

Gwent Wildlife Trust

Ymddiriedolaeth Natur Gwent



ANNUAL REVIEW 2010-2011



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

Chairman's Introduction

The year covered by this Review was marked by outstanding achievements in every area of Gwent Wildlife Trust's activities. Many of these are described in other parts of this Annual Review.



I believe that in our education programmes, our reserve management, our advocacy and influence on others, and our organisational well-being, GWT is stronger at the end of the year than it was at the beginning.

That may seem an unremarkable claim; surely our members and others expect us to keep moving forward, achieving more of our goals and doing more for wildlife. What makes it a significant overall achievement is that it has been delivered at a time of an adverse financial environment and through another period of senior staff change. Money is tight, whether in the family budget, public finances or company profits, and our income has been under pressure as everyone has had to make difficult decisions. At one stage of the year it looked as though underperformance in two areas of income generation would result in GWT making a substantial loss over the year. Our Chief Executive, Rick Park, resigned in the middle of the year, leaving some major issues unresolved. Rather than replace him immediately, GWT Council chose to employ an experienced interim CEO to help us to redefine our strategic priorities and to identify additional sustainable sources of income. Nick Hammond has been in this role since October 2010, and we owe him a debt of gratitude for the stability he has brought to the operation and for the excellent strategic advice he has given to Council. Nick also managed the recruitment process for a new CEO at the end of 2010-2011, and I am personally delighted to report that Tom Clarke will join GWT in this post in August. Following Nick's advice, we have also made changes to how we approach raising income. We created the new post of Fundraising Manager and appointed Alison McGachy who started in April 2011.

The financial worries haven't gone away entirely, but concerted action by Council and staff, making sacrifices and being innovative, has resulted in a stronger financial position at year-end than we had feared. I would like to offer my personal thanks for the way everyone in the Trust helped to get us through this difficult time. While I have my thanking hat on, we would not be where we are without the loyalty of members, the contributions of time and skills by our volunteers, and the collaboration we receive from other organisations: thank you all. 2011-2012 will have its own challenges to face and opportunities to seize; I am confident that Gwent Wildlife Trust will be equal to them.

Reading this, I note the lack of reference to conserving Gwent's wildlife, though you will see this covered in the rest of the Review. We run GWT as professionally and efficiently as we can so that the resources at our disposal can be used to benefit wildlife and to give everyone in Gwent the opportunity to enjoy it. Rest assured, that is what we are all working for.

Gwent Wildlife Trust has a vision of an environment rich in wildlife for everyone. We work to rebuild biodiversity and engage people with their environment. We manage land, campaign for wildlife, provide advice and promote enjoyment and appreciation of wildlife.

Achievements in 2010-2011

Wider Environment

- **Severn Barrage Scheme** GWT was an active member of the coalition of Wildlife Trusts and other conservation organisations campaigning against the Severn Barrage proposal, which has now been dropped and which would have dire consequences for wildlife.
- **South Sebastopol** proposal, between Cwmbran and Pontypool in Torfaen, threatens important habitats and species present on site. GWT continued to oppose the plans.
- **Heads of the Valley Road** We have been fighting hard to limit damage to a range of important habitats and species along the planned route of the new A465 in Blaenau Gwent.
- **Advice for landowners** included the annual Meadow Matters newsletter and a very successful landowner day where over 50 attended to learn more about managing their land for wildlife.
- **Community strategies**, local authority environmental partnerships and Local Biodiversity Action Plan partnerships and Local Wildlife Sites have all benefited from positive GWT input.
- **Gwent Orchards Project** began in June 2010, working with landowners to preserve orchards and their biodiversity.
- **Usk to Wye** is one of GWT's Living Landscape Projects.

Reserves

- **Wyeswood Common** Over 8000 trees have been planted and seed harvested from species-rich fields at Pentwyn Farm has been spread in five trial areas. 3850m of stock fencing and 900m of deer fencing has been put up and three new interpretation boards, a new parking area and a way marked trail created.
- **Magor Marsh two-year reserve management programme** was completed with the pond extended, reens cleared, new paths laid and fencing erected as well as habitat works on the extension fields.
- **Shrill carder bee project** was completed at Solutia Meadows with seed from species-rich areas of the reserve enhancing species-poor areas and mowing field margins.
- **Dan-y-Graig Tidy Towns project** ended in March 2011 with habitat and access improvement on this small urban fringe reserve.
- **Beacon Hill 28-hectare heathland restoration site** over which GWT now has a management agreement in partnership with the Forestry Commission is our first heathland nature reserve.
- **Harvest Mouse project** was completed this year with volunteer surveyors confirming records for this little known species on three reserves.
- **Dormouse project at Cuhere Wood** completed with glades being created and conifers removed and a dormouse monitoring scheme set up.
- **Ty Mawr** A Farm Business Tenancy has been set up on the land around Ty Mawr convent which includes a wetland area, hay meadows and an old orchard. The site will now be farmed for the benefit of wildlife.

People and Wildlife

- **Environmental Resource Centre** on the old steel works at Ebbw Vale was opened. More than 1000 adults and 500 children attended the centre.
- **Magor Marsh Derek Upton Centre** had a 10% increase in numbers of children attending and many more people of all ages attended the open day and other events.
- **Community education programme** of courses in conservation and natural history had a record year with 2,784 participants.
- **Volunteers** We now have more than 300 registered volunteers, who are vital to the effective running of GWT and achievement of its goals.
- **Membership levels** were maintained in a difficult economic environment. An agency had been used to recruit new members, until October when we brought recruitment in-house and saved more than £20,000.
- **GWT Reserves Guide** was published at the end of the year.

Support

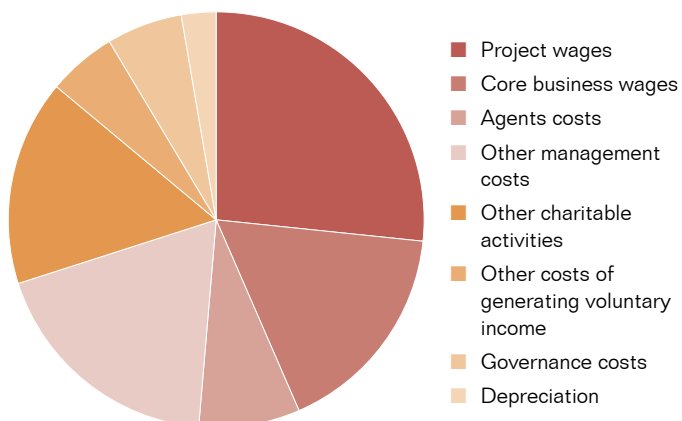
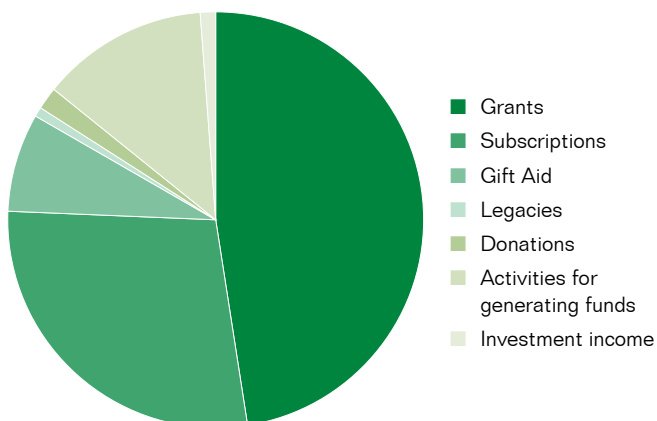
- **Development Plan** showing how GWT would develop Living Landscapes and Living Seas in Gwent was agreed at the end of the year.
- **Income Generation Strategy** was agreed and steps taken to appoint a fundraising manager to develop new sources of funds.
- **Effective systems** of governance and management of finances and human resources were maintained.

Summary of the Schedule to the Statement of Financial Activities

YEAR ENDED 31st March 2011

INCOMING RESOURCES		£
Grants	347,490	
Subscriptions	205,452	
Gift Aid	55,942	
Legacies	5,428	
Donations	12,739	
Activities for generating funds	95,084	
Investment income	8,697	
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	730,832	

RESOURCES EXPENDED		£
Project wages	197,974	
Core business wages	125,114	
Agents costs	58,448	
Other management costs	138,992	
Other charitable activities	118,968	
Other costs of generating voluntary income	39,740	
Governance costs	43,830	
Depreciation	20,021	
Insurance	-4,692	
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	738,395	



Abbreviated Balance Sheet AS AT 31st MARCH 2011

	2011 £	2010 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	1,165,612	1,185,633
Current assets		
Debtors	36,127	62,236
Cash at bank	230,023	198,050
Total current assets	266,150	260,286
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year	7,636	1,042
Net Current Assets	273,786	261,328
Total assets less current liabilities	1,439,398	1,446,961
Distribution of Funds of the Charity		
Unrestricted funds	222,202	215,356
Restricted funds	1,217,196	1,231,605
Total Funds	1,439,398	1,446,961

TRUSTEES' STATEMENT

The accounts here are a summary of information extracted from the statutory Financial Statements which were approved by the Trustees on 18th July 2011. The full statutory Annual Report and Financial Statements will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies and submitted to the Charity Commission. These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. A copy of the full accounts is available from our registered office on request.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees
Fay Mansell Honorary Secretary 29th July 2011

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 Peacheys Auditors 1st August 2011
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors, Lanyon House,
Mission Court, NEWPORT NP20 2DW

Otter – Elliot Smith



Bee Orchid – Chris Deeeny



Silent Valley – Jane Corey



Gwent Wildlife Trust – Who's Who at 1st September 2011

Roger James	President
Trevor Evans	Vice-President
Mary Field	Vice-President
David Leat	Vice-President
David Parsons	Vice-President
Rodney Morris	Vice-President

GWT Council

David Richards	Chairman
Fay Mansell	Hon Secretary
Norman Williams	Hon Treasurer
Andrew Baker	Trustee
David S Calver	Trustee
Keith Farron	Trustee
David Green	Trustee
Chris Hatch	Trustee
Julia James	Trustee
Rachel Morgan	Trustee
Richard Waller	Trustee

GWT Staff

Tom Clarke	Chief Executive
Lauri MacLean	Reserves Manager
Richard Bakere	Reserves Officer
Jan Kinchington	Reserves Officer
Tim Green	Farm & Wildlife Development Officer
Annette Murray	Wyeswood Common Project Officer
Tom Eyles	Reserves Officer
Gemma Bodé	Conservation Manager
Rebecca Price	Wildlife Project Officer
Alice Rees	Perllanau Gwent Projects Officer (Orchards)
Gabi Horup	Conservation Officer
Sorrel Jones	Conservation Officer
Denis Jackson	People & Wildlife Manager
Kathy Barclay	Community Wildlife Education Officer (Magor Marsh)
Helen John	Community Wildlife Education Officer (Magor Marsh)
Veronika Brannovic	People & Wildlife Project Leader (Ebbw Vale)
Katie Rees	Ebbw Vale Community Education Officer
Anthony Cook	Ebbw Vale Project Administrator
Alison McGachy	Fundraising Manager
Rachael Daniels	Membership Development Officer
Russell Johnson	Membership Recruitment Officer
Martyn Wright	Membership Recruitment Officer
Kay Rymer	Administration Manager
Leigh Danziger	Administration Officer

Rick Park resigned as Chief Executive in October and was replaced by Nick Hammond on an interim basis. The new permanent Chief Executive will be Tom Clarke, who takes up his post on 30th August 2011.

Sue Hillard retired as Membership Secretary after 13 years of service with GWT.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Gwent Wildlife Trust's 48th Annual General Meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 5th October 2011 at the Glen yr Afon House Hotel, Pontypool Road, Usk. Following a break for refreshments, there will be a series of short presentations on the work of GWT, including the new Environmental Resource Centre at Ebbw Vale, grassland research at Pentwyn and the Gwent Orchards Project.

AGENDA

1. President's Welcome
2. Minutes of the 2010 AGM and matters arising
3. To receive the Annual Report of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2011
4. To receive the Annual Accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2011
5. To appoint the auditors for the current year
6. To elect the President
7. To elect the Chairman
8. To elect the Honorary Secretary
9. To elect the Honorary Treasurer

By order of Council 18th July 2011

Fay Mansell, Hon Secretary

NOTES

The following papers can be inspected at the AGM or obtained from the GWT office or on-line from info@gwentwildlife.org:

- Minutes of 47th AGM on 6th October 2010.
- The full statutory Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2011.

Our Objectives are:

- 1) To stand up for wildlife and the environment;
- 2) To create and enhance wildlife havens;
- 3) To inspire people about the natural world;
- 4) To foster sustainable living;
- 5) To be widely recognised and respected for our role and work;
- 6) To grow our resources for action and advocacy;
- 7) To co-operate effectively throughout the Wildlife Trusts movement.



Front cover photographs: Harlequin longhorn – Nick Hammond; Yellow Rattle – Jon Prince; Orange-tip – northeastwildlife.co.uk; Nuthatch – Neil Aldridge; Meadow Wax Cap – Rebecca Price; Grass Snake – David Chamberlain.

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