

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

Transition
Wilmslow



**Working together on
climate action**

www.transitionwilmslow.co.uk

Transition Wilmslow
Reg Charity No
1201884

TRUSTEES 2023

NAME	ROLE	DATE OF APPT
Andrew Backhouse	Chair	5 February 2023
Lata Anderson	Trustee	9 February 2023
Sarah Fox	Trustee	9 February 2023
Jean Hill	Trustee	9 February 2023
Georgie Johnson	Trustee	9 February 2023
Helen Lederer	Treasurer	9 February 2023
Ken Wallace	Trustee	9 February 2023
Lisa McClory	Trustee	9 March 2023
Lisa Johnson	Trustee	5 October 2023
Jackie Gradwell	Treasurer	7 November 2023

FROM THE CHAIR



Finding ingredients for Plot to Plate



Planting Trees in the Tiny Forest



Picking at Oakenclough

This is the first annual report from Transition Wilmslow as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, being registered as such in 2023, with our first official trustees meeting taking place in January. We have been working to ensure that we have the right policies and liaison in place with our very active groups.

As ever, there has been plenty to keep us busy this year and we have worked on many projects, big and small. Amongst others:

The **Energy Group** has restarted.

The **Community Market Gardens** have won further RHS awards and done great things to encourage people to learn to grow their own vegetables and how to cook them, too.

The **Tree Group** has been working with other groups and has planted our first Tiny Forest at Wilmslow High School;

The **Transport Group** has moved forward on 20's plenty and cycling routes.

The **Repair Cafe** has saved many tons of CO2.

The **Lindow Moss Group** has started a major project with others including The Groundwork Trust to ensure that Lindow Moss is conserved and protected. The Friends of Lindow Moss group has also been developed.

The stalwarts on **Environment and Planning** have been working to make new buildings more appropriate for climate change and location, and to meet the local plans.

A big thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who make us what we are, furthering our objectives of improving the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment, encouraging more prudent use of resources, and educating people in how to do that. We can't save the planet ourselves, but we can work to improve things locally.

Andrew Backhouse, Chair

GROUP REPORTS



TREE GROUP

The group has now grown to 14 active members. During 2023 it planted circa 700 trees including two major projects of the "Tiny Forest" at Wilmslow High School and understorey planting along the margins of Lindow Moss. In both these cases (and others) the group also undertook ongoing monitoring of the health and progress of the trees as well as weeding etc to ensure they became well established with many additional volunteers helping.

Throughout the year the group has also undertaken various activities to encourage involvement of the wider community and to help educate wherever possible and to this end

four seasonal "walking talks" have been undertaken; a fruit tree pruning class has occurred; and various community fairs have had stalls promoting our activities.

However, the main activity this year has been a campaign to improve the opportunities for tree planting along CEC Highway sites which is currently severely restricted by the existing CEC policy. This work is ongoing and a conference of similar groups to our own from all towns across CEC has been planned to learn best practice and to act together to pressurise for countywide changes.



Picking Food for Plot to Plate Sessions at Oakenclough

COMMUNITY MARKET GARDENS

Aims:

- To raise awareness, teach and enable local people to grow their own food
- To create a sustainable business producing local organic food
- To contribute towards addressing climate change

At **Oakenclough** there have been 80 adult volunteers plus 19 children, and 41 school and youth group children plus their adults working a total of 1780 hours. In addition there were many more attending our Open Day. Volunteers have included several refugees who have now moved on, and at least 12 attendees live in Riverside properties – who have helped fund outreach.

Many families visiting the cafe and the Open Day have joined in picking, watering, and planting vegetables. The Plot to Plate sessions taught families what to pick and how to cook many things from local sources with great effect – see separate report. Seeds and plants have been given away to some 20 people.

Onions, garlic, salad veg, parsnips, raspberries, rhubarb, have been given to the cafe, and potatoes and onions to the Hope Central Food Bank.

The Harvest Festival event was attended by 65 people who came and enjoyed an afternoon of good food, all provided from the gardens and cooked by two local chefs, along with a musical accompaniment from Ken.

A stall was held at the Artisan Market this year to promote local produce and which generated the money for seeds and raised awareness of local climate action. We have been grateful for donations towards events, drainage, and our new polytunnel from the Police Commissioner's proceeds of crime fund, Riverside Community Fund, and the National Lottery via Transition Network.



At the **Forest Garden** we have continued to build up the guilds round our fruit trees, most of which have grown well this year. We have started several new guilds, which have given us great yields of chard, kale and rhubarb, have planted two new thornless blackberries and two vines, and put in an entrance gate, new herb spiral and a structure for beans and squash to climb over. Our native hedging plants and small woodland trees have shown very good survival rates. Our volunteer base is small but wonderfully supportive, and relations with the Allotment Association have improved hugely.

We now have a Duke of Edinburgh Student who has been maintaining his own guild, and we hope to have more students in the new year. Our latest project is to convert a wet hollow into a wildlife pond, and we are actively working to obtain some funding to support increased biodiversity, and future proof the site against drought.

The Temp has had another successful year. This summer, both The Temp and Oakenclough were delighted to receive Outstanding judgements from the RHS Britain in Bloom judges, who recognised the work with the local community. Reception pupils from Ashdene school have maintained their bed, firstly with a show of daffodils and then a crop of potatoes. A group of pre-school children and their parents enjoyed planting a range of vegetable seeds with Garry. We have also had several families who were out for a Sunday afternoon walk, joining in with our volunteer sessions. One afternoon two little girls who were passing planted up a whole bed of strawberries.

A new experimental bed containing maize, French beans, courgettes and gourds showed us the success of companion planting. We also improved the composting facilities and were able to provide a really good mulch for the beds in the autumn. A range of volunteers have continued to make a regular contribution on Sunday afternoons, and we held a lovely harvest festival picnic at the Temp for about thirty people in August, as well as making a useful contribution to the food needed for the Oakenclough Harvest supper in September.





20's Plenty where people are

20's Plenty for Us campaigns for 20mph as the default speed limit for urban and village streets where people live, work, shop, play and learn.
www.20splenty.org

ENERGY GROUP

The Energy Group re-formed in the Autumn and agreed the aims of increasing awareness of home energy loss and use, rolling out home energy surveys in the shorter term and reviewing the potential for a community energy generation hub in the longer term.

So far we have had a home-energy stall and hosted a window blind company (The Sewing Sanctuary) at the Repair Café, both of which generated a lot of interest. We will be rolling out home-energy surveys during 2024 and once we have gauged interest, will explore the possibility of funding for groundworks to undertake minor insulation tasks on request.



TRANSPORT GROUP

2023 has been a quiet year for the Transport Group and its 7 members. The ongoing campaign for borough wide 20mph speed limit zones continues and has been energised by a new lead for the county wide campaign, Diana Davey. The group continues to engage with all local transport infrastructure issues, particularly the LCWIP implementation where Rob is very influential through his Cycle Wilmslow role.

The recent elections to Cheshire East Council and Wilmslow Town Council have brought new energy to attempts to influence infrastructure with TW members Chris Hilliard and Lata Anderson elected and taking on the roles of Cycling/Walking champion and Public Transport Champion respectively for Cheshire East Council.



LINDOW MOSS

Transition Wilmslow members have been raising community awareness of and campaigning for the restoration of Lindow Moss for more than a decade, led by Professor John Handley, organising guided walks, lectures, a workshop, plant hunts and a Day School and other events as well as responding to planning applications and reports.

The **Transition Wilmslow Lindow Moss Restoration Group** (with a membership now of 25) consists mainly of relevant scientists and other specialists, together with a group of community representatives, and met regularly to update on restoration progress and future prospects as well as commissioning a hydrology report and undertaking surveys and studies on site. The group also organised a Lindow Moss Community Forum. Restoration by the owners of Lindow Moss started in March 2022 for around 6 months and then briefly in March 2023.

Members of the group have been working this year to develop two walks, which will be available online and as paper leaflets; the **Lindow Moss Heritage Walk** (3.5 mi) and the **Lindow Moss Loop Walk** (7 mi). There is also a plan for a Lindow Moss Nature Walk. The Heritage Walk map will be ready for Summer 2024. The Loop walk is awaiting footpath improvements when funding is available. The Restoration Group met in April 2023 (29 attendees) with an update on the HLF application and again in May 2023 at a walks workshop (32 attendees) to discuss the most important points of interest on the walks and appropriate text for these.

A subgroup of the Restoration Group is working on the Discover Lindow 2024 Season celebrating the 40th anniversary of the discovery of Lindow Man.



The success of the Lindow Moss Community Forum and the need to reach out to people beyond Wilmslow led to discussions about setting up a Friends Group. 18 people attended a meeting with local councillors and others and agreed that a Friends Group would be formed, initially as a subgroup of Transition Wilmslow, but with the option of becoming an independent group. In September, 20 people attended the launch of the interim committee and the public launch was in February 2024. See www.DiscoverLindow.org for more information.



ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING

Jean Hill has been a stalwart using the Neighbourhood Plan and our work on improving biodiversity and climate resilience, to comment on planning applications, particularly in Wilmslow. She has worked with members of the Civic Trust and the Neighbourhood Plan Implementation group to maximise impact, not just on planning applications, but also on the provision of a new cycling and walking route along the valley of the River Dean.

Whilst we are not always successful, we are slowly influencing the debate and it is heartening to note that developers are now beginning to be more considerate on these matters, including the use of sustainable drainage features for the significant area of hard standing parking provision in one recent case.

REPAIR CAFE

We have held 3 repair cafes this year, with increasing numbers each time, such that we have had to book a larger hall in Handforth for the next one.

4th March at Wilmslow URC

- 44 repairs completed out of 70 customers (i.e. 62.9% completion rate)
- Approximately 1 tonne of CO₂ saved from going to landfill

1st July at St Chad's

- 32 repairs completed out of 50 customers (i.e. 64.0% completion rate)
- Approximately 873 kg of CO₂ saved from going to landfill

4th November at Wilmslow URC

- 49 repairs completed out of 108 customers (i.e. 45.4% completion rate)
- Approximately 1.01 tonnes of CO₂ saved from going to landfill

A total of approximately 2.9 tonnes of CO₂ saved compared with 2022 when we saved approximately 1¾ tonnes.



Transition Wilmslow Financial Summary 2023

1 JAN 2023 - 31 DEC 2023

EVENTS / FUNDRAISING SUMMARY	2022 B/F UNREST'D	2023 INCOME	2023 EXPENDITURE	2023 SURPLUS	2022B/F + 23 SURPLUS	XF TO UNREST'D	BF 2024 REST'D	COMMENTS
Opening bank balance (1 Jan 2023)		£15,636						
TW FUNDRAISING SUMMARY				£0				
Donations		£5,790						
Grants		£5,371		£5,371				Riverside £1500 spent/Police £1500 spent/ WTCPAT £371 spent/, Evans Art £2k restricted as below
Interest		£224						
Expenditure			£7,302					
TOTALS		£11,385	£7,302	£4,083				
INTEREST GROUP FUNDS								
Lindow Moss General	£1,595	£2,450	£82	£2,368	£3,963	£0	£3,963	Restricted for LM activities. 2022 XF FoN balance £1395.16
Lindow Moss Schools Art Project	£0	£2,000	£0	£2,000	£2,000	£0	£2,000	Restricted for 2024
Repair Cafe	£0	£1,361	£378	£983	£983	£983	£0	Grant for PAT testing spent. £983. balance to Central funds 2024
Gardens	£8,851	£4,330	£5,704	-£1,375	£7,476	£1,256	£6,220	EvtsPromDrain £1693.99/ zoomMkts£201.02/ PtoP£4325.11
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS								
Unrestricted general funds	£5,190	£1,244	£1,138	£106	£5,297			Donations / running costs.
Total Unrestricted General funds for 2024								£7536 (£5297 + £2239)
TOTAL FUNDRAISING								£4,083
Total fundraising plus O income								£4,083
Total fundraising including O commitment								£4,083
O's from previous year 2022								£0
	£15,636.17	£11,385	£7,302	£4,083	£19,719	£2,239	£12,183	

RUNNING COSTS AND ADMIN	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	PROFIT	COMMENTS
As above	£0	£0	£0	
TOTAL RUNNING COSTS	£0	£0	£0	

TW FUNDS & SUMMARY	
TW funds to date	£27,021
TW expenditure to date	£7,302
Outstanding committed expenditure	£0
Outstanding income	£0
Unbanked cash /uncleared cheques	£0
TW bank account balance per statement	£4,037
TW Building Society balance per statement	£15,682
TW Bank plus BS account	£19,719
TW all restricted 2024 funds	£12,183
TW unrestricted 2024 funds	£7,536
TOTAL TW FUNDS AVAILABLE	£19,719



OUR AIMS

- To advance the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment and the prudent use of natural resources for the benefit of the public in Wilmslow, Handforth and surrounding areas through promotion, awareness-raising and skill-sharing to build community resilience to combat climate change and resource scarcity.
- To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.

**WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO OUR GRANT
GIVERS, SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS
THROUGHOUT 2023**

