

Season's Greetings

What a year it has been! As most of you will know, in early March we received the fantastic news that our application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund had been successful and that we had been awarded the £2.78 million grant for the Landscape Partnership Scheme. More or less immediately afterwards, we went into lockdown. After months of uncertainty, negotiations with the Lottery Fund and work with partners to replan and reschedule activities, we were finally able to commence work on the Landscape Partnership Scheme in July.

All of the organisations involved have risen to the challenge of starting a large and complex project during a global pandemic. I am pleased to report that 9 of the 18 projects within the Scheme are underway. Work is now progressing to enable us to protect and enhance Charnwood's unique heritage and habitats, mitigate flood risk, create new public access routes and amenities, and support local communities, businesses, and schools in a variety of ways.

After Christmas, we will begin to focus on the geoheritage conservation research and fossil audit. Charnwood Arts will begin to deliver the community arts programme and we will also commence a heritage and health project which we hope will provide relief to some of the groups who have found the lockdown particularly isolating.

We will be sharing much more at a stakeholder event in April. Although we are not sure what form this event will take, we will certainly bring the Stakeholder Forum together, even if the event has to be delivered online.

All that remains is to thank you again on behalf of the partners for continuing to support the Landscape Partnership Scheme and to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas,

Julie and Helen

Landscape Partnership Scheme Delivery Team

