

Gwent Wildlife Trust
Ymddiriedolaeth Natur Gwent

Annual Review 2019 - 2020



A snapshot of our achievements in **2019 – 2020**



Planting the potential veteran trees of the future at Wyeswood Common Nature Reserve, a collaboration with Cardiff University's Phoenix Project and help from Trellech Primary schoolchildren.

PHOTO CREDITS: LOWRI WATKINS, HUGH GREGORY

Bigger, better, more joined up places for wildlife...

We have a new 80 acre Nature Reserve at Bridewell Common, lying to the east of Magor Marsh, thanks to a real GWT team effort, very generous support from our membership, Pat Gorvin's legacy and external grants. Bridewell has huge potential to enhance the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) wildlife features found on the Gwent Levels.

Across our grassland sites, wildlife has benefited from our improved hay and grazing approaches, scrub management, creation of uncut, 'rough margins', grassland restoration and the creation of 'leaky dams'.

We now manage 745 ha of Nature Reserves for wildlife

Our first year of managing Piercefield Woods (a 200 acre SSSI and Special Area of Conservation) included ash tree felling to help manage the decline of this ecologically important tree species and reduce risk to visitors. Our sampling of deadwood invertebrates indicates it's the 3rd best site in Wales for deadwood beetles!

We advised on a further 1,500 ha of land not directly managed by us, giving advice to 100 landowners

We continued to influence the management of other important sites for wildlife including orchard and field ditch restoration on the Gwent Levels and ongoing surveys of potential local wildlife sites.



Race for Wildlife – hundreds enjoyed our annual race day on the Levels, which this year contributed over £5,000 towards the Bridewell Common Appeal.

Protecting Wildlife for the Future // Gwarchod Natur ar gyfer y Dyfodol

More people helping to protect and restore wildlife...

We're working with lots more volunteers on the Gwent Levels through the multiple projects of the Living Levels scheme, creating many opportunities to learn more about this amazing landscape.



Our Eastern Valleys volunteer Jane Corey (pictured left), Jeff Chard and team of 'The Levellers' all won well-deserved awards this year. Helping us with with gate installations, hedge laying,

meadow management and pond clearance, litter picking, shepherding, fundraising, paths and boardwalk repairs, events and open days, school activities and more, we think all our volunteers are champions!

248 volunteers contributed 16,416 hours of their time

Our work at Croes Robert has been boosted by two new voluntary, trainee reserve officers. One former GWT trainee gained employment as an ecological consultant, another is still working with us.

The Where's Your Wildlife project engaged local communities in discovering, exploring and caring for wildlife on three post-industrial sites in Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen, hundreds took part in the 17 'Discovery Days', practical habitat management and activities for young people.



Wild Health project participant Leigh chats with Assembly Member Lord Elis Thomas and Ruth Bates, Head of Comms at the National Lottery.

We delivered a number of NPTC certified training courses to staff, volunteers and partner organisations as well as Outdoor Learning and Forest School Leader (Agored Cymru accredited qualifications) to teachers.

281 people participated in over 30 formal training programmes and events



Our Wildlife Wizards quiz saw 25 schools, a record number, take part: Shirenewton Primary were the wise winners.

Inspiring the next generation of wildlife champions....

Through the Living Levels Scheme we produced an outstanding Learning Resource for Teachers based around the history and wildlife of the Gwent Levels. This supports curriculum-linked local learning with our INSET courses for Teachers and received highly positive feedback.



Grayling Butterfly at The British

Our education team reached out to 1,446 children and young people from schools, colleges and universities and 1,562 people from schools, colleges and care homes visited our Education Centres

We launched our new website in January and increased our reach across all our social media channels, with 1,008 new followers over the year. 850 new members joined us in the year and we had 7,618 members at end of March 2020. 93% of members responding to our survey said they were proud to be a member of Gwent Wildlife Trust.

Message from our Chair

The end of this financial year marked the start of one of the most difficult periods that the Trust has known. Many popular and well-established activities were cancelled because of the coronavirus lockdown. As I write (May 2020), we are still not clear what the position will be for our September AGM. With so many of our public activities not taking place, many of our staff went on furlough at the end of April. This is very disappointing for all of us, especially our committed staff.

However, there have also been rainbows! We have welcomed Adam Taylor as our new Chief Executive; Adam came from the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, and has accomplished a huge amount since he started in November 2019. We are currently undergoing several Operational Reviews, carried out by staff along with some trustees, looking at the whole range of Trust activities. We wait to see the outcome of these reviews.

Our work would not be possible without the huge support that we get from people everywhere: volunteers, conservation partners, local businesses, and of course our thousands of members. If it wasn't for your support, we would not be able to achieve all that we do. Finally, I would like to give a heartfelt thanks to all our wonderful staff, whose dedication and skills are all-important. They have had a difficult year, and we are proud of all our staff for the committed way in which they have risen to the challenges we face. We look forward to 2021 with hope and confidence.

Alison Willott, Chair, Gwent Wildlife Trust



Our amazing video footage of a Dark Edged Bee-fly as it was getting ready to fly was seen 65,598 times on our Social Media pages!

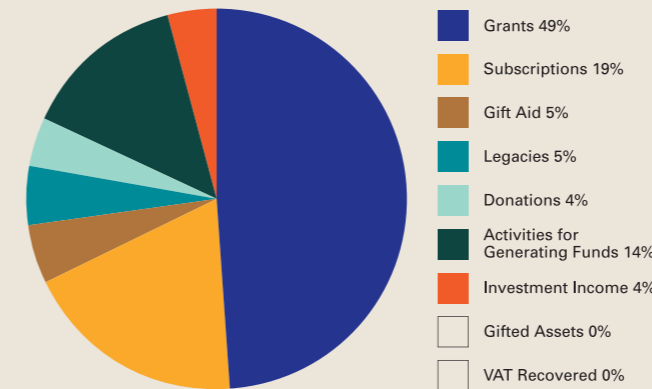
PHOTO CREDITS: SARAH HARRIS, ANDY KARRAN, DAVID SANKSON, NICK TREHARNE

SUMMARY OF THE SCHEDULE TO THE Statement of Financial activities

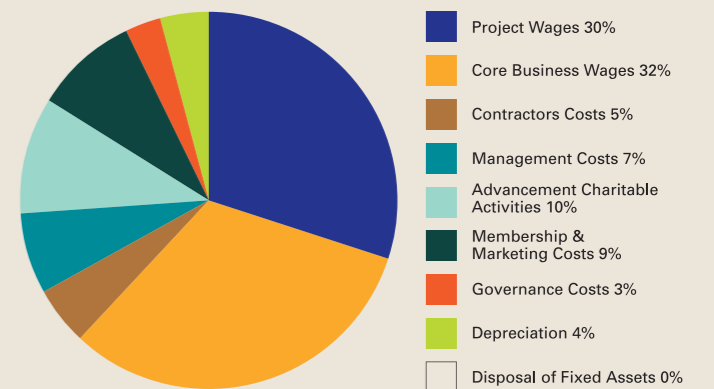
Year ended 31st March 2020

Incoming Resources	£'s	Resources Expended	£'s
Grants	480,357	Project wages	349,064
Subscriptions	185,698	Core business wages	371,639
Gift Aid	46,807	Contractors costs	59,607
Legacies	47,517	Management costs	87,773
Donations	44,953	Advancement charitable activities	117,825
Activities for generating funds	133,936	Membership & Marketing cost	100,214
Investment income	44,563	Governance costs	36,131
Gifted assets	0	Depreciation	45,392
VAT Recovered	433	Disposal of fixed assets	0
Total Incoming Resources	984,264	Total Resources Expended	1,167,645

Income



Expenditure



Abbreviated Balance Sheet

As at 31st March 2020

	2020	2019
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	85,502	88,355
Heritage assets	1,793,937	1,676,465
Total fixed assets	1,879,439	1,764,820
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	124,803	144,606
Cash at bank	1,373,853	1,650,242
Total current assets	1,498,656	1,794,848
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within 1 year	-18,137	-16,331
NET CURRENT ASSETS	1,480,519	1,778,517
Total assets less current liabilities	3,359,958	3,543,337
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS OF THE CHARITY		
Designated unrestricted funds	1,702,493	2,001,818
General unrestricted funds	120,959	155,553
Restricted funds	1,536,506	1,385,966
Total funds	3,359,958	3,543,337

AUDITORS' STATEMENT

In our opinion, these summarised accounts are consistent with the full statutory accounts on which we have reported with an unqualified opinion. *UHY Hacker Young Auditor 1st August 2020 Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, Lanyon House, Mission Court, Newport, South Wales, NP20 2DW*

GWT OBJECTIVES

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

Our mission is to champion nature conservation and inspire people about wildlife in Gwent.

We are working for a Wilder Gwent, where everyone plays their part in nature's recovery. To do this, we seek to inspire, educate and work alongside others to protect and restore wildlife and wild places. We champion natural solutions to environmental, social and other challenges.

2019's photo competition winner was Paul Sellwood with his picture, Golden Dragon



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Gwent Wildlife Trust's 57th Annual General Meeting will be held at 11am on Sunday, 27th September 2020. If possible, it will be held at Pelham Hall, Penallt, Monmouthshire, with the ability for additional members to attend and vote via Zoom teleconference. The AGM will be preceded by a short Extraordinary General Meeting at which proposed changes to the Articles of Association will be explained and agreed.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, places at Pelham Hall will be limited and must be booked in advance. All arrangements may be subject to further change. We will update www.gwentwildlife.org/AGM with the latest details so please check here for tickets and online joining instructions. We will also notify members of any change via email where possible.

Extraordinary General Meeting Agenda

1. To agree the proposed changes to The Articles of Association (see Notes below)

Annual General Meeting Agenda

1. Chair's Welcome
 2. Minutes of the 2019 AGM and matters arising (See Notes below)
 3. To receive the Annual Report of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2020 (See Notes below)
 4. To receive the Annual Accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2020 (See Notes below)
 5. To appoint Auditors of the charity to hold office until the conclusion of the next General Meeting at which the accounts are laid before the charity
 6. To re-elect two trustees to the Gwent Wildlife Trust (See Notes below)
 7. To introduce the elected Officers of the Council of Trustees for 2020/2021.
 8. To elect the new President of GWT (See Notes below)
- By order of Council July 2020, Sue Finn, Hon Secretary*

Notes

The following papers can be inspected at the AGM, obtained from the Gwent Wildlife Trust office on 01600 740600 or by emailing info@gwentwildlife.org and also online at www.gwentwildlife.org from 1st September, 2020.

- Minutes of 56th AGM on 18th September 2019.
- The full statutory Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020.
- The proposed changes to the Articles of Association.
- Short biographies of the two trustees to be re-elected.
- Short biography of the new President

Gwent Wildlife Trust Who's Who June 2020

Iolo Williams	<i>Patron</i>
Roger James	<i>Emeritus President</i>
Martin Anthoney	<i>Vice-President</i>
Stephanie Tyler	<i>Vice-President</i>
Julia James	<i>Vice-President</i>
Chris Hatch	<i>Vice-President</i>
Richard Waller	<i>Vice-President</i>

GWT Council

Alison Willott	<i>Chair</i>
Robert Waller	<i>Vice Chair</i>
Sue Finn	<i>Hon Secretary</i>
David Jones	<i>Hon Treasurer</i>
Keith Allen	<i>Trustee</i>
Jonathan Stephens	<i>Trustee</i>
Tom Clancy	<i>Trustee</i>
Chris Duncan	<i>Trustee</i>
Natasha Harris	<i>Trustee</i>
David Rees	<i>Trustee</i>
Rebecca Spooner	<i>Trustee</i>

GWT Staff

Adam Taylor	<i>Chief Executive</i>
Leigh Danziger	<i>Finance & Administration Manager</i>
Kim Hitchcock	<i>Finance & Administration Officer</i>
Anthony Cook	<i>IT & Administration Officer</i>
Debbie Stenner	<i>Marketing & Membership Manager</i>
Robert Magee	<i>Fundraising Officer</i>
Sarah Harris	<i>Senior Press & Communications Officer</i>
Lois Holroyd	<i>Membership & Marketing Administrator</i>
Naomi Davis	<i>Senior Development Officer</i>
Natalie Waller	<i>Eastern Valleys Living Landscape Manager</i>
Tom Eyles	<i>Eastern Valleys Senior Reserves Officer</i>
Rebecca Ward	<i>Eastern Valleys Education Officer</i>
Liz Winstanley	<i>Eastern Valleys Reserves Officer</i>
Ian Thomas	<i>Wild Health Project Officer</i>
Gemma Bodé	<i>Gwent Levels Living Landscape Manager, Deputy CEO</i>
Mike Webb	<i>Conservation Officer</i>
Kathy Barclay	<i>Senior Education Officer</i>
Petra Mitchard	<i>Education Officer</i>
Richard Bakere	<i>Gwent Levels Senior Reserves Officer</i>
Ben Boylett	<i>Gwent Levels Reserves Officer</i>
Lowri Watkins	<i>Conservation Monitoring Officer</i>
Jan Winder	<i>Seasonal Ecological Surveyor</i>
Beccy Williams	<i>Living Levels Project Volunteer Coordinator</i>
Neville Hart	<i>Usk to Wye Living Landscape Manager</i>
Joe Ryder	<i>Senior Farm & Wildlife Development Officer</i>
Andrew Karran	<i>Senior Conservation Ecologist</i>
Doug Lloyd	<i>Woodland Conservation Officer</i>
Carys Solman	<i>Usk to Wye Reserves Officer</i>

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