



www.farmgarden.org.uk

The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens exists to support, represent and promote community managed farms and gardens

Patron HRH The Prince of Wales

Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens Annual Review 2006/07



Chair & Director's Report

Growth is a word with real resonance Executive, Defra and the new DCLG. for our community of farmers and gardeners. Whether it is the growth of vegetables on a small plot of land or year, especially in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The values at the heart of our communities in their local green spaces or education opportunities for inner-city children: the concept of growth is central to our movement. It is also a term which captures much of what has happened during FCFCG's 26th year. We have seen our membership numbers grow to record levels and we have continued to expand our portfolio of information services for members, both in print and online. We have further developed Good Practice initiatives and cultivated movement in all senses of the word. As the past year has amply demonstrated, ours is a growing practice initiative and cultivated movement in all senses of the word. Long may this continue.

departments, including the Scottish minded organisations and Government Jeremy Iles (Director) and John Wheldon (Chair)



Key Achievements

Grants & Funding

- We would like to thank all our funders, including:**
- Active Community Unit of the Home Office
 - Ardwick Trust
 - Awards For All (England and Northern Ireland)
 - Bridge House Trust
 - Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
 - Charities Aid Foundation
 - Department for Communities and Local Government
 - Department for Education and Skills
 - Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
 - Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
 - Farthing Trust
 - Four Winds Trust
 - Hawthorne Charitable Trust
 - Konrad Zweig Trust
 - Lloyds TSB Foundation England and Wales
 - London Councils (formerly ALG)
 - MacRobert Trust
 - Michael & Anna Wix Trust
 - Northern Rock Foundation
 - R & SB Clark Charitable Trust
 - Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation
 - Scottish Executive
 - Scottish National Heritage
 - Steel Charitable Trust
 - Stella Symonds Charitable Trust
 - Transport for London
 - Tudor Trust
 - Ulster Garden Villages Limited
- Support was also given by:**
- Capel Manor College
 - The Gascoyne Cecil Estates
 - Gardening Which?
 - Leverhulme Trust
 - National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners
 - National Allotment Gardens Trust
 - Nature's Path
 - Triodos Bank
 - Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society
 - Trellis



- Enhancing our 'Promoting Good Practice' project – aimed at helping member groups to maintain and further enhance their effectiveness through a structured plan of network events and reciprocal visits.
- Furthering our Good Practice standards with a programme of farm visits by two Defra ministers: the Gateshead and London hosted city College, while the Federation members in Defra, toured the school farm at Othall Milliard MP Secretary of State at northern region. The Rt Hon David was appointed to help with an increasing volume of work in the member groups to maintain and further enhance their effectiveness through a structured plan of network events and reciprocal visits.
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- Improving our internal governance Lottery Fund. These partnerships hope to distribute very substantial grants to voluntary and community groups, starting in 2007.
- Strengthening our relationship with the new Department for Communities and Local Government, Performance Hub as an example of 'good practice' in developing strategic thinking.



England:

A Research & Development Worker was appointed to help with an increasing volume of work in the member groups to maintain and further enhance their effectiveness through a structured plan of network events and reciprocal visits.



Scotland:

There are now two staff members and four fieldworkers in Scotland, and SNF was created to give practitioners involved in school farming and ideas and exchange information. Funded by DEFES, SFN now holds regular networking meetings to support existing and potential new school-based projects. FCFCG also produces a regular SFN e-newsletter and is helping to create a new publication to support farming and gardening activities in schools.



Wales:

We ran a successful conference in Northern Ireland (alongside Northern Ireland Environment Link) that led to a cent in 2006 – it's estimated half of all community groups eligible for FCFCG partnership plan to develop community gardening and horticulture networks in the country. An outline bid to the Big Lottery Fund (Wales) has been submitted and a steering group formed, which will aid the Federation's work further.

Spain:

A partnership of five national environmental organisations, backed by Defra, which aims to develop fresh strategies for neighbourhood regeneration, sustainable local food production and land management. Ten pilot projects are now involved in developing a self-assessment toolkit for application within local neighbourhoods.

Care Farming Initiative

This initiative stems from the growing recognition of the therapeutic value of farms and garden-based activities. This year the Countryside Agency gave its backing to care farms, and major national events are planned for 2007

Access To Farms

This Defra and DFES supported scheme is a partnership of national organisations aiming to improve the quality of educational access to farms through an accredited training scheme. ATF has also developed the country's most comprehensive database of farms providing educational access.

School Farms Network

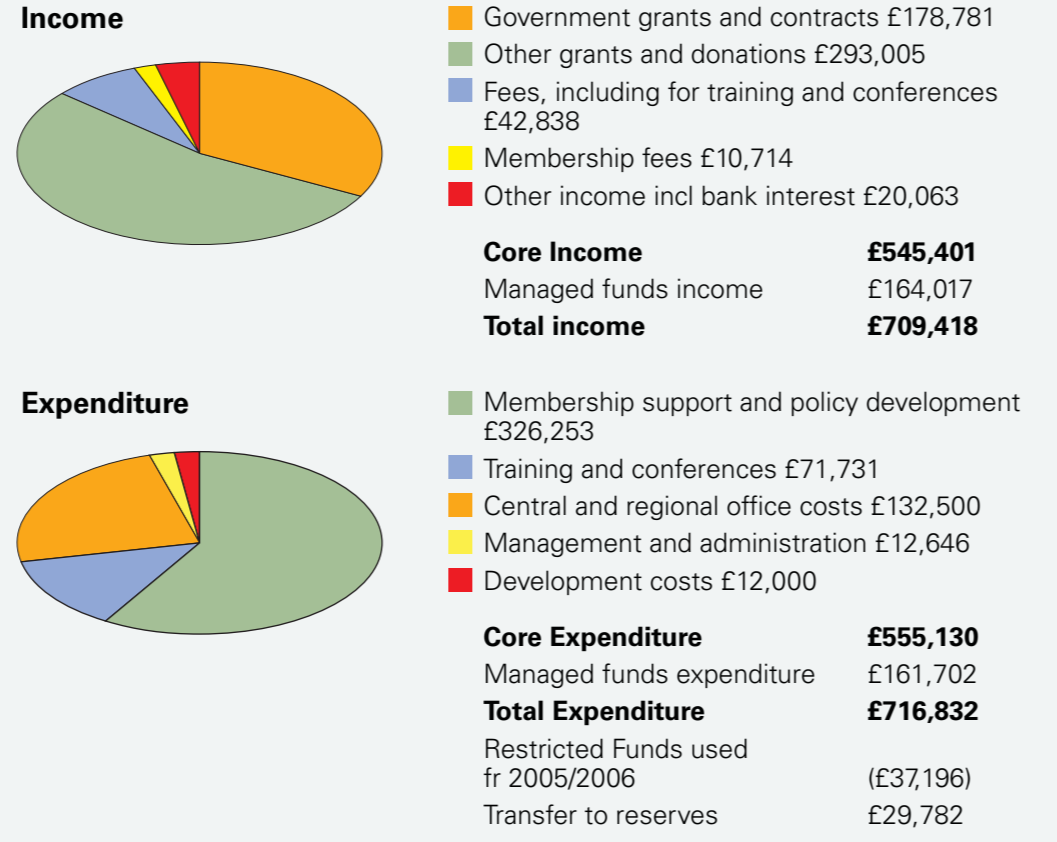
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Financial Summary: April 2005 – March 2006

The accounts set out below are a summary of our 2006 financial statements. A copy of the full accounts is available on request from our head office.

Our **core income** of £545,401 represents a decrease of £114,933 on the previous financial year. This is due to a number of projects coming to an end in 2005-6. An additional £164,017 of funds managed by us on behalf of other organisations gives a total income for the year of £709,418.

Our **core expenditure** of £555,130, plus expenditure of £161,702 of managed funds, gives a total expenditure of £716,832. The surplus on unrestricted funds was £29,782 and this was added to our reserves (see below). Restricted funds had a deficit of £37,196. This is an 'inherited' deficit on income from previous years. Therefore, we had a deficit on all funds of £7,414.



Partnerships

FCFCG

Contact Details

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Charity Number: 294494
Company Number: 2011023

Board of Directors

Chair
John Wheldon (Stonebridge City Farm)

Vice Chair
David Drury (Gorgie City Farm)

Company Secretary
Mike Primarolo (Windmill Hill City Farm)

Jill Brookes (Heeley City Farm)

Associate Representative
John Crowther (Cheltenham Borough Council)

Mike Gosnell (Welbeck Road Allotments Association Trust)

Maria Hornsby (Rice Lane City Farm)

Mick Magennis (Kentish Town City Farm)

Clare Sutton (formerly of Culpeper Community Garden)

Lynn Templar (St Werburgh's City Farm)

Bankers

Co-operative Bank PLC
16 St Stephen's Street
Bristol BS1 1JR

Auditors

Dick Maule
Bristol Community Accountants
12 Picton Street
Bristol BS6 5QA

Photo credits: Lancing College, Walsall Road Allotments and Burnley Food Links. Several images were taken by entrants to FCFCG's 2006 children's photo competition in London, sponsored by Nature's Path.

Garden & Events Planner 2007

Our planner is full of valuable tips for gardeners, plus details of UK and international awareness dates, which our members can use as themes for on-site events.



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January

- ✿ Plant fruit trees while they are dormant
- ✿ Build structural elements like paths and walls
- ✿ Turn over empty beds and borders
- ✿ Review your garden plans
- 📅 27 - 28 Jan **RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch** – World's biggest bird survey www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch
- 📅 28 Jan **National Potato Day** – celebrates the humble spud www.gardenorganic.org.uk



February

- ✿ If you have a polytunnel, get your early potatoes in by the end of the month
- ✿ Prune fruit trees
- ✿ Clean and oil tools
- 📅 14 - 21 Feb **National Nest Box Week** – helps native British birds www.bto.org/notices
- 📅 26 Feb - 04 Mar **Student Volunteering Week** – improves the profile of student volunteers www.studentvolunteering.org.uk



March

- ✿ Start planting in the greenhouse by late March – tomatoes, leeks, cucumbers
- ✿ Keep an eye out for frog spawn
- ✿ Sow half-hardy annuals such as french marigold, petunia and nicotiana
- 📅 8 Mar **International Women's Day** – recognises that social progress needs the equality of women www.un.org/events
- 📅 20 Mar **International Earth Day** – a reminder to take time to care for our planet www.earthsite.org



April

- ✿ Plant pond and wetland plants including ragged robin, flag iris, purple loosestrife, common valerian
- ✿ Sow hardy annual seeds outdoors like cornflower, nasturtium, pot marigold
- ✿ plant onions and carrots outside at the end of the month
- 📅 2 - 9 Apr **Welly Week** – Helps educate and inspire people about organic gardening www.gardenorganic.org.uk
- 📅 8 - 14 Apr **Mental Health Action Week** – Annual awareness-raising week www.mentalhealth.org.uk



May

- ✿ Sow or plant veg outdoors: cabbages, cauliflowers, beetroot, broccoli
- ✿ Plant peas outside and build trellises at the same time
- ✿ Protect soft fruit bushes with nets or fruit cages
- 📅 6 - 12 May **Compost Awareness Week** – composting: something to mulch over! www.compost.org.uk
- 📅 19 - 25 May **Adult Learners Week** – encourages education for more mature students www.niace.org.uk
- 📅 17 - 28 May **Be Nice To Nettles Week** – helps change the bad press that the nettle gets www.nettles.org.uk



June

- ✿ Early polytunnel potatoes can be replaced with courgette, tomato and chilli seedlings for a double crop
- ✿ Involve children by getting them to help make a scarecrow
- ✿ Plant out tubs and containers
- 📅 1 - 7 June **Volunteers Week** – celebrates the work of volunteers www.volunteersweek.org.uk
- 📅 16 June **National Badger Day** – raises funds for the Badger Trust www.badger.org.uk
- 📅 18 - 24 June **National Insect Week** – focuses on the wonderful world of insects www.nationalinsectweek.co.uk



July

- ✿ Weeding and watering is the order of the month
- ✿ Towards the end of July, take semi-hardwood cuttings like lavender
- ✿ Make sure plants, particularly in containers, are well fed
- 📅 1 July **International Day of Co-operatives** – highlights the contribution of co-operatives www.coop.org
- 📅 2 - 10 July **National Mammal Week** – celebrates all mammals great and small www.mammal.org.uk



August

- ✿ Harvest your veggies: cucumbers, potatoes, tomatoes will all be ready
- ✿ Dead-head flower beds to keep them looking fresh
- ✿ This is holiday month so ensure people are still available to weed and water
- 📅 13 - 19 Aug **National Allotments Week** – promotes the awareness and availability of allotments www.nagtrust.org
- 📅 24 - 31 Aug **European Bat Week** – all UK species of bat are under threat www.bats.org.uk



September

- ✿ When wildflower meadow blooms are over, trim back and clear cuttings
- ✿ Prune back thyme, parsley and sage to encourage new growth
- ✿ Take cuttings of half-hardy perennials and shrubs
- 📅 1 - 16 Sep **Organic Fortnight** – focuses on organic food and growing www.soilassociation.org
- 📅 22 Sep - 7 Oct **British Food Fortnight** – celebrates the diverse range of UK food www.britishfoodfortnight.co.uk



October

- ✿ Make Jack-o-lanterns and pumpkin soup for Halloween
- ✿ Remove excess vegetation from ponds. Leave on the edge so pond creatures can crawl back in
- ✿ Remove diseased plants or parts of plants
- 📅 **Black History Month** – focuses on the UK's cultural heritage www.black-history-month.co.uk
- 📅 20 Oct **Apple Day** – celebrates apples and orchards www.commonground.org.uk
- 📅 31 Oct **Halloween** – spooky fun for all www.halloween.co.uk



November

- ✿ Ensure non-hardy plants avoid frost – bring inside until spring
- ✿ Plant spring flowering bulbs: snowdrops, bluebells, daffodils
- ✿ Make winter habitats such as log piles
- 📅 05 Nov **Bonfire Night** – check for hedgehogs in bonfires! www.guy-fawkes.com
- 📅 16 Nov **Social Enterprise Day** – highlights the role of younger people in social enterprise www.starttalkingideas.org
- 📅 From 21 Nov **National Tree Week** – marks the start of the tree planting season www.treecouncil.org.uk



December

- ✿ Use holly, mistletoe, ivy or pine cones to make Christmas decorations
- ✿ Empty water hoses properly – frozen water can cause them to burst
- ✿ Clear gutters of leaves and other debris
- 📅 1 - 2 December **Tree Dressing Day** – encourages the celebration of trees in city and country www.commonground.org.uk
- 📅 25 December **Christmas** – Christmas-themed events are popular with workers and visitors