

Income 2008

Donations	15017
Membership	78222
Folk Supply	17755
Core Education and Development Work	202254
Projects	96131
Regions & Groups	196452
Outdoor Centres	188727
Other	87090
Total	881648



Please note these figures are taken from the draft accounts from 2008 and will be subject to amendment.

Significant costs of relocating head office were paid out in 2008 but will be repaid through the sale of 13 Ritherdon Road.

Expenditure 2008

Governance	35377
Folk Supply	12652
Core Education & Development Work	291870
Projects	125801
Regions & Groups	193219
Outdoor Centres	228221
Other	61270
Total	948410



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Woodcraft Folk is a registered charity in England and Wales (1073665) and in Scotland (SC039791)

The Woodcraft Folk gratefully acknowledges the ongoing financial support of the Co-operative Group.

The co-operative

The C-Change project was a partnership with De Montfort University and the Centre for Alternative Technology funded by DEFRA'S Climate Challenge Fund.



The Woodcraft Folk is grateful for the support it receives from the DCSF's Children, Young People and Families' Fund.

Woodcraft folk
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Annual Review | 2008-09

Introduction

2008 has once again been a year of considerable progress and change for Woodcraft Folk. A brand new Big Plan, with its five strategic Ambitions will underpin our work from now til 2013. If we achieve everything we're setting out to then Woodcraft Folk will have moved a very long way indeed. The process of compiling the Big Plan was testament to our principles of democracy, participation and empowerment of our members. All the ideas, inspiration and implementation in this plan is coming up from the grass roots of the organisation and we believe it really shows.

Building on the Big Plan, we also learned we had successfully secured funding from the Department for Children Schools and Families and The Big Lottery Fund to implement some of the Big Plan ambitions. Commencing in April 2009, these two funding streams really will offer us the chance to brighten our skies.

Danny Rowe, Chair
Kirsty Palmer, General Secretary

Young introduction

I feel like 2008 has been the most active and exciting year of my life – I have spent more time with Woodcraft in the past year, then ever before. I attended every event I could get to, seeing many new faces, as well as many old ones.



Liam Hardy, Young member of the General Council

As chair of DF Committee until October, I spent a lot of time working with individual DFs, the Movement, and its relations with WCF. I've worked hard to maintain a constant state of progression for DFs, and will forever enjoy their company.

I attended my first Annual Gathering in June, which was thoroughly enjoyable, and I've heard it was one of the best attended in many years. Venturer Camp in August was the highlight of my year, and I hope it was for others too. I enjoyed the hours spent co-ordinating the steward team, and helping within my village.

Finally, my recent election on to General Council as a representative from DF Committee has been very exciting indeed. I'm eager to forward the aims of 'The Big Plan', and to continue working with the Woodcraft Folk for years to come. I hope you are too.

Liam Hardy

We are much better known and understood

We know what we do, but who else does? This question has driven forward work in the areas of PR, marketing and branding in 2008. At a time when uncertainty about consumerism is rife, we believe that our message of cooperation is even more relevant to today's young people.

Exeter Woodcraft Folk gleaned lots of positive news coverage for their peace and equality activities, leading some members to nickname the local paper "The Woodcraft Paper". And Elfins in Stoke Newington, North London, helped raise awareness of plastics by handing out over 600 reusable cloth bags at a weekend farmers' market. West Coventry Pioneers and Venturers helped choose the winner of the 2008 Royal Society Junior Prize for Science Books. Such activities out and about in the community help raise the profile of the organisation and build public understanding and we hope to take on more and more.

Our increasingly high profile in the world of climate change and sustainability education was led and built on by the recognition of



Woodcraft Folk's C-Change project at the National Energy Efficiency Awards. Scooping three awards including Young Champion and the Overall National Champion, there's no doubt that the success of this project has brought Woodcraft principles to a whole new audience.

Elsewhere, Woodcraft Folk were asked to comment on areas as diverse as police activity in Croydon and the precise definition of citizenship in the 21st century. Gradually, the media and the wider public are coming to appreciate the positive impact Woodcraft Folk has on its young people and society.

We empower children and young people to influence the movement and society

Young people are at the heart of everything we do. Our new continuous development programme, 'Follow the Trail', emphasises the importance of young people's experience of our aims and principles by providing tools for Woodcraft Folk groups to assess their own performance. This is the first time we have systematically asked Elfins and Pioneers for their opinions and the results have been both enlightening and heartening.

Our 16-20 year old DFs have a long history of engaging in positive activities within the movement and society and 2008 was no exception. Their two permanent projects, MESTUP up and PARTY are undergoing major innovation. Besides reviving the old tactics and keeping them engaging and informative, there are talks about going into schools and doing workshops there. In Wales, young Gwerin y Coed council members took the lead on Drugs and Alcohol awareness training for young people, recruiting DFs from across the movement to make sure the message gets through.

Young peer educators are key to the work of Edinburgh's Powerpod in schools across Scotland. Young people were involved in the design of the Powerpod and were involved in recruiting the worker. As the project has grown, young people have formed working groups to deliver every aspect of the project.

Key elements of the Big Plan were based on young people's feedback from across the UK, and a major funding bid to the Big Lottery Fund Young People's Fund grew out of it. Happily this was successful and in 2009 Woodcraft Folk will embark on TREE (Training, Representation, Equality and Empowerment) its biggest-ever youth led project.



We prioritise camping and outdoor adventures

Getting out into nature has always been a key Woodcraft Folk activity, and in 2008 this was most evident at the 700-strong Venturer Camp in August in Derbyshire. With a programme around anti-apathy designed and delivered by young people it was a festival of fun, co-operation and outdoor living. Young people from Wales led the way in building and equipping a renewable energy power station which powered the centres, solar cinema and cafes.

South East Camp was a truly cooperative experience. With almost all Districts in South East England attending and taking part in workshops ranging from Bushcraft to ceramics, the camp gave a great boost to the plans for a joint South East – South West camp in 2009.

Alongside camping, groups in London took part in a range of outdoor activities including three days of water activities for Pioneers and a regional get together for Venturers. And of course groups in the South West made their usual appearance at the Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival in July and for their annual outdoor fun day at Escot in the autumn.

Woodcraft Folk operates a number of residential centres across the UK, from Hamsterley Forest in the North East to Lurgashall in Sussex. Height Gate near Hebden Bridge is moving forward on its plans for renewable energy supplies, including planting over 1,000 trees as coppice woodland to provide a sustainable source of wood for the campfire and kitchen stove. Cudham in Kent welcomed a new manager in May, and bookings have soared for 2009 and 2010 and Lockerbrook in the Peak District continues to build its reputation as a venue for adventurous outdoor activities.



Bluer skies and smooth trailings, and smooth trailings. Bluer skies and smooth trailings.

We develop and use new and exciting approaches to learning

Rachel Gibbs, 15, joined the crew of the Edinburgh Powerpod and had a ball learning and teaching her peers about renewable energy and climate change. From attending T in the Park to spending time with enthusiastic children with windmills and energy cells, Rachel has learnt that Woodcraft Folk really do believe in using the most exciting methods of learning.

Peer education is also key to the design and success of the TREE project, due to commence in April 2009, with funding from the Big Lottery Fund. Young trainers will support thousands of their peers to engage more positively and pro-actively with the organisation to ensure that Woodcraft Folk is delivering exactly what its young people want. A new Development Officer in Scotland is ensuring that this England-only work can be learned from and carried over the border.

Over the last year, Woodcraft Folk has developed many of its existing training courses for its volunteer leaders, including a brand new scheme to assist young members to make the transition into being group leaders.



We have also refreshed our introductory course 'Learn to Play the Woodcraft Way' and reinvigorated our 'Learn to Lead' to make sure that all our group leaders have the confidence and skills to work with our young people. The pinnacle of this work has been the adaptation of the NYA's Hear by Right quality assurance tool into the Woodcraft Folk's Follow the Trail continuous development programme. Taking this innovative way of working with children as young as six to evaluate their Woodcraft Folk experience has been a giant step forward for the movement.

We are open and accessible to all

With strong representation in inner London, Manchester, Bradford and other urban centres, Woodcraft Folk is well-placed to bring a different kind of experience to young people in towns and cities. London members took the Woodcraft experience to the Love Music, Hate Racism carnival in the city, helping to run co-operative children's activities and introducing Woodcraft Folk to a whole new audience. Play Out projects in Lambeth and Birkenhead continued to bring free open access play to children on housing estates in summer holidays, providing a much-needed resource for over-stretched parents.

Alongside work in some of the UK's most deprived areas, Woodcraft Folk continues to have strong links with the Rainbow Network in Britain and across Europe. A strong Woodcraft Folk delegation attended Queer Easter at the Kurt Lowenstein centre in Berlin and brought back its learning to the organisation.

Many Woodcraft Folk groups already work with children with additional needs and the creation of an Accessibility Award Scheme for



groups aims to recognise this work and build on it for the future. Woodcraft Folk's outdoor centres have also made great efforts to make sure their facilities are accessible to as many people as possible. A new partnership with the National Deaf Children's Society will also offer resources and support to leaders working with young people with hearing impairments.

Scottish Camp in the Summer of 2008 welcomed over 100 Woodcraft Folk members from across Scotland, as well as some refugee families living in Scotland. The Scottish Co-op kindly provided a subsidy to allow these families to attend and have a true Woodcraft Folk camp, building on their established relationships with Woodcraft Folk groups.