

THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2016



WOODLAND
TRUST

South Bank show, London

What a fun day we had back in January, launching our bold new partnership for a 'Charter for Trees, Woods and People' beside the London Eye. Our pavement artists created an ancient tree right by the Thames, and hundreds of people stopped to pose in its branches and add their names to the cause. Since then we've collected more than 50,000 stories from ordinary Brits about why trees matter, and now we're using them to help draft the Charter itself.

Pine romance, Highlands

Our most exciting buy in 2016 was the Caledonian pine forest at spectacular Loch Arkaig (pictured) – over a thousand hectares of woodland wilderness, staked out by statuesque 'granny pines'. It is a romantic landscape, and the project really seized the imagination of our supporters, who added more than £1 million to the pot. If you contributed, thank you. Now we're working up a 20-year plan to return the woods to health.

On safari, West Sussex

Touring the Knepp Castle Estate, near Horsham, felt like being on safari. The owner Charlie Burrell has turned over his farm to nature, introducing traditional breeds like English longhorns and Tamworth pigs, and proving that allowing natural processes to reign can be economically viable. Threatened species such as purple emperor butterflies and nightingales are returning. We'll be applying some of those lessons on the Trust's estate.

Going bats, Wye Valley

Monmouthshire was a new discovery for me in 2016, and it's beautiful – one of the few places in Britain where you can gaze across wave upon wave of wooded hills. The Trust owns some lovely sites there, and our challenge now is to link them so that birds, bats and other creatures can migrate across a more resilient countryside. It's one of our 19 new 'Treescape' regions across the UK, where we'll be targeting our work to bring landscape-scale change.

People power, Suffolk

I met so many inspiring people last year, but father and daughter team Rob and Joanna Brooks stood out. Their volunteer group at Brickmakers Wood in Ipswich have planted 420 free trees from the Trust to create a tranquil retreat for cancer patients in palliative care. It reflects our new £400,000 drive, supported by Nationwide Building Society, to empower more neighbourhood groups to look after their own woods.

Blue heaven, Cumbria

My favourite wildlife moment in 2016 was spotting a kingfisher on a woodland walk with my brother beside the River Petteril near Carlisle. Its plumage was just so vivid – you can barely believe it's a British bird at all. The Trust is doing amazing things with tree-planting on the Cumbrian fells – 1,500 hectares and counting – and that work will boost biodiversity and mitigate flooding for generations to come.

2016 was a humdinger for the Trust, and our supporters were at the heart of it, says chief executive Beccy Speight



WELL, WHAT A YEAR!

I began 2016 by unveiling the Trust's grand 10-year plan to transform the fortunes of trees and woods in the UK – but I couldn't have imagined it would prove

quite so momentous. Our successes were many: we planted almost three million saplings nationwide, many more than in 2015; we gathered another 1,400 hectares of land into our tender care; and rallied thousands of voices behind a landmark charter that will put trees back at the heart of British life.

Then in June came the Brexit vote. It has huge implications for conservation, and within weeks of the decision, I was pressing our case with the new Environment Secretary Andrea Leadsom – it illustrates how the Trust's influence continues to grow. Despite the upheaval, we are optimistic: leaving the EU could be a boon for nature if the right calls are made, and we'll bang the drum hard for woods and trees as 2017 unfolds.

We closed the year in fine fettle, with our income at an all-time high, volunteering on the rise, and a new skipper on our bridge: Baroness Barbara Young, who has brought immense hard work to the role of Trust chair. Huge thanks to her and to her predecessor Nicola Nicholls – and to you, our fantastic supporters. Nothing we achieved in 2016 could have happened without you.

REFLECT



ACHIEVE

Saplings and schoolchildren, seed hunts and sea eagles... here are just a few of the Trust's highlights from an all-action year

WTML

£2.9m

The astounding sum we raised to buy and restore the rare and iconic Caledonian pine forest at Loch Arkaig in the Scottish Highlands. We teamed up with locals to take ownership of the site, and the wildlife that's already benefiting includes ospreys, red squirrels and sea eagles – two chicks hatched last summer.

500K

The saplings we sent out to communities in one record-breaking week last November, as part of our pledge to plant 64 million native trees across the UK by 2025. The drive was boosted by a £1.9 million award from Defra to help primary school children plant 400,000 trees over the next four years.

19

The ambitious new 'Treescape' projects we unveiled nationwide, where we'll target our efforts to transform entire regions for nature. They include the urban fringes of North East England, the bucolic Faughan Valley in County Londonderry, and the intimate South Downs, a stronghold for ancient trees.

50,000

The personal testimonies shared by ordinary tree-lovers who backed our movement to forge a Charter for Trees, Woods and People. So far we've set up 140 'Charter branches', volunteer groups keen to champion their local woods. The document itself will be published this November, 800 years after the original Charter of the Forest.

5,248

The hectares of damaged woods we signed up for restoration in 2016 – miles ahead of our 3,000ha target. Trust experts advised 488 landowners on how to revive ancient woodland habitat that's been supplanted by shady conifers. In time, those woods will again buzz with birds, bugs and butterflies.

25

The start-up grants we issued for new 'community woods' across the north of England, thanks to a £400,000 scheme funded by Nationwide Building Society. It's part of a people-powered revolution across the UK, encouraging neighbourhood groups to take over their own woodland patch.

668

The new volunteers who got stuck into tasks for the Trust during 2016, from seed-hunters to tree-disease spotters. They include a 200-strong network of 'threat reporters', recruited to help us defend the 708 ancient woods now facing the axe from ill-placed development. Sadly our caseload is at an all-time high.

2,000

The revellers who enjoyed our spectacular Tring Park Family Festival in July – the trailblazer for a more visitor-friendly approach across the Trust estate. We've begun polishing up facilities at 250 of our best woods UK-wide, and Heartwood Forest has become our first site 'quality assured' by Visit England.

ACCOUNT

Here's how the Trust's sterling year added up...

£3.2m

Grants

Grant income rose by more than 20% year-on-year. A huge fillip came from the National Forest Company, which gave £635,000 to help buy a 52-hectare extension to our flagship Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Wood, part of the National Forest in Leicestershire.

£21.9m

Legacies

More money than ever before came from gifts left in people's wills, up by over 54% on 2015. The Trust's largest ever single legacy, worth an extraordinary £9.1 million, was largely responsible. Some of that will help fund our plan to spearhead a new forest spanning the cities of northern England.

£5.0m

Public donations

Our biggest fundraising appeal last year was to buy and restore Scotland's Loch Arkaig pinewoods, where a remarkable £1.1 million poured in from the public. Meanwhile, the Trust recovered £1.8m in tax because our supporters ticked the gift aid box – thank you!

£8.0m

Membership

The Trust now has more than 238,000 members, including 57,000 who are 'family members'. Overall we engaged with 100,000 new supporters in 2016, while our burgeoning band of volunteers gave us 218,000 hours of their time, saving us just over £2 million. Thank you so much!

£5.3m

Companies, trusts, landfill tax, sponsorship

This sum rose by nearly a third on 2015. Sainsbury's remains our largest corporate partner overall, having pumped another £1 million into our flagship First World War Centenary Woods project during 2016.

£6.2m

Other income

A major award from players of People's Postcode Lottery contributed £2.3 million to our work. Among other projects, that money has kick-started the Trust's exciting 10-year drive to champion Britain's beleaguered urban trees.

£49.6m
Total income

£8.2m

Protecting native woods and trees

Our busy campaigns team rallied to fight for a record number of ancient woods under threat last year – more than 150 nationwide. Major successes included the saving of beautiful Fairy Glen in Snowdonia, after more than 350 Trust supporters objected to a proposed hydroelectric scheme.

£4.1m

Acquisition of woods and land

We bought 13 sites for new woods and woodland restoration in 2016: 1,400ha in all, more than double our target for the year. Notable among them was 104ha Longbeech Wood, in Kent.

£11.1m

Creating woods and places rich in trees

We helped to create more than 2,000ha of woodland, including planting almost 300,000 trees on the Trust's estate – 20% above our 2016 target.

£11.9m

Restoring woodland and other habitats

Our landmark project to revive lost and degraded ancient woodland on land beyond our estate, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, notched up another 3,116 hectares of woods last year – and counting.

£7.4m

Cost of generating funds

This includes work to develop exciting new ways that supporters can engage with the Trust. We launched our first Woodland Trust trailers last year – instant venues for promoting our work in our woods and beyond.


£42.7m
Total expenditure

£6.9m

Income less expenditure

Turn over to see how we plan to spend this in 2017.
We spent 81p in every pound on our charitable objectives.

These income and expenditure figures were extracted from the full audited and unqualified accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016. Copies can be obtained from woodlandtrust.org.uk or by applying to the Trust's head office in Grantham. The annual accounts have been submitted to the Charity Commission, the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and Companies House.



We are grateful to the following organisations
and individuals who have kindly supported
the Woodland Trust during 2016

SUPPORT

Partners

Alta Advisers Limited
Asendia UK
AXA UK PLC
Bilfinger GVA
Calor Gas Ltd
CFH Docmail Ltd
CNG Ltd (Contract Natural Gas)
Cobell Ltd
Disney Store Ltd
Dorset Cereals
DoubleTree by Hilton
Epson (UK) Ltd
Eurostove Limited
Frobishers Juices Ltd
GO Stationery
Golden Charter
Greenbank Holidays
Halliday Funeral Supplies Ltd
Hammonds Furniture Ltd
IKEA Ltd
Intertissue Limited
Konica Minolta Big Solutions (UK) Ltd
Lakeland
Marks and Spencer Plc
Nationwide Building Society
Next
Pearson Plc
Players of People's Postcode Lottery
Pöyry Management Consulting (UK) Limited
Premier Foods
Premier Paper Group
Pur Projet
Robert Walters Operations
Sabre Retail Fashion Limited
t/a Mint Velvet
Sainsbury's
Shanly Homes
Sofidel UK Limited
Square 7 Media
The Agincourt 600 Commemoration Fund
The Co-operative Bank
The National Arbor Day Foundation
The Restaurant Group

TK Maxx
Unilever UK Ltd
Waitrose
Well Pharmacy
WHSmith
Wilko
Yorkshire Tea

Charitable Trusts £5000 or more

Best Trust
Clark Bradbury Charitable Trust
Edward & Sally Benthall Charitable Trust
Ernest Cook Trust
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
Faslane Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Gosling Foundation Ltd
J & J R Wilson Trust
John Horseman Trust
Jordan Charitable Foundation
National Arbor Day Foundation
Pauline Meredith Charitable Trust
Peacock Charitable Trust
Revere Charitable Trust
River Farm Foundation
Robert Barr Charitable Trust
Rock Lodge Charitable Trust
Shanly Foundation
Stephen Clark 1965 Charitable Trust
Waterloo Foundation
William Grant Foundation

Landfill Communities Fund £5000

Alpha Programme managed by Groundwork NI
Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust
Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust
Lancashire Environmental Fund
Score Environment (EB Scotland)

The Veolia Environmental Trust
Viridor Credits Environmental Company
William Grant Foundation
WREN

Local Authorities £5000 or more

Greater London Authority
Northamptonshire County Council

Grants £5000 or more

Brecon Beacons Trust
Defra
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
E.on Rosehall Community Fund
Environment Agency
European Commission
European Outdoor Conservation Association
Forestry Commission England
Forestry Commission Scotland
Heritage Lottery Fund
Loughs Agency
National Forest Company
Natural England
Natural Resources Wales - Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Point and Sandwick Trust
RSPB
Scottish Forestry Trust
Scottish Government
Scottish Wildlife Trust
Snowdonia National Park
Tesco (Bags of Help)
The Agincourt 600 Commemoration Fund
The Ulster Society for the Protection of the Countryside
Welsh Government/
Llywodraeth Cymru
Wicked Productions Ltd

Gifts in wills of £5000 or more left to the Trust in 2016

LASTING LEGACY

Mr D J Abbott
Mrs M Acton
Mrs S Amner (nee
Hide)
Mr H R Armstrong
Mr G M Austin
Mrs S A Bailes
Miss S P D Baldwin
Miss M L Balsillie
Miss V Bantock
Ms E Batten
Mrs A L Bealing
Mr G Beech
Miss S M Beeden
Mrs K E Beer
Mrs P B W Begg
Ms J Birkett

Mr M D Bishop
Mrs E Blake
Miss A J R S Bluck
Miss M D Bode
Miss M O Boughton
Ms A Bradbury
Miss M Briggs
Miss I M Brown
Miss P L Brown
Miss L J Brown
Miss T J Bruty
Miss B M Bryant
Mr L S Bryson
Mrs E G Burdett
Miss M Burdon
Mr G F Burgan
Mr D J Burnett

Mrs M R E Calder
Mr M Campbell
Mr R J Canning
Miss J A Card
Miss D G Carr
Mrs F M Carter
Mrs P H J Chapman
Miss C E M Chetham
Mrs S W Christie
Mrs P E Clarke
Mr R Clough
Mr B W Collins
Miss J P Collins
Miss J D Collyer
Mrs E N Cousins
Miss P D Crewe
Mrs A A Critchley

Mrs D M Davies
Mrs M E Davies
Mrs B D De Jong
Mrs M J Dempsey
Mr A G Dickerson
Miss P C Dixon
Mrs I A Dunkley
Miss P A Elliott
Ms I J Elliott
Mr A J Elliott
Mrs L Eyton-Jones
Mr G A Facks-Martin
Mr A Ferrari
Ms P P Firth
Miss M M Fisher
Mr M A Fitt
Mrs D M Forse

Mr D W J Foster
Mr P E Fothergill
Mr I Foxall
Mr J French
Miss A B Fuller
Mrs M H Gibson
Ms M O Gill
Miss B Gillam
Mr P J Glenn
Mrs E M V Godman
Mr D N Goodwin
Miss O S Gordon
Mrs B L Graham
Mr A A Green
Mr G W Grove
Ms J Gurr
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Rev D J Hare
Mrs M J Harford
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Miss N Hartshorne
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Mr A Haylock
Mr D A Heald
Mrs J Heath
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Dr A K Henry
Miss J G Hetherington
Mr N E Heywood
Mr C S Hicks
Ms E Hoare
Mr J C G Hobday
Mrs J Hodgkiss
Mr G E Holt

Mr L G Holt
Mrs J M Howard
Miss E A Hughes
Mrs J Y Jackson
Mr D R Jeffreys
Mr M R W Jennings
Miss M St John
Mr H D Johnson
Mr A F Jones
Mrs J M Jones
Mr H Kember
Mrs G Kennedy
Mrs J R Kersten
Mr C J King
Mrs Z V Lapworth
Miss J N Last
Ms M Latham
Mr R P Lloyd
Miss M E Lowe
Miss M Lugg
Mr W N Lumley
Mr W C Macartney
Miss H M Macleod
Ms S K Mason
Mrs R Matthews
Mr M N McCulloch
Mrs M A McEwen
Mrs A K McInnes
Mrs M E Minns
Mrs S M Mitchell
Mrs J Mitchell
Mr K D Morrison
Mr R F S Musgrave
Mrs B Norman
Mr C I M O'Brien
Mrs P D Padgham
Ms F E Pearson
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Mrs P F Peters
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Mr C R Postle
Mrs C Price
Ms I M M Pugh
Mrs M D Quilter
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Mr K C Ralston
Mrs M Ramsay
Miss V E Raybone
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Miss L H Roberts

Mr E W Rogers
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Mr G W J Sands
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Mrs M A Seeley
Mrs P Shaw
Mr M S Shaw
Mr H J Shearing
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Mr P E Smith
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Mr O P Smyth
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Mr R T Stoker
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Mrs E M Tolman
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Mrs K I Touhey
Mr F G Tunnard
Mrs M M Walkden
Mrs M Walker
Mrs H E Waller
Mrs J M Warrington
Mr W E Watson
Mrs A Weatherley
Mr V J Webb
Mr J D Webb
Ms J G Webster
Miss M G Welch
Mrs E M Welham
Miss D M Westcott
Ms N E M Whitbread
Mr D A Whitwell
Mrs J A Williams
Mr A Williams
Mrs N G Wills
Mr B R Wilson
Miss G J Wilson
Miss V M Wonnacott
Mrs M Wray
Mr S F Wright



After a terrific year, the Trust is determined to build on our achievements in 2017. With your help, here's how we'll do it...

1 We'll forge a more resilient countryside

The UK needs a huge increase in tree numbers – not just new woodland, but trees in hedgerows, on roadsides, in river catchments and in towns and cities. The Trust will create 1,000 hectares of new woods in 2017, and plant almost four million trees in all. We'll buy at least 700 hectares of new land, and sign up another 4,000 hectares of degraded ancient woodland for restoration. More exciting still, we will draw up a blueprint for a vast new 'Northern Forest' along the M62 corridor, embracing the cities of Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield and beyond.

2 We'll fight for tougher safeguards

The Trust's caseload of ancient woods threatened by inappropriate development schemes has never been so high: at the turn of 2017 it topped 700 for the first time. So we'll develop a new UK-wide map of woods at risk, and extend our network of volunteer 'threat detectors' nationwide. We'll aim to fight at least 80% of cases that come to our attention, while pushing for stronger legal protection for this irreplaceable ecosystem.

3 We'll meet thousands of new people

2017 will see the Trust ramp up our drive to make our estate more welcoming for visitors, starting with imaginative makeovers for the flagship sites at Tring Park, Heartwood Forest and Skipton Castle Woods. We'll offer more activities and events for all ages across the UK, and roll out an ambitious £500,000 project to encourage people in urban Britain to protect and celebrate the hard-working trees on their doorsteps. In all, the Trust wants to engage with 800,000 supporters in 2017.

4 We'll shout up for trees and woods

The Charter for Trees, Woods and People will be launched at Lincoln Castle in November 2017, the culmination of over two years' work. It will enshrine the enormous benefits that trees and woods bring to society – for wildlife, for the environment, for the economy, for recreation, and for our health and well-being. We want tens of thousands of people to sign it, and it will be a vital tool in the Trust's continuing campaign to influence legislators and root trees back in the heart of British life.

Our 2017 fundraising target is £43m.

It's a big ask, so please do contribute if you can. Visit woodlandtrust.org.uk/donate.

Our promise to you

We are committed to fundraising and communicating in an honest and transparent way. We pride ourselves on being respectful and responsible with your data and how we treat you. If you want to know more, visit woodlandtrust.org.uk/promise.

The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL; 0330 333 3300; woodlandtrust.org.uk; supporters@woodlandtrust.org.uk.

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