



Ymddiriedolaeth  
Natur  
**Gwent**  
Wildlife Trust

Annual Review 2021/22

Our vision  
is for people  
close to nature in  
a landscape rich  
in wildlife



# State of Nature

In the summer, as the Welsh Government declared a nature emergency, we co-published the Greater Gwent State of Nature Report. It tells the stories of 100 species, a representative sample of Gwent's wildlife. Read the full report on our website.

*"It is a report that needs to be acted on, not sat on a shelf, and when it is revised in the future there need to be signs of recovery."*  
Andy Karran, GWT Evidence Manager who co-authored the report.

Greater Gwent  
**STATE OF NATURE**

100 STORIES OF OUR WILDLIFE



PHOTO CREDITS: TERRY WHITTAKER/2020VISION, DAVID TIPLING/2020VISION, TOM MARSHALL



**Welcome to our Annual Review.** Over the last year, as we have emerged from lockdown, we have welcomed back staff, volunteers, members, supporters and visitors to our offices and nature reserves to continue, celebrate, and enjoy the impacts of our important work.

This year saw us begin implementation of our new strategy, focusing on the areas of Nature Recovery and Nature Based Solutions.

In aiding Nature's Recovery we had the support of some very generous donors who gifted us land to create a new nature reserve at Shirenewton, and more than double the size of Kitty's Orchard. We successfully secured £550,000 to deliver our largest ever program of infrastructure improvements across the nature reserves so we can have the maximum benefit for wildlife. Plus, we concluded a multi-year program of work surveying and advising on the management of Local Wildlife Sites across Gwent, ensuring that these vital steppingstones for nature are managed in the best way, and the generous private landowners who are custodians of these sites are supported in doing so.

The Nature Based Solutions team have enjoyed significant success with their Wild Health program doubling in size to engage and inspire more people to benefit from wildlife, whilst demonstrating to Welsh Government, Local Authorities, Health Boards and other decision makers that biodiverse accessible green spaces are essential to the wellbeing of future generations of people and wildlife. Our Stand for Nature Wales

program continued to engage, educate, inspire, and be inspired by young people who are taking actions to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

Behind the scenes the Trust's fundraising, communications, finance and administration teams have worked relentlessly to implement new HR, Finance, IT, Fundraising and Data Management systems, so that we can work more efficiently, and communicate our work more effectively. A key element of this work is our striving to achieve best practice in key areas including equality, diversity, inclusivity, and Welsh language skills.

As well as these actions taken directly by GWTs staff and volunteers we are also extremely excited and proud to see all the action that independent community groups are taking to improve the environment where they live, or in areas they love, be that fighting for better water quality in our rivers, fighting damaging developments, or calling on decision makers to make better decisions for the environment in which future generations will live.

On a final note, I wanted to celebrate the lives of the wildlife heroes we have lost over the last year and thank them, and all of you, who have supported the Trust with your time, expertise, advocacy, membership, donations, or legacy pledges. You continue to make our work possible, and thanks to your support our impact continues to grow.

**Adam Taylor**  
Chief Executive.



**"We're putting nature in recovery: addressing the climate and nature crises at a local level."**

Gwent Wildlife Trust would like to thank: Our President, Chris Hatch, President Emeritus, Roger James, Vice Presidents and Trustees, Volunteers, Members, Wildlife Guardians, Local Wildlife Site owners, the late Mrs Pat Gorvin for all their generosity, AES Ltd, Ancre Hill Vineyard, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Campaign Against Levels Motorway (CALM), Eastmans Plc, Frank Sutton Ltd, Friends of the Gwent Levels, Heron House Financial Management, Hopkins Machinery, Idris and Margaret Jones Trust, Mandarin Stone, Marshalls Plc, Monmouthshire County Council, National Lottery Community Fund, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Natural Resources Wales, Newport City Council, Players of the National Lottery, Players of the People's Postcode Lottery, The Makin Family, The Waterloo Foundation, Torfaen County Council, Travel Chapter, Tri-Wall Europe, Vine House Farm, Welsh Government, Wye Valley AONB.

PHOTO CREDIT: GARY COX

# Nature Recovery



2021-22 was the first year of Gwent Wildlife Trust's new thematic structure, with Nature Recovery and Nature Based Solutions teams established in place of the three regional landscape teams. This is enabling us to focus and strengthen our conservation work to restore wildlife (Nature Recovery) alongside championing nature's contribution to health and wellbeing and greater action for climate change and biodiversity loss with people across Gwent's communities (Nature based Solutions).



Our Nature Reserves were awarded a much-needed boost of funds, with Nature Network Funding of over £550,000 successfully secured to cover vital capital works. Nature Recovery Officers delivered this work over the 2021-22 autumn and winter, including building a new car park at Springdale, kilometres of fencing at Pentwyn Farm, Springdale Farm, Henllys Bog and Branches Fork Meadows; new tools and equipment, new culverts at Bridewell Common and 100m of boardwalk replaced at Magor Marsh.



Two young people completed grassland and woodland traineeships with us, funded through the Waterloo Foundation and successfully gained paid posts in conservation.

Five new trainees were recruited in Blaenau Gwent in February through the Community Renewal Fund, enabling them to gain paid experience in nature conservation supporting the Nature Recovery Officers.



In partnership with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust we have trained our staff and volunteers to survey and monitor Pine Martens, with a resident population now established within Gwent.

PHOTO CREDITS: HEPBURN PHOTOGRAPHY, HAMISH BLAIR, BEN BOYLETT, TOM MALONEY, MARK HAMLIN/2020VISION, LIZ STOKES, SARAH HARRIS

The Living Levels Landscape Partnership Scheme completed its final year with further habitat management works including orchard restoration, and a third year of the invertebrate surveys which produced new records for Wales, underlining the importance of the Gwent Levels for saproxylic invertebrates.



We commenced working with Torfaen County Borough Council, to engage the local community and complete habitat management on "The British" site near Varteg.



# Nature Based Solutions



Our Nature Based Solutions Team was formed, including three Stand for Nature Wales (S4NW) youth engagement staff, and a Wild Health Officer. We also commenced recruitment for our Nextdoor Nature project, engaging diverse communities in Pillgwennly, Newport in nature conservation.



We were also commissioned to create some pollinator resources for the Resilient Greater Gwent partnership - [https:// www.gwentwildlife.org/pollinators](https://www.gwentwildlife.org/pollinators), offered training to teachers on outdoor learning, delivered multiple climate focussed sessions for young people



The S4NW project engaged nearly 600 young people aged 9-24, with around 30 being repeat engagements as they were formerly members of our youth groups or regular attendees of Home Education sessions. Sessions have fluctuated between online and face to face due to Covid-19, yet the young people have still managed to create a community rain garden and orchard, plant countless bulbs and pollinator plants, make nest boxes, bee homes and butterfly shelters and undertake litter picks.

We took the lead on a pan-Wales peatland development project funded by the Welsh Government - <https://www.gwentwildlife.org/blog/natalie-waller/peatland-restoration-project>.



We helped develop and took part in a successful social prescribing pilot with a small number of GPs, via the Caerphilly Integrated Wellbeing Network.



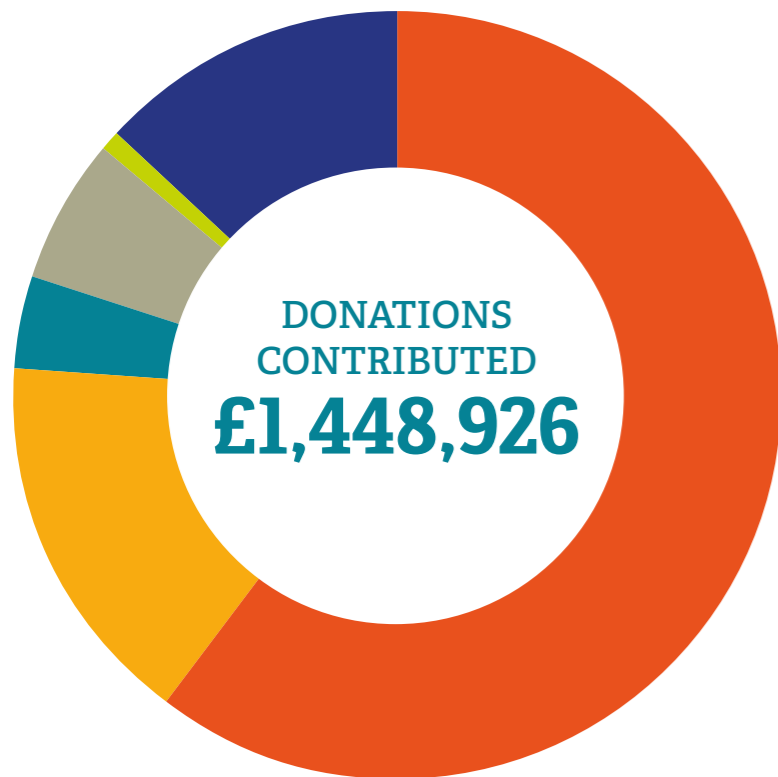
We were delighted to learn in the autumn that we were successful in our application to the National Lottery Community Fund for £359,592 over 4 years, to enable us to recruit a second Wild Health Officer in early 2022 and expand our delivery. Over the year the Wild Health project connected more than 150 people to nature, improving their wellbeing.



PHOTO CREDITS: PETRA MITCHARD, NATALIE WALLER, KATHY BARCLAY, ROB MAGEE.

# Our Finances for the year ended 31st March 2022

## Income



- 61% GRANTS AND TRUSTS
- 16% MEMBERSHIP
- 4% DONATIONS AND LEGACIES
- 6% EARNED INCOME
- 1% OTHER FUNDRAISING
- 13% OTHER

**Grants and Trusts - £877,040** Grants from statutory bodies, (e.g. Welsh Government), charitable trusts and foundations

**Membership - £233,595** Regular contributions from members (people and businesses)

**Donations and Legacies - £55,758** Donations, gifts in wills and in memoriam and business support

**Earned Income - £92,243** Sales of services, trading, rent, event and course income

**Other fundraising - £7,872** Includes annual raffle and community fundraising activities

**Other - £182,418** Investments and donated land

Gift Aid proportionally distributed across membership and donations

## Expenditure



- 72% PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND ENGAGING PEOPLE
- 10% OPERATIONAL SUPPORT
- 3% GENERATING FUNDS
- 7% MEMBERSHIP
- 8% GOVERNANCE

**Protecting wildlife and engaging people - £881,035** Delivery and associated direct costs of our conservation, education, policy, public engagement and campaigning work

**Operational Support - £120,443** Compliance and support functions including Finance, Health and Safety, IT, Human Resources.

**Generating funds - £34,347** Staff and office costs related to generating funds for our work

**Membership - £91,823** Membership recruitment, communications and financial and administration costs of processing regular donations

**Governance - £103,939** Annual audit, consultancy and legal fees and governing board meeting costs

Full audited accounts will be available on our website by 1st September, 2022 at [gwentwildlife.org/our-funding](http://gwentwildlife.org/our-funding)

## Building a Local Force for Nature

**7,992 members**

Gwent Wildlife Trust is part of a local, national and global movement of activists for wildlife and, together with 45 Wildlife Trusts in the UK, we continually strive to build this support through fundraising, communications and campaigning.

In April 2021, our return to face-to-face engagement with the public was boosted by the launch of our partnership with South West Wildlife Fundraising Ltd (SWWFL). Working closely with the established Wildlife Trust-owned membership marketing company, alongside nine other Trusts, we are now



being supported with venue and show bookings, a dedicated membership recruiter and team leaders. The SWWFL team have reached a far greater range of people to advocate for our cause.

Part of the Wildlife Trust's Action for Insects campaign, our 2021 Bugs Matter citizen science survey which many of you contributed to, found that flying insects in Gwent have declined by 40% in less than 20 years; highlighting a worrying trend and the crucial need for insect-focussed conservation research, nationwide.



## Thank you.

We are humbled and extremely grateful for the generosity of many long-standing supporters and their families, who have given gifts to Gwent Wildlife Trust in wills and in memory of loved ones lost this year. Their passion for safeguarding our wonderful wildlife will continue to have an impact long into the future.

PHOTO CREDIT: NEIL ALDRIDGE



# Gwent Wildlife Trust People

(As at 22nd August 2022)

**Patron** - Iolo Williams

**President** - Chris Hatch

**President Emeritus** - Roger James

**Vice-Presidents** - Julia James, Stephanie Tyler, Richard Waller

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Marc Leppard (Chair) (Appointed 3 November 2021)

Robert Waller (Vice Chair)

Susan Finn (Secretary)

John Newton (Treasurer) (Appointed 3 November 2021)

Jonathan Stephens

Tom Clancy

David Rees

Rebecca Spooner

Lucy Holland (Appointed 3 November 2021)

**With special thanks to:** Local Group volunteers in Chepstow, Usk and Monmouth, The Gwent Levellers, Eastern Valleys volunteers, Pentwyn and Wyeswood shepherds and the many other passionate, committed individuals who give their time and expertise to support our work.

## Staff

**Chief Executive** - Adam Taylor

### NATURE RECOVERY TEAM

Our Nature Recovery team work across our network of Nature Reserves and the wider landscape to improve habitat resilience and species populations.

**Head of Nature Recovery** - Gemma Bodé

**Evidence Manager** - Andy Karran

**Evidence Officer** - Lowri Watkins

**Conservation Officer** - Mike Webb

**Nature Recovery Manager** - Richard Mundy

**Conservation Grazing Officer** - Joe Ryder

**Nature Recovery Officer** - Ben Boylett

**Nature Recovery Officer** - Carys Solman

**Nature Recovery Officer** - Liz

**The British Nature Recovery Officer** - Sam Ashman

### NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS TEAM

Our Nature Based Solutions team champion the way nature can help solve environmental and social problems; addressing the Ecological and Climate Crises

**Head of Nature Based Solutions** - Natalie Waller

**Wild Health Project Officer** - Ian Thomas

**Wild Health Project Officer** - Rose O'Hagan

**Senior Youth Engagement Officer** - Beccy Williams

**Youth Engagement Officer** - Petra Mitchard

**Youth Engagement Officer** - Robert Magee

**Nature Based Solutions Project Manager** - Elizabeth Stokes

**Senior Community Organiser** - Charlotte Spring



### CORE AND SUPPORT STAFF

Our core team work from our HQ near Raglan in Monmouthshire - supporting our delivery teams by running the accounts, administration, finances, fundraising, communications and other management functions.

**Head of Finance and Administration** - Leigh Danziger

**IT and Safety Officer** - Anthony Cook

**Finance and Administration Officer** - Jo Taylor

**HR and Volunteering Officer** - Sarah Coleman

**Head of Fundraising and Communications** - Debbie Stenner

**Membership and Marketing Administrator** - Lois Holroyd

**Senior Press and Communications Officer** - Sarah Harris

**Marketing Officer** - Hamish Blair

**Senior Projects and Grant Officer** - Susie Mowat

### GWENT WILDLIFE TRUST

Seddon House, Dingestow, Monmouth NP25 4DY.

Tel: 01600 740600.

Email: [info@gwentwildlife.org](mailto:info@gwentwildlife.org)

Web: [www.gwentwildlife.org](http://www.gwentwildlife.org)

Charity number: 242619

Company number: 00812535

Registered office: Seddon House, Dingestow, Monmouth, Monmouthshire, United Kingdom NP25 4DY

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