

WOLCT Report for CCC July 2024 AGM

I am the Local Interest Group representative for the Water of Leith Conservation Trust because their Office and Visitor Centre is in our territory and of course the river forms part of our boundary. They do though serve the whole length of the river and its tributaries. Even the little burn that flows out of our pond meanders into the Water of Leith.

In 2023/4 the Trust delivered 249 practical tasks including litter picking, river clean-ups, path work, maintenance, invasive species management, gardening sessions, meadow management and biological surveys.

Education is a major function and at the Centre and along the river they delivered 172 Learning Sessions with over 3700 participants on school sessions, group visits and events. They also welcomed a record 39 classes from Edinburgh's High Schools.

The Visitor Centre itself is staffed by a team of volunteers and this year the community cafe continues to evolve with soup and games on Fridays and since the Spring there has been home baking on offer. Overall, there were some 20 thousand visitors welcomed to the Centre.

There is also a Patrol team that keep watchful eyes on the river, recording activity and reporting issues which then helps in prioritising tasks to be done. They conducted 334 patrols over the year.

Overall, the Trusts activities were supported by an amazing 11 thousand volunteer hours which is the equivalent of 7 full time members of staff.