

Report by Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust (SC044045)

In early March 2022 Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust (CLLCT) received £3500 from the Nineveh Trust, following an application by CLLCT for funds to cover our Project Manager's salary for one day per week. Another charitable trust provided a similar amount so that the Project Manager's post was fully funded for one day per week so far as the Trust's "everyday" activities were concerned. (You may remember that separate funding for one day a week was sought from other funders for a specific major path improvement project).

I'm happy to report that the contribution from the Nineveh Trust allowed the Project Manager to successfully continue with the functions set out in the application throughout the year March 2022 to March 2023. In particular he continued to lead activities for primary school children on site and in the classroom, and supported kindergarten visits to the Loch. During the year we welcomed a new group from a Dumfries primary school in Georgetown (some 8 miles away).

Some 25,000 people were able to walk/run/cycle round the Loch in the year to the end of 2022. Numbers towards the end of the year and into the first quarter of 2023 were down because of obstinately high water levels in November/December which restricted access to parts of the path, and the closing of the path in February/March 2023 for path improvement works.

The Project Manager oversaw a tree safety report and tree safety works and liaised with the Trust's regular contractors.

Habitat management and regular volunteer sessions continued under the Project Manager's supervision. During the year the Project Manager oversaw the provision of new information signs; a concerted attack was made on Himalayan Balsam in August and Rhododendron regrowth in October; and hedge cutting and debris clearance was undertaken after the high water flooded the path in November.

During Volunteers Week (1-7 June) the Trust received an award from Dumfries & Galloway Council for its contribution to the local community.

The Project Manager continued his regular monthly "What to See" posters on information boards to publicise the diversity of wildlife in and around the Loch and repeated the information on the Castle Loch site on Facebook.

Howard Baisden 28/5/2023

