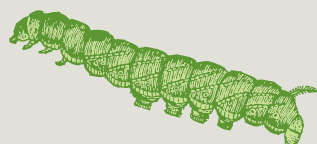
Our partnership also involved ongoing work to maintain the wetlands, which were established in 2020 to help with flood management, provide vital habitats for a range of wildlife and help regulate local water systems.

Volunteers have been involved in clearing invasive species, improving water quality, and ensuring the long-term health of these critical areas.



Another key project has been balsam bashing, where volunteers have worked to remove invasive Himalayan balsam from riverbanks and wetlands. This invasive plant can outcompete native species and disrupt local ecosystems, and our efforts to control its spread have helped to protect native flora and fauna and improve biodiversity in the area.

Through our ongoing partnership with the Mersey Rivers Trust, we have contributed to a more sustainable, biodiverse environment while engaging the local community in hands-on conservation work. We look forward to continuing these important projects and expanding our efforts in the year ahead.



Dipping Pond restoration

This year, we have made significant progress on the Dipping Pond Restoration project, transforming this valuable natural space into a more accessible and vibrant part of our local environment. Our efforts have focused on both ecological improvements and creating a welcoming space for visitors to enjoy and learn from.

One of the key elements of the restoration will be the creation of a wildflower area around the pond, which will enhance the aesthetic appeal of the site but also provide a habitat for pollinators and other local wildlife. The wildflower planting will contribute to increasing biodiversity, supporting a healthy, thriving ecosystem around the pond. The preparation work of the area has commenced and planting will be completed by Spring 2025.

To improve accessibility and comfort, we have also installed a new bench by the pond, providing a peaceful spot for visitors to sit and appreciate the surrounding natural beauty. Alongside this, we've made vital improvements to the pond's infrastructure, including the installation of a new boardwalk. This makes it easier for people to access and explore the pond area while minimising disruption to the environment.

Our team of volunteers has also worked hard to clear the pond of invasive pennywort, a non-native species that can choke aquatic habitats. By removing this plant, we've helped improve water quality and ensure that native species can thrive in the pond's ecosystem.



This restoration project will not only improve the health of the pond itself but will also create an educational space where visitors can observe and engage with the local wildlife.

The Dipping Pond project will continue into 2025 thanks to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. We are very grateful for the funding support we have received from the P.H. Holt Foundation, Liverpool City Council/Cobalt Housing and local Ward Councillors, Lila Bennett, Finley Nolan, Colette Goulding, Joanne Kennedy, Anthony Lavelle, Daniel Barrington, Barbara Murray and John Prince

We look forward to further enhancing this space in the years ahead.



General maintenance in the park

Over the past year, our dedicated team of CPVG volunteers has consistently contributed to the upkeep and enhancement of our community spaces through weekly general maintenance activities. Every week, volunteers have carried out vital tasks such as litter picks, ensuring that public areas remain clean and welcoming for all. They have also focused on restoring and clearing pathways, making outdoor spaces safer and more accessible for everyone.



In addition to these essential tasks, volunteers have worked tirelessly to maintain the aesthetic appeal of our community by painting bins and planting vibrant flower tubs throughout the area. These efforts not only help improve the environment but also foster a sense of pride within the community.

The commitment and hard work of our volunteers have had a lasting positive impact on the local area, contributing to a cleaner, greener, and more pleasant environment for residents and visitors alike.

We are incredibly grateful for the time, energy, and enthusiasm of our volunteers, and look forward to continuing these efforts in the coming year.



Volunteer 'Thank you' days

Throughout the year, we have organised several Volunteer Thank You Days to express our sincere gratitude to the dedicated volunteers who are the heart of our charity. These special events provide an opportunity for us to celebrate the hard work, time, and energy that our volunteers generously contribute to our various projects and initiatives.

Our thank you events are designed to be a relaxed and enjoyable way to acknowledge the efforts of our volunteers, whether through informal gatherings, social activities, or appreciation events. These gatherings not only allow us to show our thanks but also offer volunteers the chance to connect with one another and reflect on the impact of their collective efforts.

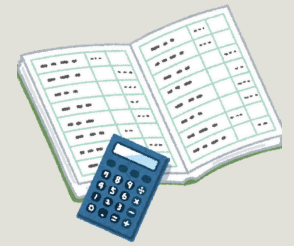


Looking ahead, we are excited to host a Christmas Thank You Day in December 2024, where we will once again gather to celebrate the achievements of the past year, share festive cheer, and recognise the exceptional contributions of our volunteer team. This event will be a special way to round off the year and express our heartfelt appreciation for the continued support and dedication of our volunteers.

These events have been an important part of fostering a sense of community and camaraderie within our volunteer team, and we are deeply grateful for all the time and passion our volunteers bring to the work we do.



Financial review



Reserves Policy

The charity aims to maintain reserves equivalent to six months of operational expenditure to provide financial stability, support in times of unexpected financial need, and ensure continuity of services. The reserve level is reviewed annually to ensure it remains appropriate in relation to the charity's size, activities, and potential risks

1. The Charity's Principal Sources of Funds (Including Any Fundraising):

CPVG's principal sources of funding come from a combination of individual donations, fundraising events, and grants from trusts and foundations. Our fundraising efforts are primarily volunteer-driven, with events designed to raise awareness and generate funds for our programs.

2. How Expenditure Has Supported the Key Objectives of the Charity:

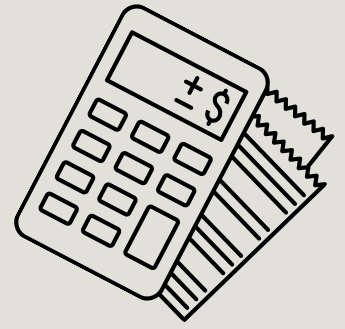
All expenditure is carefully planned to ensure that funds are directed towards the charity's core objectives. Our spending focuses on delivering the projects that directly benefit our beneficiaries, with a small portion allocated to operational costs. We regularly assess the impact of our spending to ensure it aligns with our objectives and supports our long-term goals.

3. Investment Policy and Objectives Including Any Ethical Investment Policy Adopted:

As a small charity, we do not engage in investment.

We are committed to ethical practices in all our financial decisions and avoid anything that may conflict with our charitable objectives or values. Our approach prioritises ensuring that funds are available to support our work in the park.

Income And Expenditure



CPVG Accounts 2024/25	
Expenditure	
Tools and equipment	£356.82
Volunteer related expenditure	£233.30
Event Costs	£118.46
Dipping Pond Project	£9,487.62
Security and Maintenance Kennels	£1,275.01
Sundries (Cleaning etc)	£78.90
Insurance	£157.00
Total Expenditure	£11,707.11
Income	
Opening Balance	£8,474.11
Grants	
LCC/Cobalt	£4,965.97
PH Holt Foundation	£6,300.00
LCC Ward Councillors	£2,500.00
Donations	£1,431.05
Total Income	£23,671.13
Operating Balance	£11,964.02

CPVG Trustees

Christine Beyga

Chair

Anthony Beyga

Volunteer Coordinator

Steven Kelly

Treasurer

Karen Fairhurst

Secretary

Patricia Helsby

Trustee

Lynne Condell

Trustee

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Trustee



Croxteth Park Volunteer Group Annual Report

Compiled by Christine Beyga, 2024

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