



Cory Environmental Trust in Britain

Annual Report and Accounts
2014 - 2015



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Foreword from Chairman Peter Gerstrom

I am delighted to present this year's annual report for Cory Environmental Trust in Britain (CETB), which details many of the successful projects funded by the Trust throughout 2014. The year saw the delivery of CETB's 10th Birthday Project: Bexley Council's Iconic Gateway – a modernist bridge structure in Thamesmead, which has been transformed into a striking landmark through the use of architectural lighting, sculpture and restoration. This fantastic £100k project is the subject of a special review in this Annual Report – please take a look on page 4.



2014 has been another wonderful year for the Trust, with every meeting many times oversubscribed. More than £900,000 worth of grants has been paid during the year to a huge range of projects, from bee conservation all the way through to chapel restoration.

Once again, improvements to sporting facilities and play areas have been popular applications, which the Trustees always welcome. Funding for causes that support and enhance nature and biodiversity also remain a key priority and the Trust is delighted to have awarded substantial funds to such projects during the course of the year.

The Trustees meet three times a year to discuss applications and select those that will have the strongest benefits for the communities in which they are based.

The Trust continues to focus its attentions in the vicinity of Cory Environmental Limited's landfill sites in St Helens, Dudley, South Gloucestershire, Sevenoaks, Wrexham, and also in the London Borough of Bexley, where Cory Environmental's Riverside Resource Recovery Facility is located.

In 2014, Cory Environmental Limited took over the management of Tir John Landfill Site in Swansea and this area is now eligible for funding from the Trust. In addition, CETB is in the process of taking over Essex Environmental

Trust, Cory Environmental Trust in Colchester, Cory Environmental Trust in Southend on Sea and Cory Environmental Trust in Rochford, which will result in projects in Essex close to Cory Environmental's operations being eligible for funding going forward.

In spite of the success of the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) – and CETB in particular – the scheme is under threat. Towards the end of 2014 and into 2015, the Government conducted a consultation on the Reform of the LCF, the results of which are eagerly awaited.

A key focus of the report is the amount of funds held by the scheme and not distributed to the communities for which they are intended. What is not taken into consideration, however, is that the bulk of the funds held by Environmental Bodies (EBs) such as CETB is allocated funding, which is held by Trusts until applicants are in a position to draw down on the funds as their projects progress and complete.

Anyone involved in the delivery of projects will be aware of the range of issues that can come up that may delay progress, such as inclement weather, planning issues, illness or funding

shortages. Such delays, which are outside of the control of those involved, should not detract from the overall project and what it will achieve.

Some EBs have addressed this issue by awarding funds upfront to projects; however, CETB feels it is prudent to hold on to funds until any expenditure can be properly accounted for, as was the original guidance from the regulator.

That being said, in order to improve rate of spend, CETB is now favouring projects where most of the fundraising has already been achieved and all planning permissions are in place, and this is worth bearing in mind when submitting an application.

It is hoped that the results of the Reform of the LCF consultation will be positive, enabling the scheme to continue enriching the communities in and around waste facilities across England and Wales.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the organisations and the people behind them for their hard work and exuberance in bringing such high quality projects to the table for funding by

the Trust. I would also like to thank my fellow Trustees, who freely volunteer their time and expertise.

And last, but not least, I would like to thank our Trust Secretary, Angela Haymonds, who celebrated ten years with the Trust in 2014.

Her enthusiasm for the role and the professionalism in which she carries it out are a credit to her and we are lucky to have someone with such a wealth of experience managing the Trust on our behalf.

If you have a community project which you feel would benefit from Trust funding, please contact Angela Haymonds to see if we can lend our assistance.

Alternatively, you can also download an application form from the Trust's website: www.cetb.org.uk.



Peter Gerstrom

Chairman, Cory Environmental Trust in Britain

Special feature

10th Birthday Winning Project – Cory Bridge, Thamesmead

To celebrate the Trust's 10th anniversary in 2013, CETB invited community projects across the country to apply for a one-off, £100,000 grant.

The special award – representing £10,000 for each of the ten years the Trust had been in operation – drew dozens of high-quality bids from a wide range of worthy causes.

During a rigorous judging process, one application, The Thamesmead Bridge Project, stood out from the rest and was duly chosen as the recipient of the £100,000 celebratory funding.

This multi-faceted project laid out plans to make the bridge and surrounding area more attractive and welcoming. Efforts would also be made to encourage more cyclists and pedestrians to use the route, a key link between north and south Thamesmead.

The CETB funding was used to repaint the bridge and handrails, re-lay the footpath and install coloured architectural lighting across the bridge. Overgrown vegetation was also cleared away to make way for fresh planting.

The project team was also able to involve the local community in the bridge improvement works by holding creative workshops at which the design for a landmark sculpture was created.

This completed structure (pictured), which represents the community's love for the environment, was unveiled at a special event to mark the completion of works in March 2015.

Attendees saw the landmark lit up for the first time, as well as the architectural lighting that adorns the bridge, now renamed the Cory Bridge.

Speaking at this event, Peter Gerstom, Chief Executive Officer at Cory Environmental and a Trustee of the Cory Environmental Trust in Britain, said: "When we invited applications to the Trust to help us celebrate our 10th Birthday, we were looking for a project that would make a tangible difference to the lives of as broad a section of the community as possible on a daily basis.

"This project, to rejuvenate a bridge that creates a vital link across Thamesmead, making it an iconic structure that would bring immediate benefit to a wide range of users to use, stood out as the winning bid. I am delighted to be here today and see what an impact the improvements have already had."

Councillor Linda Bailey, the London Borough of Bexley's Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth, said: "These projects have made a real difference to this area. It's given the local community some great new spaces and facilities, and made this route feel safer, brighter and cleaner for pedestrians and cyclists. I would like to thank CETB and all the project funders and partners for their enthusiasm and support.

"Projects like this are very important, bringing together different parts of the community to work with each other and create something special."



Cory Bridge, Thamesmead

Nature

Bunkers Hill Wood

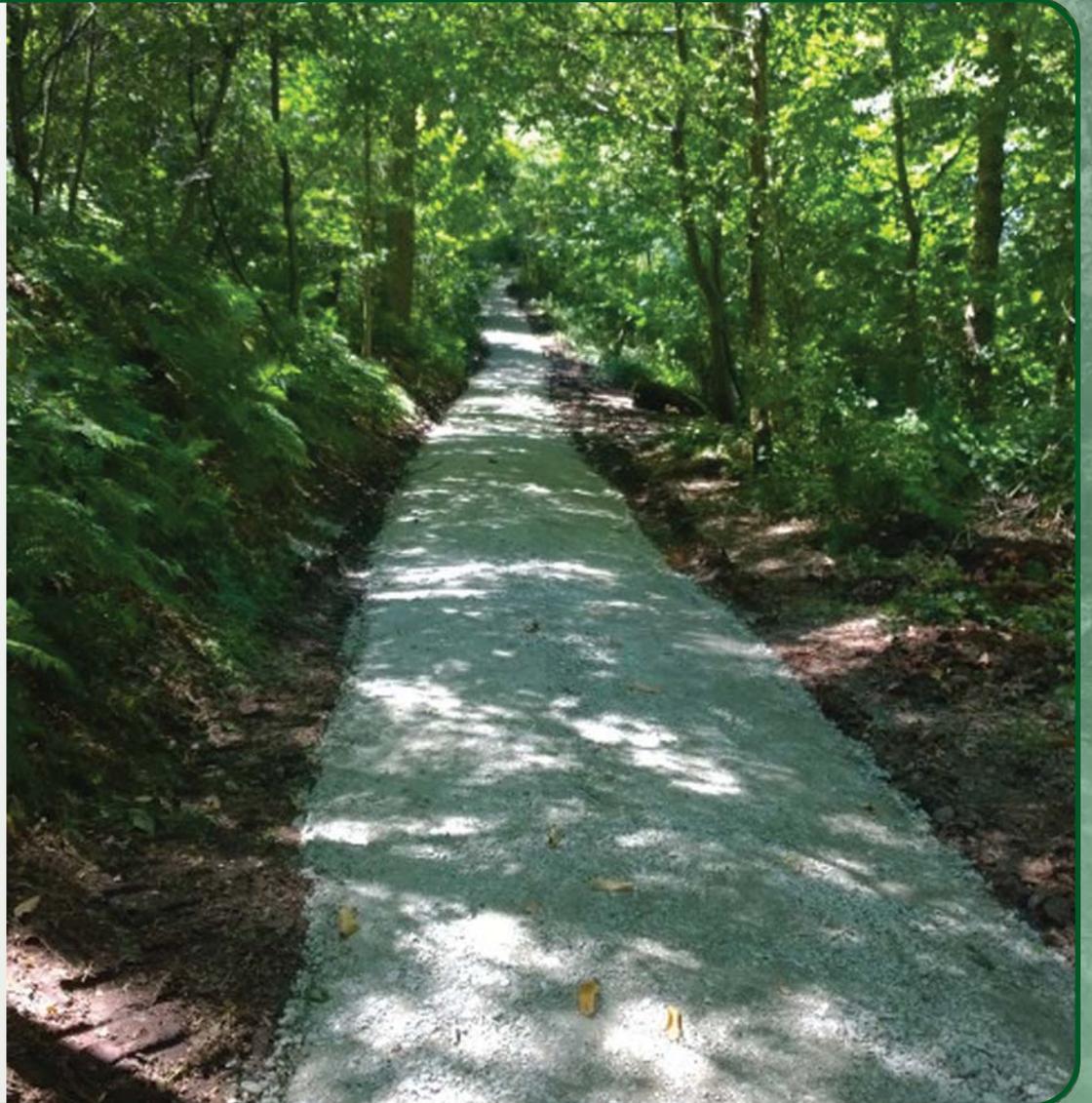
A £50,000 CETB grant was used to significantly improve the visitor experience at Bunkers Hill Wood, a 42-hectare woodland situated at the edge of the industrial Midlands.

A visitor survey conducted by the Woodland Trust found that the community wanted to know more about the wood, in particular what trees could be found there, the history of the site and what the Trust was doing to maintain it.



The results of this survey helped form the basis of a series of improvement works, which included the resurfacing of pathways, making them more suitable for buggies, wheelchairs and mobility scooters, improving the wood entrances and installing way marked trails to help people find their way around the many criss-crossing paths and routes.

CETB funding was also used to control the spread of invasive species to help restore areas of bluebells and other woodland flowers and prevent further damage to the site.





St Catherine's Valley Grasslands Project

Areas of wildflower grassland in the Cotswolds were fully restored thanks to a two-year project supported by CETB.

Having seen 97 per cent of the UK's wildflower grasslands lost in the past 60 years, Avon Wildlife Trust set about redressing the balance through the restoration of degraded areas.

A comprehensive survey of more than 50 land holdings within the St Catherine's Valley project area identified 515 hectares of grasslands in need of work.

CETB then provided the Trust with a grant of £32,940, which was used to acquire the services of a dedicated Project Officer, who gave specialist conservation advice and support to local landowners as well as practical assistance to a volunteer grasslands restoration team.



Nature

Better than Watching Grass Grow

A CETB grant of £50,000 enabled The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside to realise its 'Better than Watching Grass Grow' community conservation grazing project.

The initiative saw a number of sites within the Greater Manchester Wetlands Nature Improvement Area restored and upgraded to accommodate populations of rare breed grazing animals.

The CETB funding helped pay for a range of infrastructure improvements, including site access works, the establishment of a network of wooden and electric fencing and the purchase of handling facilities for working with livestock.

It is hoped the project will help to reverse the decline of rare and threatened wetland habitats, improve their associated biodiversity and conserve the livestock breeds themselves.



Marford Quarry: Rich in Wildlife, Enjoyed by All

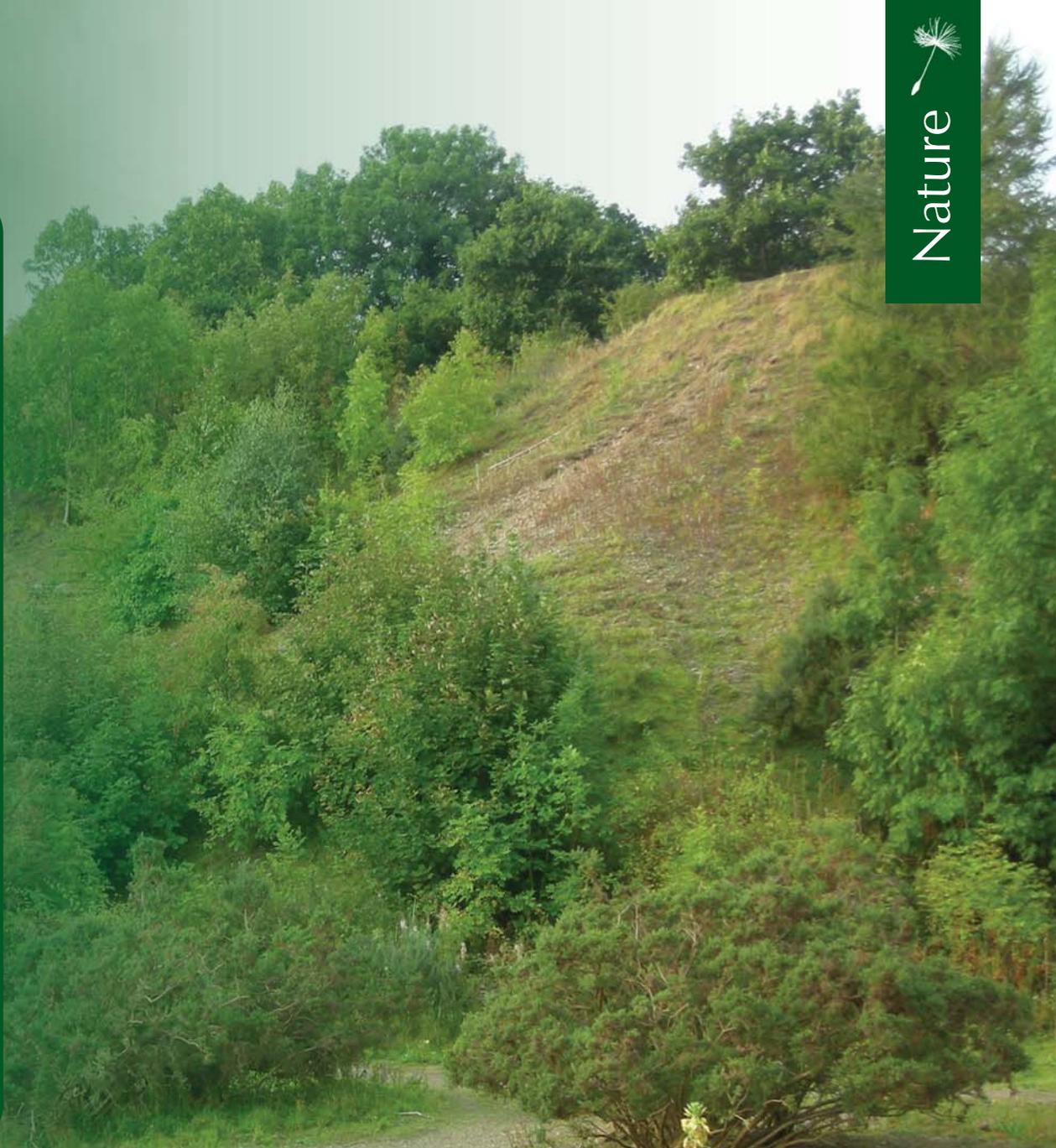
Marford Quarry nature reserve has undergone a major and much-needed makeover after receiving a £15,000 grant from CETB.

The restoration works centred on the popular community site's pond, a haven for wildlife, which had gradually deteriorated over a number of decades. Water held in the pond had also steadily declined, resulting in the pond becoming dry from early summer into autumn each year.

Works to fully restore the pond were completed in February 2015. A new site leaflet and display panels were also produced to improve the visitor experience. Regular conservation projects involving local volunteers are also in the pipeline to maintain and improve the site for wildlife.

The project has reconnected visitors with the natural environment, improving their health and well-being, offering them opportunities for learning and development, and providing easy access to high quality, biodiverse green space.

The pond restoration has also ensured more than 180 smooth newts and other wildlife will have a year-round home for the foreseeable future and therefore given the greatest chance to thrive.



Marford Quarry, near Wrexham

Community

New Playground Equipment for Under Fives

CETB provided Eynsford Parish Council with a £13,000 grant to fund a much-needed play area refurbishment.

The facilities upgrade has opened up the playground to a wider section of the community. Previously there was little outdoor equipment for under fives, something that put young families off using the playground.

More than a dozen youngsters helped road test the new equipment, which includes a multi-play unit and a double springer, at an official opening event attended by families and members of local toddler groups.



Swanbrook Valley Improvements Project

Walking and cycling rates in Swanbrook have increased thanks to a project to improve a network of off-road byways and footpaths funded by CETB.

CETB provided Woodsetton Charitable Trust with a £30,000 grant to fund the works, which involved the provision of new paths to increase accessibility.

The funding application was submitted after research showed just how vital Swanbrook Valley is to the local community. Linking houses with schools, colleges and other community facilities, it is estimated that 5,000 people use these pathways each week.

Looking to further encourage walking and cycling, Woodsetton Charitable Trust also installed a new pathway along a vital section of the Limestone Way, replaced an old footway bridge and installed new handrails at key points along the various routes, using funds raised from a variety of sources, including Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust.





Acton Turville at Play

A poorly-equipped play area in Acton Turville has now been replaced with a new, fun facility fit for children of all ages.

Local community group Acton Turville @ Play coordinated the fundraising effort, which was supported by a £30,000 grant from CETB and a £20,000 grant from Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust.

The upgraded play area replaces a 15-year-old, under-used playground that consisted of just three pieces of equipment and was deemed unfit for purpose.

The new play area has become a key community facility and is regularly used by children from pre-school to late junior school age, as well as children with special needs.



Sport

Little Wood Fishing Pond Development Project



Local community consultation on proposed improvements to Little Wood, the main public green space in Stockbridge Village, identified there was a strong need and aspiration for the provision of freely-accessible local angling facilities. A £30,000 grant from CETB helped establish this recreational resource.

The funding was used to improve a pond and associated infrastructure, enhance access and encourage biodiversity throughout the site.

The fishing pond has quickly become a hub for angling activity, drawing men, women, people with disabilities and families from the local community to pick up a rod and try to get a bite.

The project has also delivered a number of volunteering, training and group activities to help support the social, personal development, health and educational needs of the village residents.

Provision of Practice Nets

Belbroughton Cricket Club in Stourbridge installed new practice nets after CETB stumped up more than £27,000 in funding.

The community club, which fields 16 teams from under nine to senior level, began fundraising for the facilities upgrade after its previous nets became increasingly dangerous to use.

Not only blighted by holes and ripped patches of artificial turf, the nets ran from east to west, leaving bowlers and batsmen with the sun in their eyes at various times of the day.

The new state-of-the-art facilities will be used by Belbroughton CC members, local schools and community groups. It is hoped the nets will encourage more local people to take up the sport.



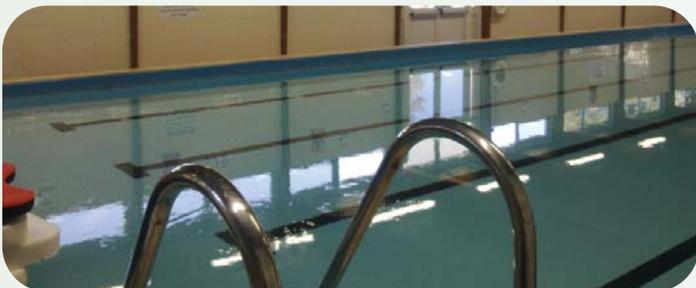
The Maelor School Swimming Pool Refurbishment

The Maelor School's swimming pool refurbishment project, supported by a £50,000 CETB grant, made waves throughout the local community.

The facilities upgrade saw improvements made to the pool's heating and insulation systems, significantly reducing the facility's energy use, and modifications made to the entrances, allowing wheelchair users to access the pool.

The refurbishment has secured the long-term viability of the pool, which is used by the school for the provision of swimming lessons to its pupils and also made available for public use.

Since the project has been completed the school has extended its out-of-hours activities, making what was already viewed as a valuable resource even more integral to the community.



Church / Community

St Paul's Church Meeting Room Appeal

In an effort to boost its presence in the local community, St Paul's Church set about converting its baptistry into a multi-purpose meeting room. With the infrastructure works complete, CETB provided the church with a grant of £21,500 to fit out the room.

This funding was used to install a folding glazed screen, develop a small kitchen area, purchase new carpets and chairs and extend the audio visual system into this area.

The new facility has played host to a wide range of community groups and been used to provide bereavement and general counselling support. Plans are now in place to engage with more families, those in need, disabled adults and children, and offer more services for local groups and schools.



Replacement Heating System and Adaptation of Facilities

An increase in use and the passing of time led Calvary Church to launch a fundraising campaign to install a modern, efficient heating system at the church, a project supported by a £50,000 CETB grant.

When the church was built 22 years ago, the heating system installed was chosen to meet a simple requirement – to heat the building for Sunday services and a few evening activities.



Fast forward two decades and the system was no longer fit for purpose. Not only was a more versatile system required to meet the needs of the church's seven days a week community group use, but the existing pipework had deteriorated to such an extent that it was leaking in several places, causing damage to floors and carpets.

The CETB funding was used to install a high efficiency boiler and a secondary hot water heater, to provide hot water on demand. New flues, pipework and thermal insulation were also installed throughout the church.



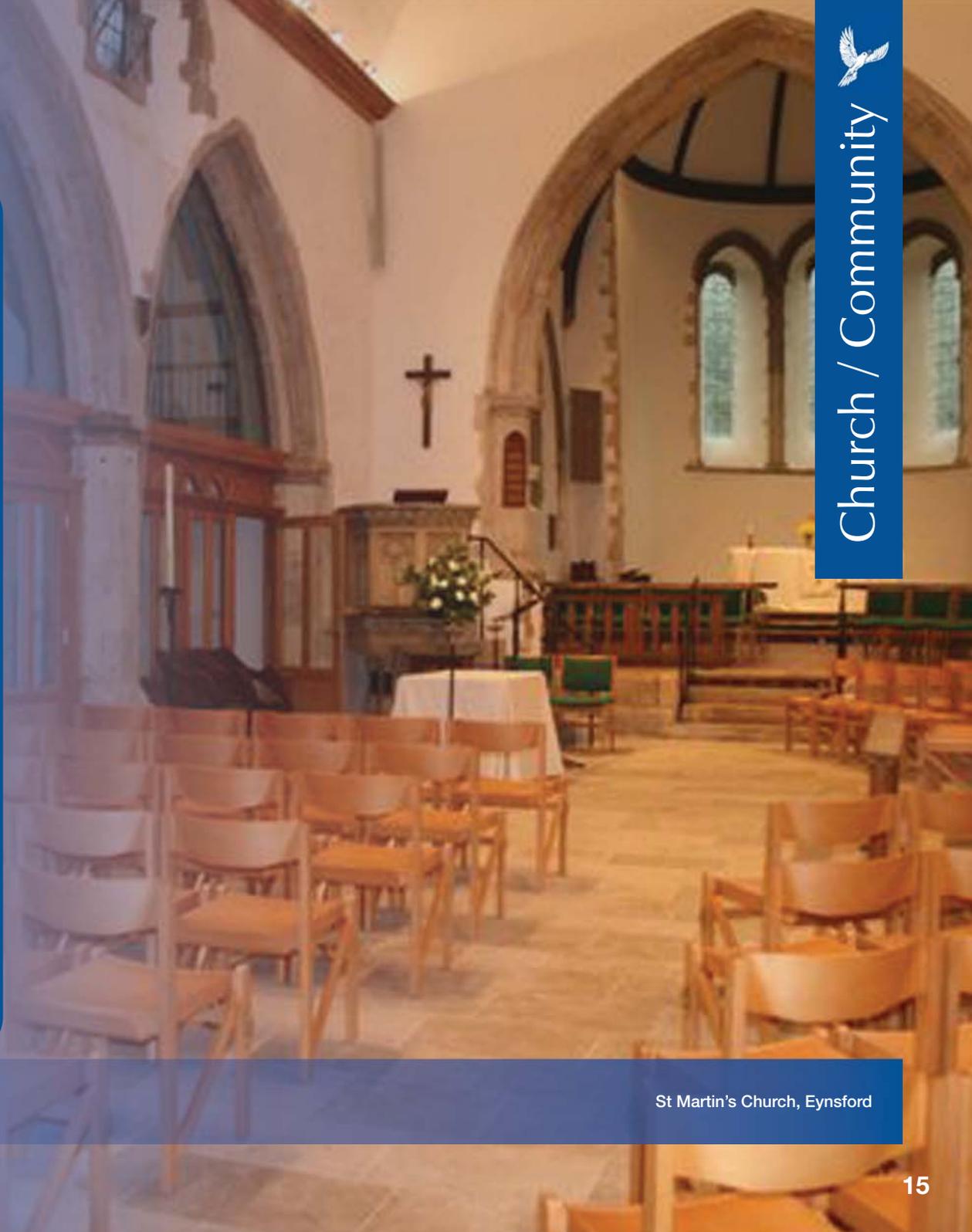
Reordering of St Martin's, Eynsford

An unexpected find delayed but ultimately did not disrupt the completion of re-ordering works at St Martin's Church.

The project, supported by a £30,000 CETB grant, saw a flexible space for worship and communal activities established, a new kitchen, heating system, disabled access and toilet installed and upgrades made to lighting and audio systems.

Works at the 12th Century Norman church were temporarily halted in September 2014 when a small mausoleum was unearthed and the coffin of Alexander Pitcairn (deceased 1813) was discovered. Alexander was a member of the famous Pitcairn family. In 1767, his brother Robert spotted the island that is now named after him; Pitcairn Island.

The chance discovery drew hundreds of visitors, including the Farningham and Eynsford Local Historical Society (FELHS), before the mausoleum was carefully covered over again and works were completed.



Heritage

Orrell War Memorial

A new war memorial paying tribute to servicemen from a Wigan village who lost their lives during the first and second world wars has been built, thanks to a £14,000 CETB grant.

The Orrell War Memorial Committee received a £14,000 CETB grant to help fund the memorial, which was erected in time to mark Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day.

The memorial bears the engraving “In grateful memory of those from Orrell and District who gave their lives for their country”.

The Orrell War Memorial Committee was established in 2003 after a small war memorial in the village was demolished to make way for a housing development.



Restoration of St George's Garrison Chapel, Woolwich

The military worked hand-in-hand with the local community to restore St George's Garrison Chapel in Woolwich in a project backed by a £20,000 CETB grant that saw the chapel converted into a vibrant community resource.



The 19th Century Chapel was once a thriving part of barracks life, until it was bombed in both the first and second world wars, leading to the removal of its roof and upper walls.

This left fine mosaics, including a St George and Dragon VC memorial for the Royal Artillery, open to the elements and at risk of irreparable damage.

With CETB funding secured, the Heritage of London Trust Operations set about coordinating military and civilian volunteers to begin the restoration and conversion works.

The mosaics were removed and restored before being reinstated, while a roof was erected and the building was fitted out with new facilities, including a kitchen, storage space and a lavatory.

The chapel is now open to the public each weekend and hosts regular musical, theatrical and educational events.



Accounts

Cory Environmental Trust in Britain statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 December 2014.

	Restricted Funds 2014 £	Total Funds 2014 £	Total Funds 2013 £
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Incoming resources from generated funds:			
Grants from Landfill Operators	1,310,810	1,310,810	1,196,354
Investment income	1,509	1,509	2,751
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	1,312,319	1,312,319	1,199,105
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
ENTRUST administration fee	28,445	28,445	22,973
Grants payable	708,735	708,735	909,580
Running costs	64,569	64,569	60,594
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	801,749	801,749	993,147
MOVEMENT IN TOTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR - NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR	510,570	510,570	(205,958)
Total funds at 1 January 2013	1,397,455	1,397,455	1,191,497
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 December 2014	1,908,025	1,908,025	1,397,455

Accounts

Cory Environmental Trust in Britain balance sheet as at 31 December 2014.

	£	2014 £	£	2013 £
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	33,099		66,461	
Cash at bank	2,085,407		1,387,084	
	2,118,506		1,453,545	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	(210,481)		(56,090)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		1,908,025		1,397,455
NET ASSETS		1,908,025		1,397,455
TRUST FUNDS				
Restricted funds		1,908,025		1,397,455
TOTAL FUNDS		1,908,025		1,397,455



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