



Caring for the Cotswolds

Autumn 2023 update

© Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust - one of two rare Black Poplar trees at Greystones Farm. Thanks to a Caring for the Cotswolds grant, a project will go ahead to grow 100 new Black Poplar trees.



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Christmas Came Early!

This Autumn we have been wrapping up the 2023 Caring for the Cotswolds grants round.

We opened to applications for a new funding round in June with a massive £20,000 to spend, and managed to get early Christmas presents out to 11 organisations by confirming funding for next year!



A wide range of applications came in for projects benefiting the Cotswolds National Landscape and the communities within.

We engaged with a variety of organisations including:

- Parish Councils
- Community Groups
- Charities
- Not-for-Profits

In September, we reviewed, researched and readied the applications for panel scoring.

First up – the Youth Panel.



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Youth Panel

This year, we had a focus on involving youth voice in our decision-making, following on from the previous round's successful test run of a 'Caring for the Cotswolds Youth Panel'.

We teamed up with Creative Sustainability and their Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group, who were keen to get involved in the 2023 panel!

The young people started the day with a walk up Robinswood Hill, and then got stuck in with discussions and debates over two and a half hours to form a set of recommendations - gaining experience of budgeting and decision-making processes.

Their scores and recommendations were sent to our grants panel - formed of CNL board members.

[Click to read more about the youth panel and hear feedback from one of the members](#)




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Grants Panel


As the wet and wind started to come in at the end of November, the grants panel met to officially allocate the budget to this year's applicants.

The Cotswolds National Landscape board members allocated £19,519 to 11 projects across the Cotswolds, which broadly mirrored the Youth Panel's recommendations.

© Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust



The new projects include initiatives to increase the rare, native black poplar tree, restore ponds and ancient orchards.



Other projects will improve footpath networks for residents and visitors, and support minority groups in their local community by offering gardening education sessions to adults with learning disabilities.



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We couldn't have done it without you!

We will have an exciting year of projects to report back on and we look forward to going out to these projects, meeting those involved and getting some pictures and stories to share with you.



We send our thanks to our incredible business members, who are committed to keeping the Cotswolds a special place to live, work and visit.

Without your donations, we would not be able to support these amazing projects, all of which would have greatly struggled to get off the ground without a Caring for the Cotswolds grant.

A special thank you to:

Cotswolds Distillery

Cotswolds Farm Park

Go Cotswolds

Country Walkers

VBT Bicycling Vacations

Heath Farm Cottages

for their recent donations.



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