

Why are trees and bees important to the Carnival this year?



Bringing around 55,000 people into the Town over a weekend in August is GREAT for the local economy - worth approximately £3.3 Million in 2017 - and it's great for the community who can get involved to whatever extent they wish.

However, now that it is established, we can start to look at how the environment is affected by such large numbers of people - two thirds the size of the massive Leeds Festival! We mention one of the big music festivals as they have been tackling their environmental footprint for almost a decade, and it's something we want to be doing too, as responsible organisers and local people who care passionately about our exceptionally important area.

So this year we have teamed up with Ian Hughes of [Oakstone Environmental Consulting Ltd.](#), who will conduct an initial environmental review (IER) of all the aspects and impacts of our event, such as emissions, energy use, water use, waste and recycling etc.. This will give us a benchmark from which to work in coming years to achieve continual improvement. The IER benchmarking can be explained by, say, losing weight, you have to know what weight you are first so that you can measure how well you are doing in the weeks to come!

WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE THIS YEAR.

We know there will be associated carbon emissions so we aim to purchase at least 3,000 trees this year with the help of the local community, visitors and businesses that benefit from the event. The value of trees is explained on the following page.

As for bees, between \$235 and \$577 billion worth of annual global food production relies on the direct contribution of pollinators, predominantly bees. This is not a 'real' value, of course, as it hides the fact that should natural pollination be severely compromised or end, it might prove impossible to replace - effectively making the true value infinitely high.

So we are teaming up with the Friends of the Earth '[Bee Cause](#)' and local beekeepers...and 52 local Primary Schools (thousands of KS1 & 2 children) to raise awareness of the importance of these amazing creatures and to see if we encourage lots more wildflowers in gardens and other sites, including sites owned and managed by the City Council.



Some of the main agencies NGO's and associations we are consulting with to ensure that professional and quality standards are observed.

The True and Staggering Value of Trees

One of the reasons we are making a supreme effort to buy and plant trees is to offset the carbon emissions from lots of vehicles and trader generators; trees (and plants) are great at taking in carbon dioxide (CO₂) and giving out oxygen (O₂). The Lancaster District is still above health guidelines for air quality, so this will help as the trees grow. [LCC Air Quality Report 2017](#)

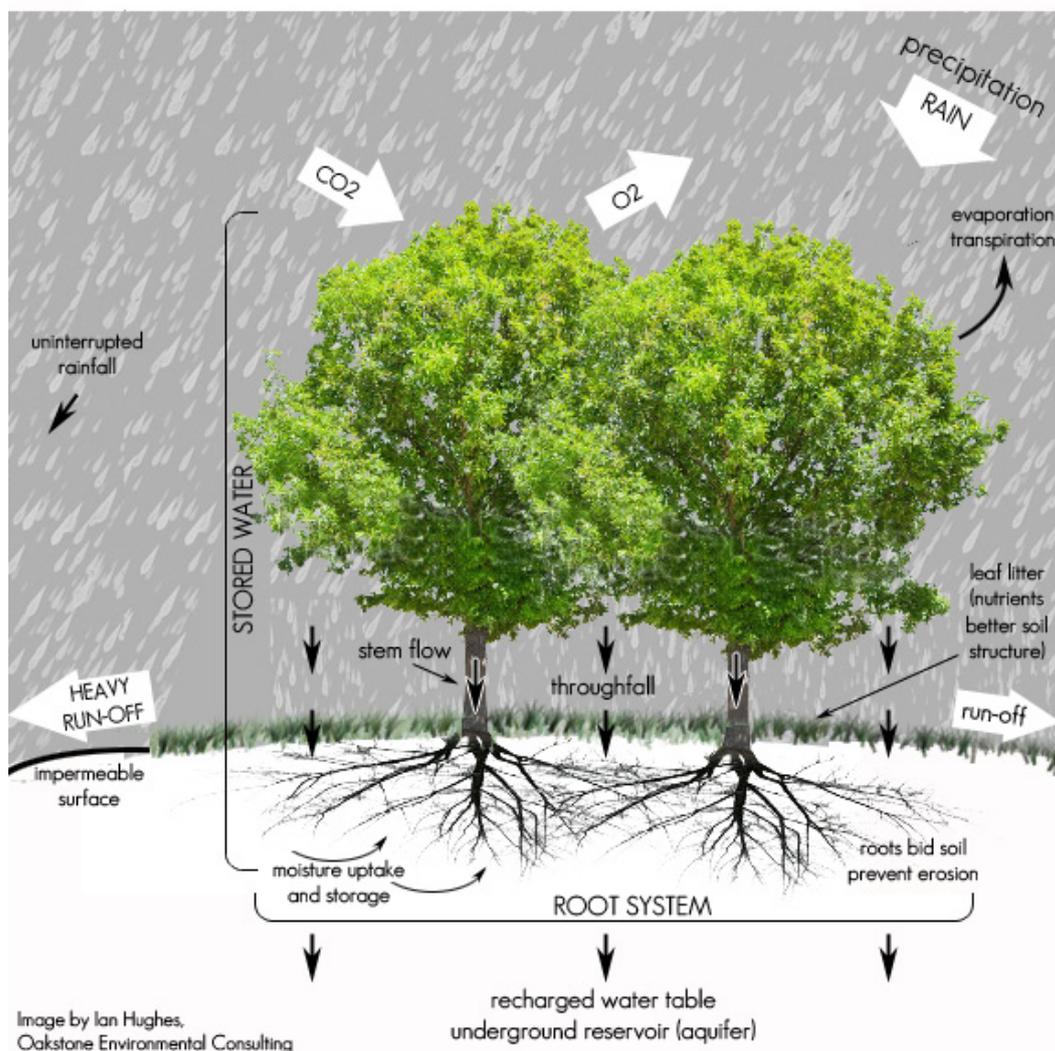
Trees are also fantastic for ecosystem biodiversity, especially if linking areas of trees to form a corridor for wildlife to move around. A single mature oak tree can sustain 500 different species from lichens to raptors such as owls, and from microorganisms to squirrels.

Of further interest is that trees are actually more important to bees than flowers, though this does not diminish the importance of planting flowers for pollinators. Since the end of WWII we have lost 97% of wildflower meadows and in recent decades, three bumblebee species have become extinct in the UK.

One of our principle aims is to plant trees in association with professional agencies to help to prevent flooding by slowing down the amount of water reaching streams and rivers (see image below). Some 640 properties are currently at risk of fluvial flooding (rivers, not sea) in the Lancaster District though this is forecast to grow significantly in future years due to climate change. Please see the excellent JBA Consulting Level 1 [Strategic Flood Risk Assessment](#) (SFRA) for the Lancaster District for full detail.

We had originally intended to plant a single woodland in the area but on the sound advice of the [Woodland Trust](#) and the [Lune Rivers Trust](#), and the fact that it is extremely difficult to find such land, we will be working with these Trusts to strategically plant our trees on parcels of land in the locale where they will give the greatest benefit.

TREES HELPING TO PREVENT FLOODING



One final AMAZING statistic...



Following Storm Desmond in 2015, there was enough water flowing down the River Lune to fill the Albert Hall in under a minute!

(Natural Environment Research Council)