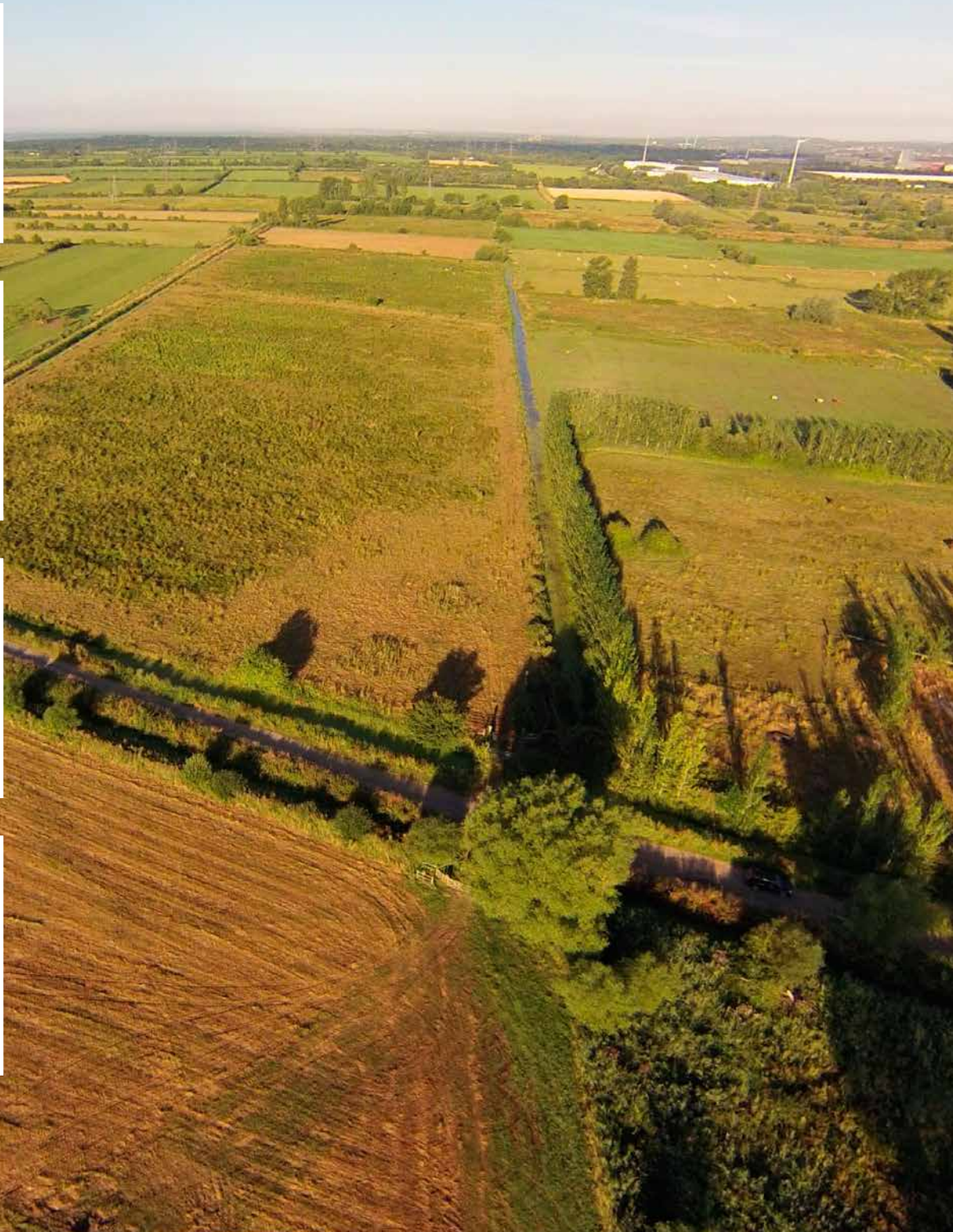


# Gwent Wildlife Trust

*Ymddiriedolaeth Natur Gwent*



## ANNUAL REVIEW 2015-2016



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

# Chairman's Introduction

## **GWT continues to make progress with our Living Landscape approach to conservation and continues to argue against development in sensitive areas such as the Gwent Levels.**

We have been successful in getting a grant to develop our work along the Levels with other partners and landowners. In the North of our area, we are working with the Landmark Trust in the Llanthony Valley, to help with environmental projects. We have also just started letting out the cottage at Pentwyn Farm as a holiday let, and this has already started bringing in a valuable income. In our Living Valleys Landscape, we continue to develop the old Steelworks Site and work with the local communities. Here I would like to thank everyone who voted for our Furnace to Flowers project, which we won, and so received the maximum grant possible.

I am frequently amazed at how much our staff and dedicated volunteers manage to achieve and at their willingness to

do whatever is needed for the protection of our Wildlife in Gwent. None of this would be possible without the support and encouragement we receive from you, our members. Thank you for your continued support.

We have a potential funding problem in the near future when the Welsh Government will be making changes in the way money is distributed to us, and all other environmental organisations – you will hear more about this in the future. In the meantime, I am encouraging you to take one or more positive steps now to help us become less dependent on Government money. For example, it would greatly help us if every member could recruit a friend as a member.

With all of us working together we can make Gwent a better place for all wildlife and the people who live here.

**Richard Waller**  
Chairman, Gwent Wildlife Trust

## **GWT Achievements 2015-2016**

**Gwent Wildlife Trust ran its first full year of activities through its Living Landscapes structure between April 2015 and March 2016. The year was one of high energy and notable success.**

### **In the GWENT LEVELS Living Landscape area:**

- As a key member of the Living Levels Partnership, we were successful in securing £2.8 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Living Levels Project, designed to help forge new partnerships between public and community bodies ensuring people are better equipped to understand and tackle the needs of their local landscapes.
- HLF also funded our wonderful work around the re-introduced water voles at Magor Marsh – supporting a Project Officer and lots of community engagement work. Water voles continue to flourish and spread across the Gwent Levels and this year we had a record all at Newport Wetlands 8km from Magor Marsh.
- With the financial support of the Wye Valley Ramblers and the muscles of the Gwent Levellers, a fantastic new footbridge was completed at Magor Marsh providing access for all along the path to the bird hide.
- Our Education Centre at Magor Marsh continues to thrive, with some months seeing over 300 children visiting the Reserve. We are teaching teachers through INSET courses and the Centre can be hired for meetings when not in use by the school groups. Our weekly Wildlife Warriors group (aged 10-18) goes from strength to strength and now has a waiting list!

### **In the USK TO WYE Living Landscape area:**

- Thanks to Biffaward Funding, we were able to repair and replace fencing, manage hedgerows, install water troughs, run training courses and undertake events and activities at Ty Mawr convent. Volunteers have helped to spread green hay from the species-rich orchard onto species-poor fields at the site.
- Following Opportunity Mapping undertaken in 2014, we have been creating habitats along the Trothy catchment. So far seven hectares of habitat including traditional orchards, woodlands and meadows have been created through generous funding from Natural Resources Wales.
- GWT's flock of Hebridean and Hill Radnor sheep were joined by eleven Hereford Cattle. The cattle are organic and certified through the Pasture for Life scheme. This is a trial project lasting twelve months that will allow GWT to fully evaluate the pros and cons of cattle ownership.
- GWT has had a year of meeting landowners and visiting over fifty Local Wildlife Sites to re-survey them for their wildlife interest and provide management advice, as well as surveying nearly 60 hectares of PAWS woodland (Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites), providing management advice on

woodland restoration as part of a partnership project with the Woodland Trust. We worked with volunteers to collect tree seeds from ancient woodlands as part of a three year national Kew Tree Seed project.

- GWT's charcoal production activities in Croes Robert Wood have continued with charcoal supplied to multiple outlets. Dormouse surveys also continued as well as training in Dormouse handling. The dormouse surveys are the longest running survey programme managed by GWT.
- ### **In the EASTERN VALLEYS Living Landscape area:**
- The SITA-funded conservation grazing project at Silent Valley has been successful and continues to benefit this reserve and Henllys Bog. Elsewhere on Silent Valley, new clawdde stone walling was built in the car park with volunteers – this technique is very wildlife-friendly – with soil in the middle and planting on top.
  - The ERC grounds are recovering well from the road development but parts of the site have suffering from pollution from a broken drain. Numbers of nesting birds have been increasing, with a blackbird nesting above the office door for the past three years. We have taken over management of Central Valley, twenty hectares of grassland and wetland on the former steelworks site, aided by funding through the Furnace to Flowers project.
  - The Co-op Welsh Wildlife Heroes Barn Owl project is continuing with support from local naturalists and Flight of the Fritillaries is a partnership project with Torfaen County Borough Council to enhance habitats for butterflies.

### **Elsewhere in GWENT:**

- After a lot of hard work, our Pentwyn Farm Cottage became available for holiday lettings. The cottage can be seen at [www.gwentwildlife.org/HolidayCottage](http://www.gwentwildlife.org/HolidayCottage) and we defy anyone to find a more beautifully located cottage surrounded by so much wildlife!
- Our Planning Response team have worked hard during the year responding to dozens of planning applications as well as working up detailed objections to the M4 Relief Road scheme and working on Caerphilly's LDP.
- We had a very successful campaign to encourage members to enhance their support with our new Wildlife Guardian scheme. A total of seven long-term members upgraded, all of whom are now paying £500 or more per year to support the work of Gwent Wildlife Trust.
- Our Corporate relationships continue to improve and we were delighted to find out just before year end that we had been made Charity of the Year for the Wilko Newport distribution centre, as well as securing funding from Mandarin Stone and Associated British Ports to work with wildlife locally.

**Ian Rappel** CEO

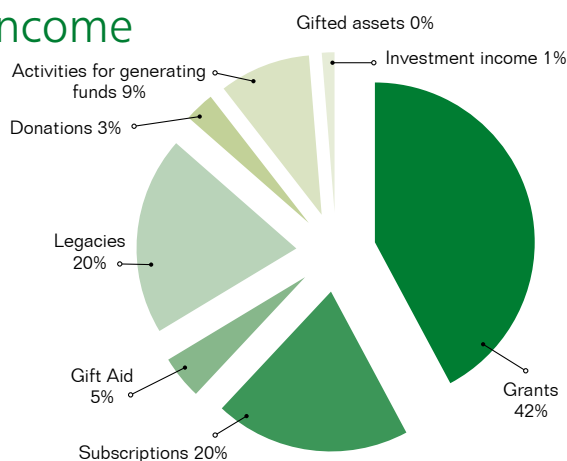
# Summary of the Schedule to the Statement of Financial Activities

YEAR ENDED 31st March 2016

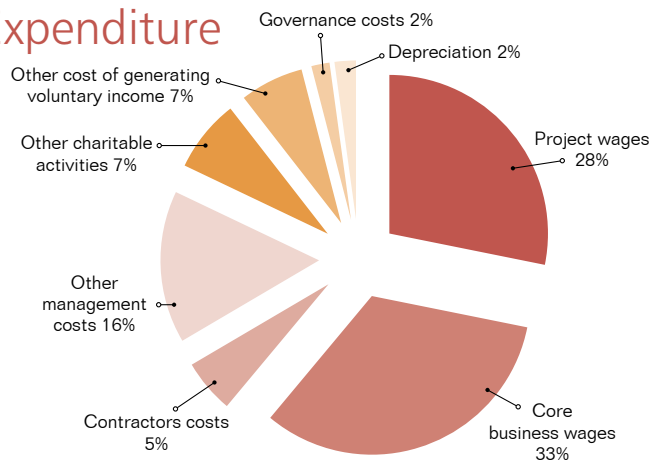
INCOMING RESOURCES	£
Grants	416,826
Subscriptions	195,591
Gift Aid	43,481
Legacies	198,449
Donations	30,011
Activities for generating funds	91,286
Investment income	12,629
Gifted assets	0
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>988,273</b>

RESOURCES EXPENDED	£
Project wages	295,086
Core business wages	344,714
Contractors costs	57,348
Other management costs	162,809
Other charitable activities	77,542
Other cost of generating voluntary income	68,031
Governance costs	19,432
Depreciation	22,740
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b>1,047,702</b>

## Income



## Expenditure



## Abbreviated Balance Sheet

AS AT 31st March 2016

	2016 £	2015 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible assets	1,342,967	1,325,610
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors	48,909	44,089
Cash at bank	370,571	449,539
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>419,480</b>	<b>493,628</b>
<b>Creditors</b>		
Amounts falling due within one year	-7,963	-5,325
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>411,517</b>	<b>488,303</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>1,754,484</b>	<b>1,813,913</b>
<b>Distribution of Funds of the Charity</b>		
Unrestricted funds	455,095	228,890
Restricted funds	1,299,389	1,585,023
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>1,754,484</b>	<b>1,813,913</b>

## TRUSTEES' STATEMENT

The accounts here are a summary of information extracted from the statutory Financial Statements which were approved by the Trustees on 11th July 2016. 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  
31st July 2016.

## 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 2016  
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors,  
Lanyon House, Mission Court, Newport, South Wales NP20 2DW

## Gwent Wildlife Trust 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 will do this by:

**Being passionate leaders and natural partners**

whose objectives are to:

**Demonstrate how nature works**

**Inspire people and communities to value and take action for nature**

**Champion nature and our work**

and to enable this by:

**Growing our resources through inspiring people to value our work**

**Knowledge sharing, cooperation, flexibility and effectiveness**

**Ensuring excellent governance**

## Wildlife Guardians

*Hazel*

- Rosie Bradley
- Jon Prince
- Dave & Kate Richards
- Richard & Hilary Waller
- Carol Wright

Thank you to our new Wildlife Guardians

# Gwent Wildlife Trust – Who's Who as at 1st June 2016

Iolo Williams	Patron
Roger James	President
Martin Anthony	Vice-President
Trevor Evans	Vice-President
Mary Field	Vice-President
David Leat	Vice-President
Rodney Morris	Vice-President
David Parsons	Vice-President
David Richards	Vice-President
Stephanie Tyler	Vice-President

## GWT Council

Richard Waller	Chairman	Chris Hatch	Trustee
Robert Waller	Vice Chair	Julia James	Trustee
Alison Willott	Vice Chair	David Jones	Trustee
Fay Mansell	Hon Secretary	Mike Kilner	Trustee
Norman Williams	Hon Treasurer	Steve Williams	Trustee
Paul Cawley	Trustee	Sue Finn	Co-opted
Huw Evans	Trustee		

## GWT Staff

Ian Rappel	Chief Executive
Leigh Danziger	Finance & Administration Manager
Sarah Binmore	Finance & Administration Officer
Rachael Daniels	Membership & Fundraising Manager
Martyn Wright	Senior Membership Recruitment Officer
Debbie Stenner	Senior Fundraising Partnership Officer
Annette Murray	Project & Partnerships Development Officer
Dipti Patel	Membership Support Officer
Sorrel Jones	Senior Conservation Officer
Lindi Rich	Conservation Officer
Veronika Brannovic	Eastern Valleys Living Landscape Manager
Anthony Cook	Eastern Valleys Project Support Officer
Rebecca Ward	Eastern Valleys Learning Officer
Tom Eyles	Eastern Valleys Reserves Officer
Chris Reed	Eastern Valleys Assistant Reserves Officer
Liz Winstanley	Eastern Valleys Assistant Learning Officer
Gemma Bodé	Director of Conservation
Alice Rees	Water Vole Project Officer
Kathy Barclay	Senior Education Officer
Petra Mitchard	Education Officer
Richard Bakere	Senior Reserves Officer
Charlene Davies	Assistant Conservation Officer
Tim Green	Farm & Wildlife Development Officer
Andy Karran	Local Wildlife Sites Officer
Lowri Watkins	LEMUR PLUS Trainee
Gareth Morgan	LEMUR PLUS Trainee

# Notice of Annual General Meeting

Gwent Wildlife Trust's 53rd Annual General Meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 21st September 2016 at the Glen Yr Afon House Hotel, Pontypool Road, Usk. Following a break for refreshments, there will be a presentation by Professor Sir John Lawton, author of the State of Nature report.

## AGENDA

1. President's Welcome
2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM and matters arising
3. To receive the Annual Report of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2016
4. To receive the Annual Accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2016
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 elect Trustees of Gwent Wildlife Trust (see note 2 below)
7. To elect the Officers of the Council of Trustees, including President and Patron for 2016/17
8. Presentation

### By order of Council 31st July 2016

Fay Mansell, Hon Secretary

## NOTES

**1 The following papers can be inspected at the AGM or obtained from the GWT office or on-line from [info@gwentwildlife.org](mailto:info@gwentwildlife.org):**

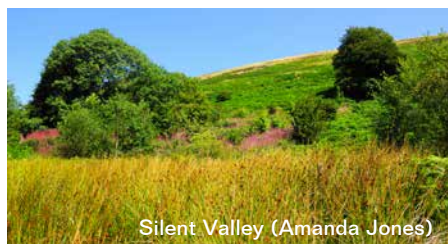
- Minutes of 52nd AGM on 16th September 2015.
- The full statutory Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016.

### 2 Trustee Recruitment

Nominations from any GWT members wishing to become a trustee will be welcomed. GWT Council will give consideration to the skills and qualities which are particularly sought to provide the best balance to the Trust's governing Council. The Chairman, Hon Secretary and Chief Executive would be pleased to discuss this with any members interested in becoming a trustee. Please contact the Secretary at the Trust Office in writing by 31st August 2016.



Mute Swans (David Sankson)



Silent Valley (Amanda Jones)



Water vole (David Chard)



Dandelion clock (Ivan Kennes)



**Front cover photographs:** Main photo: Gwent Levels (Tony Pickup);  
Buff tailed bumblebee (Sean O'Sullivan); Little Grebe (Jeff Hall); Pentwyn Cottage (Andy Karran);  
Child with lizard (Charlene Davies); Silent Valley wood carving (Amanda Jones)  
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Reg Charity No: 242619 Limited Liability Company No: 812535