



This year our work has continued to expand through new programmes and initiatives, alongside our core support for local groups. Membership has now risen to more than 400, while many more groups in the movement also benefit from our support.

Recognition of the value of our members' work - and FCFCG's role within it - is reflected in the grants and contracts we have secured across the UK.

Opening a new Big Lottery funded office in Wales has already had an impact, with emerging projects joining the Federation and enhanced networking with many partners. In Scotland, funding from the Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) has enabled us to extend our work in partnership with Trellis.

In England, we secured a grant from the Department of Communities and Local Government to promote the benefits of community-managed green space. The funding will also help the Allotments Regeneration Initiative promote good practice at allotments.

Major lottery funding for our movement has now been launched in England though Local Food and Community Spaces - FCFCG played a leading role in bringing both funds to fruition.

We have hosted several high-profile visits. Baroness Andrews toured Dorset Road Allotments in London and Bill Quay City Farm in Gateshead, while the School Farms Network was boosted by a visit to Cardinal Wiseman School Farm from our Patron, HRH the Prince of Wales.

Through all of this activity, support for grass-roots groups remains central to our work. Our mix of regional networking and training events, best practice advice, plus online and printed information resources all contribute to this, delivered by staff, fieldworkers and volunteers.

We always want to do more, such as launching a programme in Northern Ireland. And there is a growing demand for space for local food growing in urban and rural areas, particularly as the impact of the current financial and food crisis is more widely felt.

We will need to steer the Federation carefully through these troubled times, but we remain confident that our movement has a vital role to play in re-engaging communities with local food - a growing trend and a growing opportunity.

Jeremy Iles (Director) and David Drury (Chair)

Our **core income** was £422,546. An additional £122,068 of funds managed by us on behalf of other organisations gave a total income of £544,614.

Our **core expenditure** of £465,727 plus managed funds expenditure of £132,548 gave a total expenditure of £598,275.

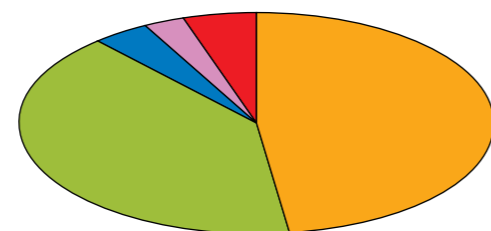
The deficit on **restricted funds** was £53,245. This was due to funds allocated for use in the 2007-08 financial year being accounted for in the previous year, as per Charity Commission SORP guidelines.

The deficit on **unrestricted funds** was £416, which was transferred from our reserves.

Reserves

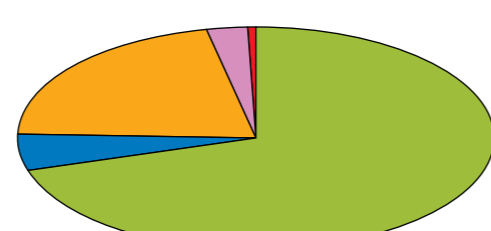
The unrestricted reserves at 31st March 2008 were £118,900. Our target is to hold three months (aspiring to six months) of our core expenditure in reserves, in line with Charity Commission guidance. A copy of our full accounts is available on request from our head office.

Income



Government grants and contracts	£203,021
Other grants and donations	£170,857
Fees, including conferences and training	£16,446
Membership fees	£12,266
Other income incl bank interest	£19,956
Core Income	£422,546
Managed funds income	£122,068
Total income	£544,614

Expenditure



Membership support and policy development	£327,991
Training and conferences	£24,140
Office costs	£99,090
Management and governance	£12,826
Development costs	£1,680
Core Expenditure	£465,727
Managed funds expenditure	£132,548
Total Expenditure	£598,275
Restricted funds deficit	£53,245
Transfer from reserves	£416



Green spaces boost

Two key representatives for the UK's urban green spaces - FCFCG and GreenSpace - have formed a unique partnership to secure funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The new partnership means that people working at and using parks, gardens, city farms and allotment sites will all benefit. The £400k funding covers four areas: building skills within local and regional authorities; developing skills within local groups such as community gardens; promoting the benefits of green space and supporting allotment sites.

Let's Grow

FCFCG has been working with supermarket Morrisons on a new programme to support children in growing more food at school. Vouchers collected by shoppers and donated to schools can be exchanged by the school for gardening supplies

and equipment. So far more than 16,000 schools have registered. FCFCG has recruited a pool of expert gardeners from its membership to assist schools with food growing initiatives and enable them to access their local community farms and gardens. Get more details online at: www.morrisons.co.uk/letsgrow



True Value research

FCFCG has received a lot of interest following its research into the true value of city farms and community gardens to local people. The research, funded by Northern Rock Foundation, assessed and documented the profound and positive impact of grass roots groups in areas such as healthy eating, social inclusion, education and environmental awareness. A copy of the full report is being prepared and a summary/poster is available at www.farmgarden.org.uk/true-value



Wales

Our Growing Together in Wales programme, funded by BLF, goes from strength to strength. The number of new members from Wales is steadily growing and we have produced a leaflet outlining FCFCG's work in both English and Welsh languages. A series of regional meetings are taking place across Wales to strengthen the network and encourage emerging groups.



Scotland

Our Big Lottery funded partnership with Trellis and ARI is progressing well. We have recruited a full time Fieldwork Co-ordinator to manage an extended pool of fieldworkers to support members, as well as helping to organise training and networking events. This work will extend our geographical range and create better services for our Scotland members. FCFCG member groups in Scotland have also been involved in the Marks

& Spencer Greener Living programme. Funded by profits derived from the 5p charge introduced by M&S for food carrier bags, the scheme is aimed at improving parks, play areas and community gardens.

England

London: The annual Harvest Festival, London's version of a county agricultural show, celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2008 with big crowds and sunshine at Capel Manor in Enfield. Meanwhile, information is being gathered for an updated version of the popular London city farms and community gardens map, which will be re-launched in 2009.

Bristol: The second annual Bristol summer show in July built on the success of the previous year's event and was enjoyed by around 500 visitors. The event celebrated the contribution made by local city farms and community gardens towards the creation of more sustainable communities.



FCFCG would like to thank our funders, which include:



Blue Peter Appeal

FCFCG has an important role in raising the profile of the community farming and gardening movement, so we are very excited about our success in becoming involved with **Mission Nutrition** - this year's Blue Peter appeal.



The aim of the appeal is to get children in the UK - and overseas - growing and eating better food. It's an objective that goes to the heart of much work done on city and school farms and community gardens.

and communities. The money will also provide daily meals for children overseas and help support the creation of breakfast clubs in the UK.

The children's TV programme is running its biggest-ever appeal with Mission Nutrition. Not only is Blue Peter partnering for the first time with three charities - FCFCG, ContinYOU and Save the Children - but it's also reverting back to its traditional and most successful fundraiser: the good old bring and buy sale.

There are also plenty of opportunities for FCFCG members to get involved. In addition to raising their profile locally through bring and buy sales, city farms and community gardens can forge long-term, mutually-beneficial relationships with local schools where gardening and breakfast clubs will be set up.

All money raised will help children in the UK, as well as Bangladesh, Columbia and South Africa, grow their own food by setting up gardens in schools

Tim Levell, editor of Blue Peter, said: "We hope Mission Nutrition will present a real opportunity for children to understand more about food - where it comes from, how to grow their own, what is healthy and what the challenges are to eating well for children around the world. We want to put two million meals on plates."

More details of the appeal are available at: www.missionnutrition.org.uk



UK Partnerships



School Farms Network

School farms are on the rise. There are now more than 70 school farms operating in the UK and at least 30 schools actively trying to start one. SFN events continue to be popular ways for practitioners to swap ideas and advice, while the SFN e-newsletter has been revamped.

Allotments Regeneration Initiative

The initiative has received a three-fold funding boost, which will help support the highly-successful allotment mentor network. The growing popularity of allotment gardening has been recognised with special funding from DCLG for the first time, while



ARI is hopeful of securing funding from the Local Food programme. A further grant has come from a more unusual source - the San Francisco-based Fund for the Environment and Urban Life. ARI is one of the first in the UK to benefit from this grants scheme.

Think Food & Farming

This is the legacy project building on the successes of the Year of Food and Farming. The aim is to continue to promote the vibrant activities and links which are helping children to understand more about where our food comes from and to involve them in memorable first hand learning experiences. Many FCFCG members, including school farms, continue to be involved.



National Care Farming Initiative

FCFCG continues to serve on the steering group, actively working to promote the benefits of care farming, which combines care of the land with care of people. Many FCFCG members' sites, commercial farms, woodlands and market gardens are used as bases for promoting mental and physical health through land-based activity.



Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens

Supporting, representing and promoting community farms and gardens

Patron HRH The Prince of Wales

Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens **Annual Review 2008/09**

growing communities ~ creating opportunities



Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens

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This newsletter is also available in large print, braille or on audio tape from our Head Office

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