

FUNDERS REVIEW



*"A place
to grow..."*



Jim - CEO of Wildgoose

“The grants that we have received have not only changed the lives and outlook of many people who are normally on the fringes of society, but have brought employment and regeneration to the area, in the process preserving one of the best mosaics of wildlife in Worcestershire for future generations, Thank you.”





Site Development

The move to our new site wouldn't have been possible without the support of Big Lottery Capital, Hawthorn Trust, ACT Foundation, Big Lottery Revenue, Saintbury Trust, Wolfson, RDPE, Bransford Trust, Esmee Fairbairn, Edgar Lawley Foundation, Rowlands Trust, Top Barn Trust, Mr & Mrs C Tennant, Nineveh Trust, Councillor Phil Grove and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Funding from the Wolfson Foundation also enabled us to build an education centre increasing our offering to local schools.



Toilet Block / Classrooms / Marquee

A big thank you to The Bailey Thomas Charitable Fund, The Edward Cadbury Trust, The National Lottery Social Enterprise Support Fund, The Clothworkers' Foundation & Worcester Community Trust for providing us with funding to create two new classrooms in our barn and the purchase of a marquee. This funding has enabled us to provide more space for teaching and has allowed us to take on more students. This has been vital to us remaining open to students during the pandemic as it has allowed us to spread our groups out without having to limit numbers of people on our site each day. The marquee has been put to good use throughout the year both as a teaching space and as a seating area at our open day and was particularly useful in high summer as it gave our students somewhere to sit out of the sun.





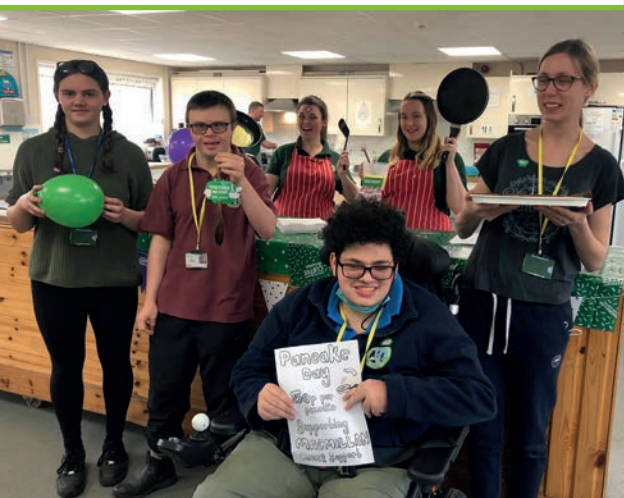
Have-a-go Garden and Sensory Garden

Our Have-a-go Garden and Sensory Garden have been really popular with our students thanks to funding from The Finnis Scott Foundation, Santander and The Worcestershire County Council Divisional Funds. We have created raised beds that our students in wheelchairs can use as well as a greenhouse, tool shed, a raised pond for pond dipping and a pizza oven. Our first harvest provided tomatoes, sweetcorn, potatoes, squash and herbs. We used the pizza oven to bake pizzas at our open day which helped us to raise funds and our produce was entered into Hallow Horticultural show and some were awarded first place!!



Kitchen

Funding provided by The Roger and Douglas Charitable Trust has enabled us to purchase a dishwasher which means that we can spend more time working in the kitchen with students making, amongst other things, our own jams and chutneys. The washing up time saved has meant that our sessions can last longer and our students can enjoy more cooking. The fridges which were funded by Worcestershire County Council Divisional Fund have enabled us to keep groups separate during the pandemic by providing a cool place for milk and lunches in classrooms which has helped us to keep our students safe.





Salaries

Funding from The Eveson Charitable Trust, The National Lottery Fund, The Nineveh Trust, The Bailey Thomas Emergency Fund and The National Lottery Social Enterprise Support Fund towards staff salaries and running costs during the pandemic has helped to keep Wildgoose operating throughout the year and enabled us to increase our student numbers by 30% in 2021.

Funding for IT and project development officers has taken pressure from tutors, enabling them to spend more time teaching and has given Wildgoose dedicated staff which ensures that we keep going from strength to strength.

Teaching

Educational and IT equipment funded by The William A Cadbury Charitable trust as well as the Roger and Douglas Charitable Trust has enabled us to teach more subjects such as computer literacy, pond dipping, mammal tracking and stargazing. By enhancing our teaching topics and with additional equipment, we can provide more fulfilling and valuable training to our students.





Reserve

Severn Trent Water and the Natural networks programme provided us with a biodiversity fund which we have put to good use transforming the old gravel beds into a nature reserve, iron age village and vital reed beds of which the UK is sorely lacking. We have removed willow from the old settlement ponds and arranged for drainage to ensure the reed beds remain wet and don't dry out. The funding also enabled us to remove invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam. Our nature reserve is now open to the public and we are excited to show our hard work to the local community. With the addition of 104 trees provided by the Woodland trust which will help to provide cover and food for our native birds over winter, we hope that we will have a positive impact on nature in Worcestershire.



Visitor Centre

Our new visitor centre has been made possible by funding from Severn Trent and The Edward Gostling Foundation and will play a vital part in the growth of Wildgoose Rural Training. With our nature reserve being open to the public, we believe that by providing a café and information centre we can really increase our revenue and become more visible in the local community. This will also provide opportunities for our students to be involved in running our café and give them a chance to mix with the public, increasing their confidence and employability





Tractor

Our tractor which was gratefully funded by The People's Postcode Trust has enabled us to manage our nature reserve in a far more efficient manner and has even been used by some of our students to make our own ponds and compost heaps.



Minibus Tests

A generous donation by the Eveson Charitable Trust has given us the opportunity to purchase a minibus and minibus driving tests funded by The Sir John Middlemore Charitable Trust has enabled us to offer a pick up and collection service to school groups. This gives them more flexibility to attend Wildgoose on a weekly basis and gives students who would not be able to access us via public transport the chance to attend here.

Wheelchairs & Tools

The Hedley Foundation and Alpkit provided us with funds that have enabled us to purchase wheelchairs and equipment that assist disabled people access our site more easily. This means that they enjoy their days at Wildgoose more and the special tools that we purchased help make life easier and increases involvement.





Lloyds Bank Foundation

Unrestricted revenue funding from Lloyds over a two-year period is proving to be a real lifeline for Wildgoose. Obviously, this funding will help to meet our core costs and will really aid future planning. In addition, Lloyds provide developmental support which will help us to grow stronger and more sustainable.

Defibrillator

Health & safety is paramount at Wildgoose so we were delighted to receive funding for a defibrillator from The Saintbury Trust, which is now installed near to the Visitor Centre.





Water Irrigation System

Horticulture is one of the main activities at Wildgoose. We grow flowers, fruit and vegetables all of which need a considerable amount of water in order to survive. So, we were pleased to receive funding from the Edward Cadbury Trust which will enable us to purchase an irrigation system to collect rainwater which will then be used to irrigate our various plants.



Animal Room

We currently have a small cabin which houses animals such as tortoises, snakes, guinea pigs, cockroaches, stick insects and a bearded dragon. However, because it is so small, only a handful of students can work with those animals at any one time. We were very grateful therefore, to receive a grant from the Bernard Sunley Foundation and the Rowlands Trust towards the cost of building a new, larger, animal room which will enable us to create another classroom to house a group of students.





Brad - age 17

"I like Wildgoose because the staff are nice and I have made friends. Wildgoose is better than school and helps me. I also like playing football in the afternoon."

Marcus - age 29

"Well, it's been a while since I had any other good experiences. Wildgoose has been the pinnacle of me gaining confidence and getting in touch with my love of nature. The manager is a kind, cool, understanding person, he and the rest of the staff have become my good friends. I get on well with everyone. Wildgoose has helped me to get over when I was low and wanted to quit, but I know the place really needs me and I need them. I am looking forward to the future."



Danielle - age 30

"Wildgoose has helped me make friends and also get confidence to be able to talk to people. I like working with the animals apart from the big cockroaches in the animal room."

Comment from a parent

"What was particularly pleasing was the many "Hello" calls throughout the afternoon from the many Staff and clients and this prompted my son to engage in conversation which he has clearly developed since being with you in such an embracing and engaging environment - well done!!"



Bonnie's Tea Room & Visitor Centre

Take a leisurely walk amongst a varied mosaic of habitats including woodland, reed beds and lake on our Nature Reserve.

Then enjoy a fresh coffee, homemade cakes and other delicious dishes.

We provide wholesome, seasonal food that is locally produced.

Open 7 days per week

Monday to Saturday, 9am to 4pm

Sundays, 10am to 3pm



Old Quarry Drive, Hallow, Worcester, WR2 6LS

T: 07903 328279 **E:** bonnies@wgrt.org



bonniestearoom

Supported by:





@WildgooseRT



WildgooseRuralTraining

**Wildgoose Rural Training
Old Quarry Drive
Main Road
Hallow
Worcester
WR2 6LS**

Tel : 01905 620840

Email: enquiry@wgrt.org

www.wildgooseruraltraining.org