

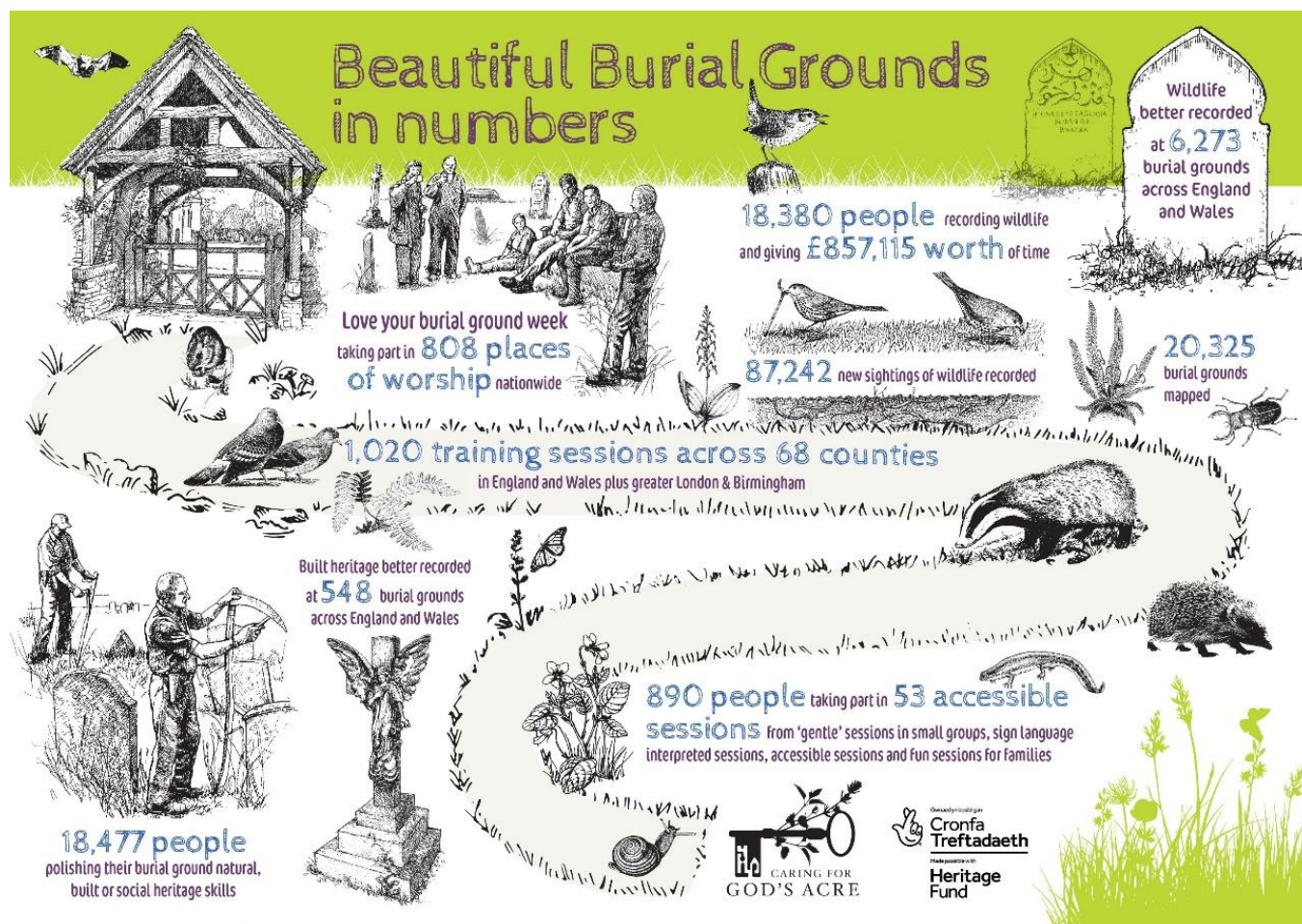
Caring for God's Acre Annual Report 2022-2023 Summary

Our Annual Report for 2022 – 2023 is now available. To request a digital copy please email info@cfga.org.uk. We are really proud of all that we have achieved and here are a few of the highlights....

A number of grant funded projects came to an end:

The Beautiful Burial Ground project finished at the end of December 2022. This was our largest project to date, involving two dedicated members of staff, George (4 days) and Liam (4 days), plus combined nine days per week from Prue (2 days), Andrea (1 day), Anna (1½ days), Harriet (2½ days) and Mick (2 days).

Some highlights from the project from our evaluator, Heritage Insider:



Although this particular project has closed this is not the end of The Beautiful Burial Ground – we will continue to promote it, to encourage recording and to use the resulting data in a range of ways. In particular it really helps us to support those managing burial grounds and to champion their importance both locally and nationally.

Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds started in December 2019 and ended in December 2022. This project was primarily concerned with social history. Using a bespoke digital system we mapped 5 burial sites within Birmingham and ran 44 memorial recording sessions which (alongside some wonderful independent recorders) recorded the inscriptions of over 4,338 memorials. The details of 7,610 people have been added to the 5 digital maps in 12 group sessions and many, many hours of people continuing this work at home. Our wonderful volunteers are still working away and the numbers are still rising.

Biodiversity Hotspots across Wales reached across the Welsh counties of Wrexham, Flintshire, Denbighshire, Ceredigion and Powys and supported burial ground managers to increase biodiversity within their site. The project was funded from October 2020 and was completed in March 2023.

Welsh Burial Grounds for Wildlife finished during this reporting period and has given burial ground managers significant opportunities for learning and improving skill sets. Through this project, we now have a comprehensive

set of bespoke learning materials (Welsh & English language), aimed at those who manage burial grounds, focusing on biodiversity and connecting people with nature.

Opening the Ark ran for 12 months and came to an end in June 2023, following an agreed 3 month extension to allow us to utilise a small underspend. The project focussed on 26 churchyards within the Shropshire Hills AONB with the aim of engaging local people with the biodiversity in their churchyards and spreading that biodiversity out into the wider community.

Two core projects continue to go from strength to strength:

God's Acre Volunteers project is on-going and the team have been active now for over two decades. We've given advice, support or practical assistance to burial grounds in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Powys, soon to add South Herefordshire and Worcestershire too. The support of our enthusiastic volunteers was vital in enabling this to happen and thanks go to them for their fantastic efforts and continued support.

Churches Count on Nature is a partnership between Caring for God's Acre, the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK (a Christian charity who run the Ecochurch award). Churches of all denominations are encouraged to take part in Churches Count on Nature and to run biological recording events during Love Your Burial Ground Week in early June.

Core Activities involve:

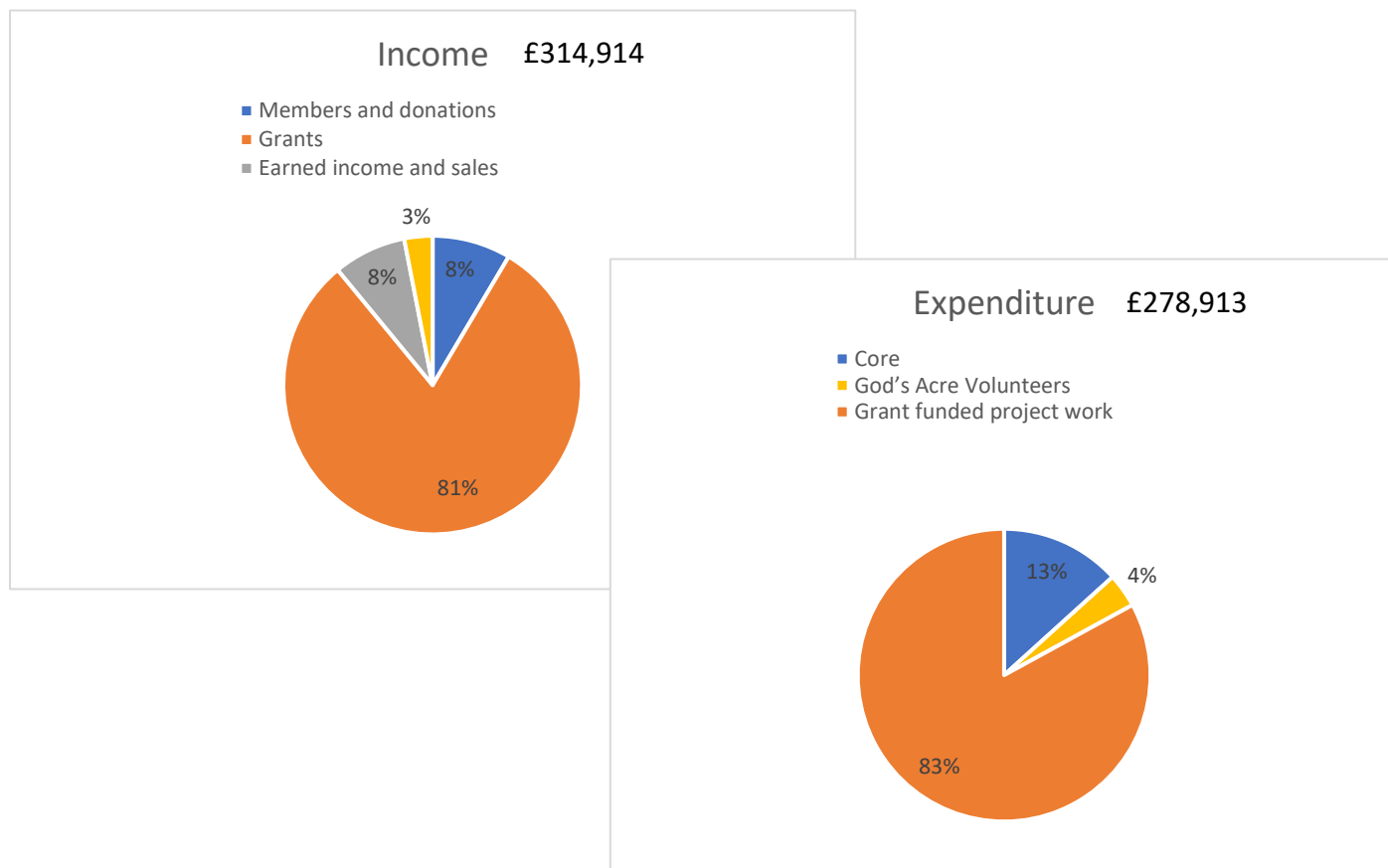
Support of those who manage burial grounds of all types

Charity and project **development** plus general fundraising

General management of the charity, its staff, governance and office

Publicity and Promotion:

As well as project work, we achieve our aims by running a **webinar season** in autumn and winter including an **online AGM** with guest speaker. We offer support and advice via our **online** and **printed resources** and through consultancy work including **management briefs** and **virtual visits**. We work in **partnership** with churches, dioceses, local authorities, universities as well as heritage and wildlife organisations.



Thank you to all our members, supporters, partners, volunteers and funders.