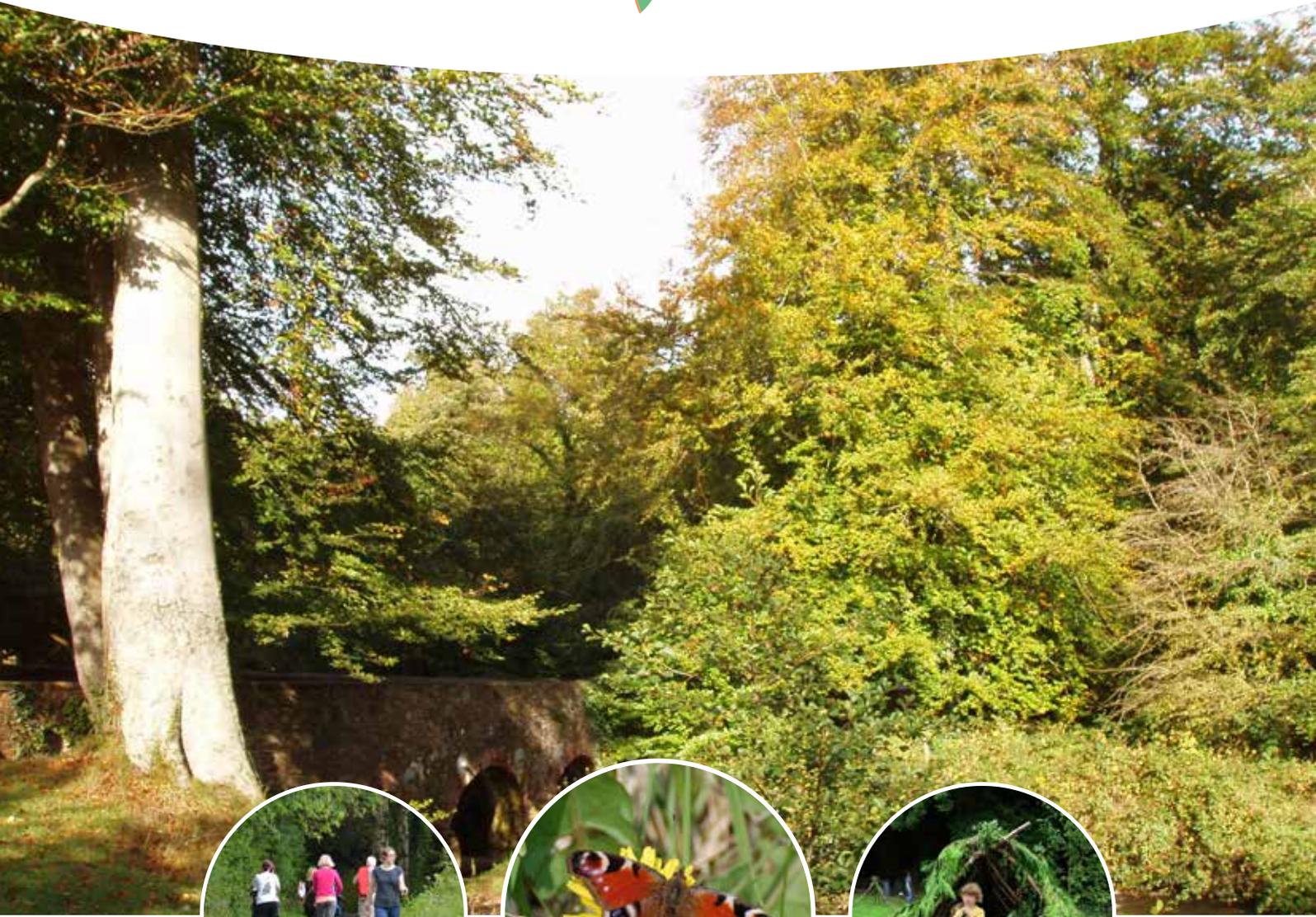


REGIONAL PARK



LAGAN VALLEY



DISCOVER | EXPLORE | ENJOY

**Annual Report 2016/17**

# At A Glance

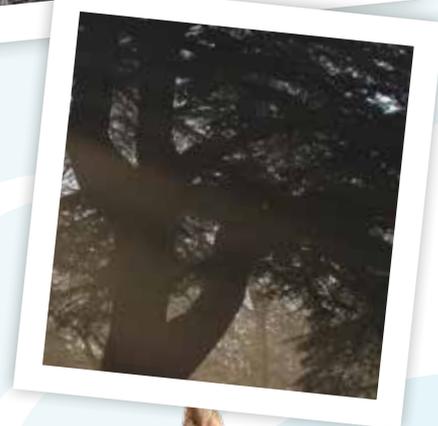
## OUR KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

### Volunteering Excellence

- Total of 4,054 volunteer hours recorded
- Lock Keeper's Cottage - Volunteer Heritage Guides 1,196
- Industry Lighter - Volunteer Heritage Guides 1,051
- Volunteer Rangers 633
- Volunteer Wildlife Surveyors 218
- Conservation Volunteers 924
- Directors 32
- Living Heritage - Cottage and Lighter open to the public 254 days
- This equates to an estimated added value of over £60k to the Regional Park and greater community

### Ranger Service

- The Towpath Initiative; raises awareness of considerate use of the Towpath
- Annual Events Programme with 29 events engaging with 434 people
- Support of a team of volunteer rangers
- 4 information stands at fairs and shows
- Over 42 km of trails and Park paths patrolled weekly
- 984 enquires from members of the public
- 412 bags of litter collected
- Facilitated and supported over 22 events attracting around 3000 people



# Chair's Report

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“Wonderful natural beauty which people can enjoy as respite from the stresses and complexities of modern living; a safe home for so many diverse species; protection for our heritage.”

**For those of us who use the Regional Park, the value of this unique resource is clear. 4,200 pristine acres extending along the Lagan Valley and linking two of our main urban centres.**

Wonderful natural beauty which people can enjoy as respite from the stresses and complexities of modern living; a safe home for so many diverse species; protection for our heritage.

Much of the joy of the Park is that feeling of being in wilderness, within an urban environment. Only minutes after entering the park, the city seems a world away. However, therein lies a challenge. This is not a wilderness that can be left to its own devices. It needs careful stewardship, maintenance, and sympathetic development, so that it remains what it is for us today, and for our children and grandchildren in the future.

That stewardship comes from the focus and professionalism of a tiny staff team, supported by the vital work carried out by our many volunteers, and by a committed Board. We owe them our thanks.

The support of our partners is vital, however economic and political uncertainties are giving us some concerns. LVRP is run on very modest funding, and historically there have been few questions over future funding streams. We can no longer take that for granted, as all publically funded organisations continue to be under scrutiny. We understand this, but we also know that LVRP delivers hugely for our citizens, and our partners, at miniscule cost. We will be bringing that message strongly to partners and stakeholders, to seek greater stability in our funding, so that we can bring more certainty to the long term management and custodianship of the Park.

*Robert Wasson*

**Robert Wasson**

*Vice-Chair*



# Manager's Report



*“Our Ranger Service continues to provide a valuable public service, dealing with enquiries about the region and providing assistance with a wide range of incidents.”*

**I would like to thank all of our partners for their support throughout the year and particularly our funders without whom we could not continue to deliver so much on their behalf.**

Aristotle said that the whole is more than the sum of its parts and this principle is very relevant to partnerships like ours, where together with support and partnership, we are able to deliver so much more for our environment, our heritage and our communities.

Every year the support and dedication of our volunteers and community is amazing and it is testament to this that we started the year in April with the Investing in Volunteers accreditation. Over 4,000 hours have been contributed to the park over this year. That is a phenomenal level of community involvement that the Regional Park supports with the continued help of our partners.

As usual, all of our dedicated team have supported and helped to develop one of the most exciting events programmes to date and we continue to provide a wide range of services; working with interest groups, schools and youth organisations amongst many others.

Our Ranger Service continues to provide a valuable public service, dealing with enquiries about the region and providing assistance with a wide range of incidents.

I would like to extend a special thank you to our small team of four staff. Given the limited resources we have, it is testament to the dedication and passion of our team that we manage to achieve so much throughout the year.

*Dr. Andy Bridge*

**Dr Andy Bridge**  
*Manager*



# Lagan Valley Regional Park

Lagan Valley Regional Park is the key umbrella organisation developing partnership among the many stakeholders that operate in the area.

The Regional Park is Northern Ireland's only Regional Park and has surpassed 1.3 million visitors annually, making it the most popular managed outdoor area in Northern Ireland.

The River Lagan and its surrounding valley landscapes are renowned for their natural beauty. At the heart of the Lagan Valley is the River Lagan and canal systems that form the main access and wildlife corridor bridging two of Northern Ireland's population centres. This unique area, typified by its rolling landscapes, ornamental



parklands and farmland, is one of Northern Ireland's designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Lagan Valley Regional Park covers an area of 4,200 acres and extends 11 miles along both sides of the River Lagan between Stranmillis, Belfast and Union Locks, Lisburn. This year the Regional Park will celebrate its 50th anniversary. The Regional Park was founded in 1967 as an organisation responsible for the guardianship of this special area.



## Lagan Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a precious landscape where the distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the Nation's interest to safeguard it (NAAONB, 2003). The Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order 1985 sets out the main purposes of an AONB:

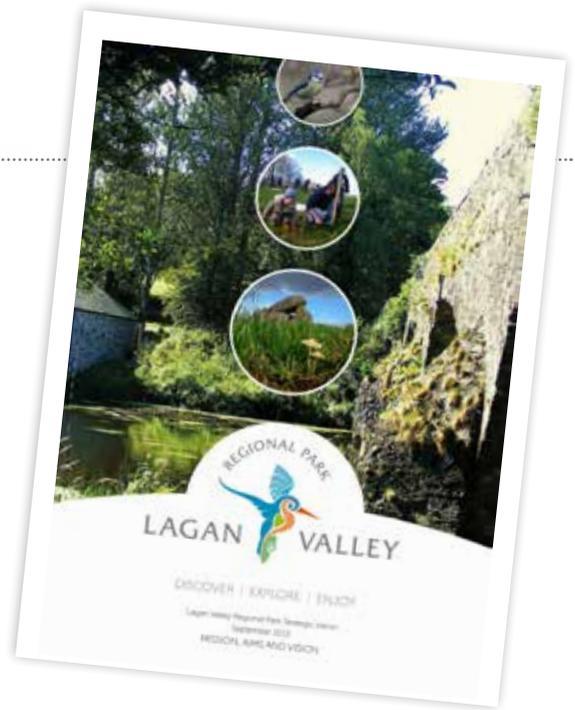
- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty or amenities of the area.
- To conserve wildlife, historic objects or natural phenomena within the area
- To promote enjoyment by the public
- To provide or maintain public access to the area

From these, Lagan Valley Regional Park's Mission was developed; to protect and conserve the unique landscape character of Lagan Valley Regional Park and the Lagan Valley AONB, enhance its biodiversity, cultural heritage and promote its benefit to visitors and the community.

# Our Vision

“A Park that offers a thriving, diverse and valued riverside heritage that welcomes exploration, learning and enjoyment whilst ensuring a sustainable environment for all.”

The Regional Park’s strategic vision defines six key focus areas of Biodiversity, Visitors, Community, Landscape, Heritage and Health & Recreation.



## Our Aims

- To conserve and manage the biodiversity in the Regional Park
- Support and facilitate ongoing research and education about the area’s biodiversity and heritage
- Encourage the involvement of the community and to develop volunteering in the Regional Park
- Maintain and enhance the landscape quality of the Regional Park for the benefit of all
- Proactively conserve and manage the cultural and built heritage of the Regional Park
- Promote the benefits of green open spaces, within the area, for health and wellbeing
- Support appropriate recreation activities, events and the development of sustainable tourism for the benefit of the region
- Increase public awareness of the natural and cultural heritage throughout the region

## Management Plan

The Park is developing the next five year management plan 2017-2022. This will be the latest in a series of management plans that will help guide our work for the next five years. We have appointed a consultant and have begun consultations with partners and the local community. We expect to have the plan finalised and printed next year.



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## Partnership

Good partnerships are essential to the governance and management of the Regional Park. Working with our partners we have realized all of the goals laid out in the management plan for this year and, given the spectrum of varying aims and visions of our partners, it is thanks to the coordinated effort of our partners that we have achieved so much. In addition to our funding partners there are a number of other bodies and organisations with which the Lagan Valley Regional Park works. In particular, The Rivers Agency is responsible for work along the river system and they provide services such as grass cutting along the towpath in close association with DCAL; The Forest Service manages Belvoir Park Forest and the National Trust manages the Minnowburn and Terrace Hill sites; The Lagan Navigation Trust has a complementary role in working to open up the waterway from Belfast to Lough Neagh.

## Our funding partners

Working together in partnership means that all partners benefit from a much greater value for their contribution as it is matched by others who contribute to the pot.

- Department for Infrastructure (DfI)
- Belfast City Council
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency (DAERA)
- HLF Legacy

## Our management partners

Working together with our management partners brings benefits far outweighing individual organisations working alone.

- The National Trust
- Sustrans
- Council for Nature Conservation and Countryside (CNCC)
- Forest Service (DAERA)
- Transport NI
- Lagan Navigation Trust
- The Woodland Trust
- Ulster Wildlife
- Rivers Agency
- Lagan Rivers Trust
- Butterfly Conservation NI



# Visitor Centre



## A Heritage and Social Hub

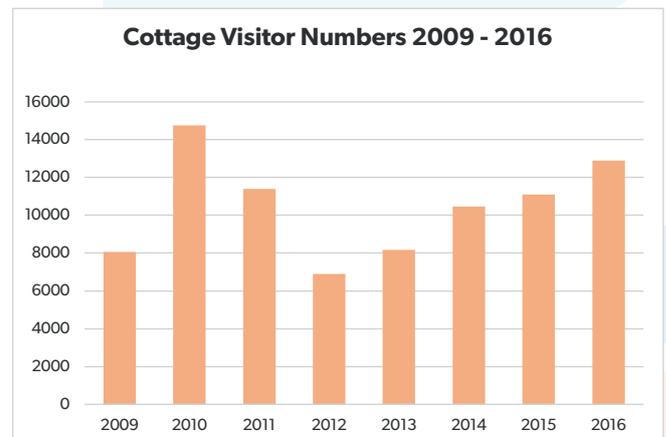
### Lock Keeper's Cottage

The opening of the Lock Keeper's Cottage and the Industry Lighter has been managed by Lagan Valley Regional Park for several years now and coupled with the Lock Keeper's Café the site is a thriving hub of activity; the only place where a visitor can step back in time and see several restored features all on the same site. The Lock Keeper's Cottage was restored through Heritage Lottery and local council funding; the lock and old bridge were restored through Heritage Lottery and Central Government funding and the Industry Lighter was restored through European Union and local council funding.

Visitors to the Cottage and Lighter are provided with a tailored interpretation of this living history by Volunteer Heritage Guides, offering as much or as little information as required. Many of our Heritage Guides have been with us for several years and have built up an astonishing wealth of knowledge not only about these features and the Lagan Navigation of old but also the cultural heritage connecting communities with their past.

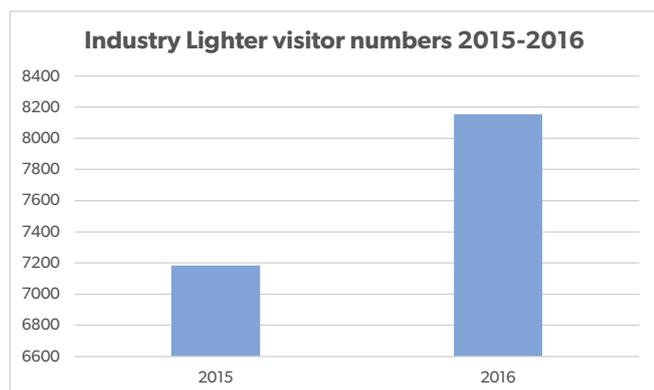
### Visitors to the Lock Keeper's Cottage

The Lock Keeper's Cottage opened in 2008, shortly after the restoration was complete, and we have been recording visitor numbers since 2009. At the Lock Keeper's Cottage visitors can expect a cosy welcome to a piece of Northern Ireland's living history. This is where the Lock Keeper and his family lived and looked after the lock. Join our Heritage Guides for a remarkable snapshot of life on the Lagan Navigation. The cottage is open most weekdays and occasional weekends. 83,000 people have visited the cottage since it opened in 2008.



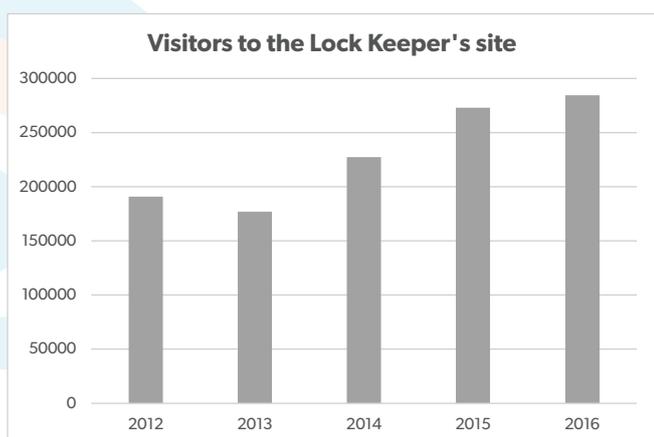
## Visitors to the Industry Lighter

The Industry Lighter was opened in November 2014 and makes this heritage hub complete. Barges on the Lagan Navigation were called 'lighters' and this particular lighter was built in 1920 by Portadown Foundry. It was used during the early part of its life to transport mainly coal. Much of its latter days were spent as a sand barge on Lough Neagh.



## Visitors to the overall site

These figures capture the visitors to the whole hub including our office, the heritage features and the café. The number of visitors has steadily increased over the 5 years we have been recording and now the site clearly receives over 200,000 visitors each year.



Our visitors come from Northern Ireland, Ireland and the UK, but also farther afield; Spain, Greece, Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand to name but a few.

## The Third Lock

Known as McCleave's Lock, the third lock was restored in 2008. Where possible, the original stonework was retained during the restoration process with new stone being added where necessary. The lock gates had to be specially constructed to old plans from the Lagan Navigation, making it a fully functioning restored lock.



# Events Programme

This year saw the delivery of an exciting and extensive series of events aimed at getting people involved in the Regional Park's local heritage, its landscapes and its biodiversity or just to get out and about for a healthy walk. This year we delivered 29 events.

## Discovery Mornings

Our series of seasonal walks with the ranger are popular among walkers who enjoy a leisurely guided walk with a little insight into the joys and issues we face during our day to day management.



## Heritage Walks

Our heritage based walks this year included Geology of the Lagan Valley, Secret Garden, Secrets of the Stone Age, a Treasured Landscape.

These walks help to interpret the range of heritage features that can be found in the Regional Park, telling the story of our heritage from our early Stone Age settlers, through the Norman Invasion, the Irish Uprising and the more recent and fascinating industrial heritage of the Lagan Navigation.

## Biodiversity Walks

Our wildlife walks focusing on birds, bats, butterflies, bees, fungi, wildflowers, woodland and trees attracted 168 people. These walks are important in informing people about the importance of our biodiversity and how it relates to our lives and what measures we take to manage and protect it.



## Other ramblings and family activities

The Remaining events on our calendar were rambles and family based fun such as Christmas crafts and foraging and this year they attracted 85 people including children.

## Bushcraft

This year we had five bookings engaging with 50 children along with their parents. We hope to enthuse our younger visitors on how exciting our natural environment can be, from dipping a net in the pond and discovering all the "wee beasties" that thrive there, to building shelters from nature's resources in our Bushcraft events. Another important Bushcraft ethos is the principle of 'leave no trace'.

Supporting the delivery of so much more

In addition to our own events, the Regional Park also supports a range of other organisations who come into the area to run events. Some of the more noteworthy events this year have included several walks and runs supporting physical and mental health, and an open air movie.



## The Giants Ring hosts The Wicker Man

This year's summer solstice was celebrated at the Giants Ring monument with a showing of the original 1973 version of The Wicker Man directed by Robin Hardy and hosted by Belfast Film Festival. The audience was limited to 500 to control the impact on the site and the event was sold out. The dry warm evening helped to make the event a success with many people coming in themed costume.



## Run Forest Run winter race series

The first of Born to Run series of winter 10k races is hosted in the Regional Park. The Minnowburn run starts and finishes from Mary Peters track and takes place in November. This year it attracted 668 runners for the 10k and 91 for the 5k.



The Regional Park supports several other runs including Dub Runners Giant Trail Race with around 500 runners, the Resolution Run with around 300 runners, and the Les Jones memorial race with around 300 runners.



## Walks and other events

Many bodies used the Park for walks and other events, including NI Hospice 300, Cancer Fund for Children 100, Parkinsons UK 100, Christian Aid Ireland 60, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People 100, Charity Dog walk 40.

In addition there were two 'duck derby' charity events held on the river, one through Marks & Spencer; the other for Belfast Scouts.

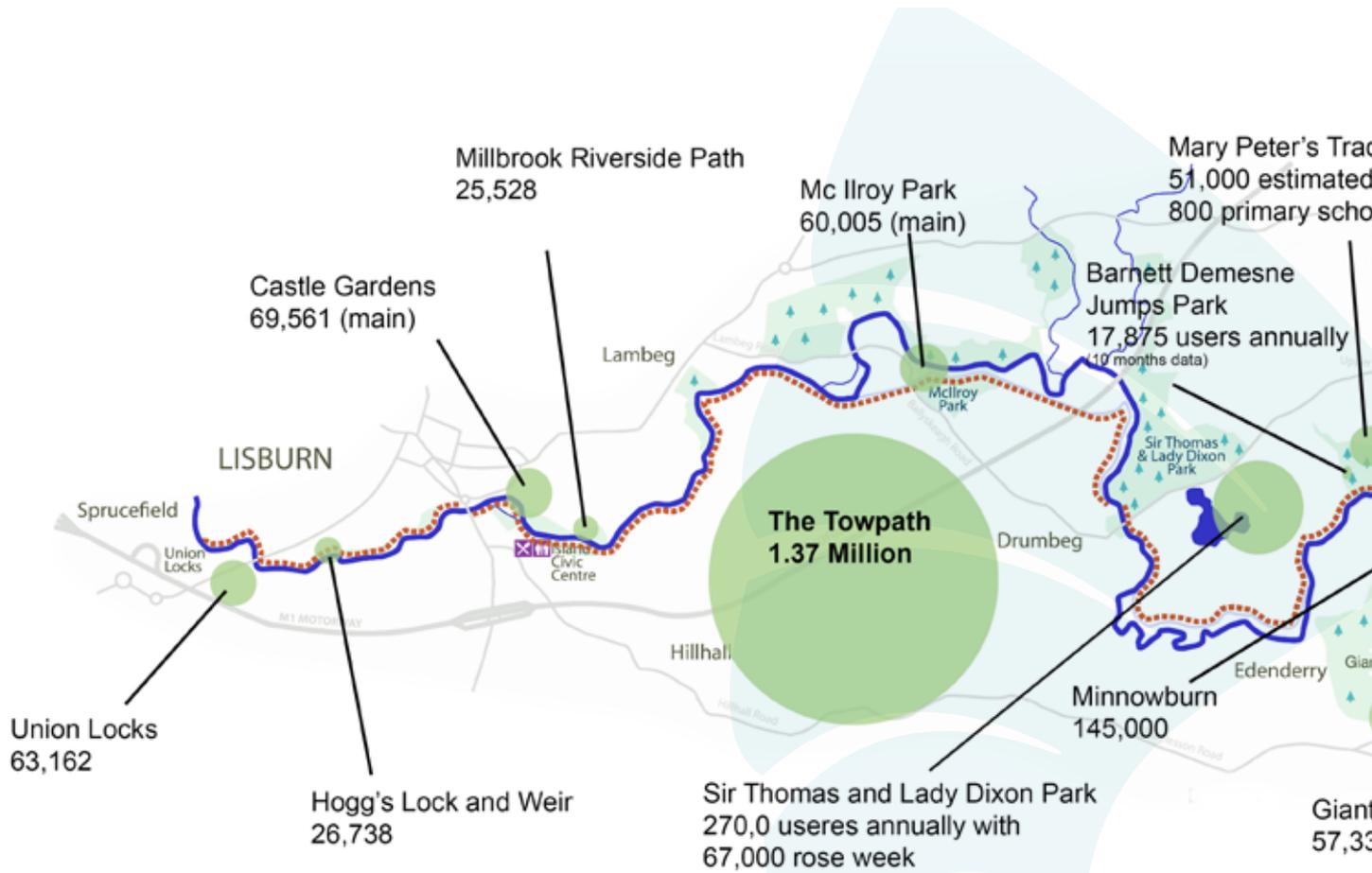
## Masters degree in environmental management and conservation biology

In October we facilitated a group of masters students from Queens University to get up close and personal with some of our invasive species. The Regional Park has three invasive plant species: Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed. Part of our core remit is provide education on the impact invasive species have on our native flora and fauna as well as supportive control and management with our partners. What better way to spread the message than to raise awareness among students who will go on to work in conservation management.

## Millennial tours

During the summer the park hosted visits of European millennials; the so called generation Y; a generation born between 1980 and 2000 marked by creativity, flexibility, open-mindedness, a strong sense of social responsibility and concern for the environment. The millennial tours are part of a pilot to facilitate groups from this cohort to discover local heritage, with emphasis on personal and local cultural heritage. One of our groups came from the North West Regional College in Derry/Londonderry with two other groups coming from the University of Ghent (Flemish History Society) and a group of Italian students from Milan Central College.

# Lagan Valley Regional Park



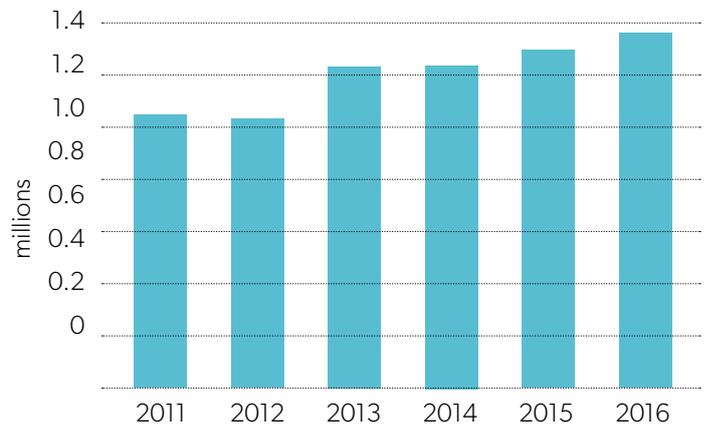
## The most popular outdoor attraction in Northern Ireland

The towpath forms a cultural, social and biodiversity link between the cities of Lisburn and Belfast, two of Northern Ireland's largest population centres. It is a quality section of the Ulster Way, a 'quality medium distance walk' under Walk NI and it is part of the National Cycle Network. Recent years have seen steady increases in visitor numbers. This year saw user numbers surpass 1.3 million for the towpath alone, easily making Lagan Valley Regional Park one of the most visited outdoor attraction in Northern Ireland. Given the annual budget of c£170,000, this is astounding value for money.

Whilst we record visitor data on the towpath, the main corridor through the Park; this is however just one path through the Regional Park and the map shows the visitor numbers supplied by our partners for the range of attractions throughout the Park.



Visitors to Lagan Towpath



# The Ranger Service

**Rangers are . . . . ‘the sharp end of the environment industry; skilled people who have to balance the demands, aspirations and curiosity of the public, with protection and enhancement of the physical and cultural fabric of the countryside, with sensitivity, humour and integrity’**  
**Countryside Commission.**

## What We Do

Public activities and recreation

Tackling issues and problems

Interaction with the public

Provision of information

Patrolling and Monitoring

- to maintain access

- for conservation

When out patrolling in the Park, the ranger is a mobile interpretation point for members of the community; also the eyes and ears for the Regional Park and its partners.

The Ranger Service engages with the community, both informing and educating visitors through direct public contact and through promotion at public events and fairs. The Ranger Service works closely with the Regional Park’s funders and partners as well as authorities such as the Police and DAERA on issues such as wildlife incidents and disturbances in the area.

## Volunteer Rangers

Our Ranger Service has been supported and greatly enhanced by the help of Volunteer Rangers this year who have given their time and hard work throughout the year. We would like to extend a big thank you. Volunteers contributed 633 hours to supporting the ranger service this year.

Many of our Volunteer Rangers have gone on to gain full time employment and whilst we are always sad to see someone go, we will have played a part in upskilling, providing experience and developing confidence to continue their careers.

- 412 bags of litter collected
- 984 public enquiries dealt with
- 5 public information stands
- 42 km of paths and trails patrolled weekly (over 2000km annually)
- Responded to 22 incidents ranging from basic maintenance issues fed back to partner organisations to unauthorised use of chain saws in the Park
- 29 public events delivered; promoting biodiversity, heritage, health and the Regional Park
- Carrying out and facilitating survey work and transects for butterflies, badgers, otters, squirrels and bats
- Facilitated and supported over 22 events attracting around 3000 people



# Public Interface

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The Park Office is prominently positioned on the towpath at the Visitor Centre with the key attractions of the Lock Keeper's Cottage, the Industry lighter, the lock and the café. The office is a primary interface for the public in dealing with enquiries and providing information and education. This year the Park Office dealt with 984 general queries.

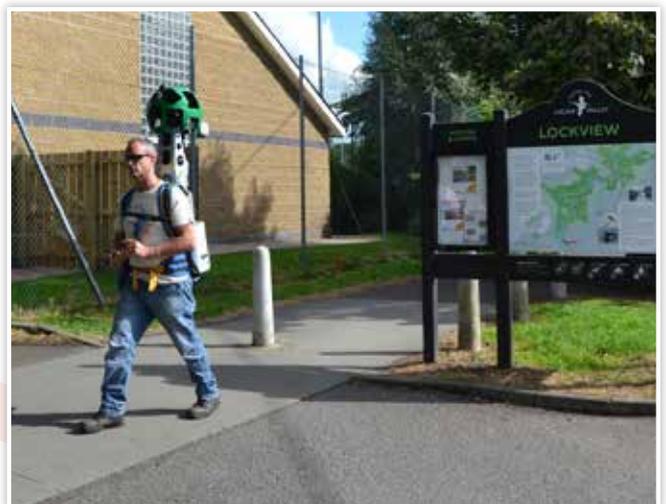
These contacts may be in person, via email or by phone and account for around 40% of admin time. We also received enquiries about volunteering, student projects and placements, planning, site security, directions, wildlife and heritage to name a few.

All of these queries require some form of follow up; whether it is site visits, investigation or contacting a relevant organisation. These range from reports and queries about wildlife and heritage, directions, access issues and recreation to complaints about litter, dog fouling, toilets, maintenance, fallen trees and vandalism.

This valuable service and the vast experience and expertise that our staff have developed over the years means that we are dealing with complaints and enquiries that would otherwise have to be fielded by the councils, DfI, DAERA or other agencies and is one of the many ways of delivering cost effective services through partnership.

## Lagan Valley launch Google Trekker – A virtual Exploration

Lagan Valley Regional Park and Google have been working in partnership to map the tracks, trails and towpath in the area. The Regional Park has over 38 kilometres (24 miles) of paths and trails, including the towpath. Staff members spent several weeks diligently walking all our paths and trails with the Google camera orb, similar to the Google car that mapped all our streets and roads, this version is integrated into a back pack so that all of our paths and trails can be accessed the same way that we use Google street view.



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## Ancient Oak project

Every few years, trees will yield an abundant amount of seeds, called a mast year. This year was a mast year for oaks and we have made the most of it by collecting acorns from veteran and ancient oaks in the Lagan Valley. As part of our community engagement work in partnership with the Forest Service we invited 70 pupils from Belvoir Park Primary School to plant acorns.



Some of our ancient oaks may have been here for five centuries and it was great to show the children some of our oldest trees and get them potting up the acorns. They all labelled the pots and it is hoped that in a year or two the children will be able to come back and plant out the whips. The Project was featured on BBC Radio Ulster's Your Place and Mine on Christmas Eve.



## Tree of the year – Woodland Trust

To emphasise the importance of our ancient oaks we entered the Belvoir Oak in the competition for the tree of the year. Whilst we didn't win, it was great publicity and the competition was aired on Channel 4's Tree of the Year with Ardal O'Hanlon, which was also aired on RTE.



# Volunteering

**The Regional Park has six key focus areas in its 10 year Strategic Vision, one of which is community. As such we envisage 'a park with people at its heart'.**

We want a park that is **people focused**, a place where everyone is welcome to visit, **get involved** and **discover** the Park on our doorstep. It is a place that connects the hearts of two of Northern Ireland's largest population centres and has strong links with community. The Park has a great sense of cultural connectivity and links to its past. We believe the Park is a fantastic resource and will continue to develop events and other ways for people of all backgrounds and abilities to get involved. A thriving park with community at its heart presents a great economic asset to the region, where tourism can benefit all.



Volunteering has become an integral part of our organisation and we strive to operate our volunteer programme to the highest possible standard. As such this year we have endeavoured to review and revise our volunteer information and policies simplifying where appropriate and refining to ensure they are appropriate to take the programme forward into the future.



## Investing in Volunteers

Running in tandem and often informed by the Investing in Volunteers assessment process was the revision and reprint of our Volunteer Welcome Pack. This pack helps us to standardise our approach to welcoming volunteers and makes the induction of volunteers as simple and straightforward as possible whilst covering the basic.



The packs are now available in a handier A5 folder and contain an information booklet outlining what Lagan Valley Regional Park does and what volunteers can expect from us and what we expect from volunteers and other useful information; there is the main volunteering policy on a handy sheet; there are three forms, the registration form, the diversity monitoring form and a feedback form for volunteers who, for whatever reason, decide not to volunteer with us anymore and there are the four roles that we offer, clearly outlined with loads of information about what volunteer can expect to do in each of the roles. We have printed 400 packs, which we expect to keep us going until our next review in 2021.

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## Valuing our volunteers

Underpinning every aspect of the Regional Park are a range of volunteers, from litter pickers to board directors. The volunteer and community sector represent a tremendous added value to the Regional Park and not only keep it deeply embedded at the heart of the community but help to deliver a range of services.



Using objective and generally accepted measures to value the inputs of our volunteers, in the course of this year over 4000 hours were delivered, at a value to LVRP and its partners of over £65,000. This effectively adds more than a third to the funding of the park.



Volunteers enjoying reward days our Christmas get together, our Heritage Guide day out to Downpatrick Gaol and our day trip to Castle Espie



# Wildlife in the Lagan Valley

Our Park Rangers, supported by our Volunteer Wildlife Surveyors, play a key role in protecting the numerous species of wildlife in the Park.

Species that are surveyed include, badgers, bats, otters, butterflies, squirrels and recently the elusive pine marten has been added to the list. Many of our events focus on our furry and feathered friends, creating opportunities to educate the general public on the importance of conservation of the ecosystems, habitats and landscapes in the Park and creating a safe environment for wildlife to thrive.

## Water quality

Water quality can be affected by a number of factors, from pollutants, biological organisms and physical factors. The Dissolved Oxygen (DO) content, which are the number of oxygen molecules that have actually dissolved in the water. Required in the metabolism for aquatic animals it is a good indicator of water quality and can also influence inorganic chemical reactions.

The river water quality has been steadily improving over recent years. A summary of Impoundment DO readings indicates more sites now meet the required pass level of 4mg/l.

Year	Pass (%)
April – June 2010	81.0
April – June 2011	79.4
April – June 2012	87.2
April – June 2013	92.1

With the development of the North Eastern river basin management plan, targets have been set to reach a moderated ecological potential by 2021 and a Good ecological potential by 2027 as defined in the water basin management plan. So far data is available for 2015 which records a poor ecological potential for the North Eastern River Basin District which includes the River Lagan.



2015	
Overall status:	PEP
<b>Confidence in overall status:</b>	
Alien Species	Absent
Angiosperms	Moderate
Benthic Invertebrates	Poor
Dissolved inorganic nitrogen	Bad
Dissolved oxygen	Moderate
Fish	Poor
Priority hazardous substances	Fail
Specific pollutants	Moderate

# Accounts for the Year Ending 31 March 2017

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Lagan Valley Regional Park Limited

I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017, which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes.

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

### Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

### Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. It is understood that management were not required to make any significant judgements or estimations when applying the **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.



## Notes to the Financial Statements Year ended 31 March 2017

### Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

### Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2017 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2016 £
<b>Donations</b>				
Northern Ireland Environmental Agency	21,000	21,000	42,120	42,120
Belfast City Council	41,618	41,618	40,855	40,855
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure	–	–	15,098	15,098
Events income	960	960	968	968
Donations	270	270	580	580
Other income	395	395	895	895
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	41,410	41,410	41,055	41,055
Department for Infrastructure (Cycling & Waterways Unit)	15,098	15,098	–	–
Heritage Lottery Fund	42,480	42,480	–	–
	<u>163,231</u>	<u>163,231</u>	<u>141,571</u>	<u>141,571</u>

## Other activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2017 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2016 £
Belfast City Council (barge & cottage)	15,104	15,104	14,087	14,087

## Costs of raising donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2017 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2016 £
Wages and salaries	127,608	127,608	105,944	105,944
Rent	4,500	4,500	5,750	5,750
Light & heat	3,808	3,808	–	–
Repairs & maintenance	729	729	755	755
Insurance	4,918	4,918	965	965
Motor expenses	42	42	2,470	2,470
Travel & subsistence	986	986	1,034	1,034
Accountancy fees	2,500	2,500	3,554	3,554
Telephone	658	658	626	626
Other office costs	3,951	3,951	3,609	3,609
Depreciation	923	923	531	531
Bank charges	128	128	184	184
Sundry	2,724	2,724	4,323	4,323
Water charges	511	511	–	–
Consumables	–	–	195	195
Clothing & uniforms	1,350	1,350	191	191
Tools	8,015	8,015	5,666	5,666
	163,351	163,351	135,797	135,797







REGIONAL PARK



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