

Gwent Wildlife Trust

Ymddiriedolaeth Natur Gwent



ANNUAL REVIEW 2016-2017



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

Chairman's Introduction

It is with continued pleasure that I present this annual report to you, the loyal and generous members of Gwent Wildlife Trust, allowing me to give my thanks to the dedicated and hard working volunteers and members of staff.

Together, we continue to meet our charitable objectives of protecting and enhancing the wildlife of Gwent. We also, in partnership with the other Wildlife Trusts in Wales, continue to challenge the Government on Environmental issues - the M4 Public Inquiry is a prime example - and influence legislation. Wales now has two World leading pieces of legislation in the Environment (Wales) Act and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, and these pieces of legislation enable us to challenge and hold the Government to account. To mention just

a few notable achievements; we have worked, with others, on the 'Living Levels' Project along the Gwent Levels, enabling us to positively work with landowners beyond the boundaries of our wonderful reserve at Magor Marsh; we have had success in our Living Valleys Landscape in giving 8 young people a start in their careers in conservation, I wish them well, and, in our Usk to Wye Landscape, we have found it beneficial to have our own small herd of Hereford steers to help manage the grazing needed on the reserves. We have had success enlarging our corporate member base and our Pentwyn Cottage has had an excellent first full year of operation. I am also particularly pleased with our new Reserve Guide which has been sent out to all members. Thank you for being members, please continue to support us so that Wildlife can continue to be protected and enhanced.

Richard Waller
Chairman, Gwent Wildlife Trust

Key Achievements 2016 - 2017

I am very pleased to report that Gwent Wildlife Trust has had another productive and dynamic year. Our wildlife conservation and people engagement work across our three Living Landscape Areas continues to develop, and all of our Teams have been strengthened with new staff, trainees and volunteers. Here are some highlights of our work:

Living Valleys (formerly Eastern Valleys)

- Completion of 6 years of People and Wildlife Project in the Living Valleys region, successfully exceeding all the outcomes and targets, including giving 8 young people a start on their conservation careers through paid and unpaid traineeships. Regular blogger and Assistant Reserves Officer Chris Reed being one of them.
- Progress on influencing grassland management in the wider landscape, spurred on by new records of the Shril Carder Bee on a site we manage.
- In partnership with Blaenau Gwent Council, we've established our first major urban nature reserve, Central Valley on the former Ebbw Vale steelworks site. The work on this site was given and opening boost by funding from Furnace to Flowers – thanks to everyone that voted and made that happen!

Gwent Levels

- The education team based at Magor Marsh ran 92 outdoor learning sessions for 2,600 children about wildlife including 3 days of teaching Year 8 pupils how to identify leaves and make picture frames and 10 Special needs sessions for Always school. The team's dedication was pushed to new limits as they dressed as water voles and undertook 3 whole school assemblies in order to highlight the plight of these lovely creatures in Britain.
- The amazing work of the Gwent Levellers volunteer group continues. Through dedication this group of volunteers are central to our nature conservation efforts on the Gwent Levels. - from laying hedges at Brockwells meadows, fixing boardwalk at Magor Marsh to hand clearing ditches at Barecroft Common.
- We're thrilled that, since their re-introduction back in 2012, water voles have now spread right across the Caldicot Levels. To support their continued spread the Internal Drainage Board now manage their main Reens more sensitively with water voles in mind, following a successful trial surrounding our Magor Marsh Nature Reserve.

Usk to Wye

- Under the direction of our new Landscape Manager, Neville Hart, GWT and partners have delivered year one of the NRW and Leader funded Wye Woods Conversation Project. This project has enhanced habitat management for the best woodland SSSIs in the Lower Wye Valley. The project also renovated historic, tourist viewpoints along the Wye Valley Walk and tackled non-native and invasive species.



- GWT's Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) Project Officer, Andy Karran, has had another busy year resurveying a further 51 Local Wildlife Sites. Now in its second year the project has shown that current management is maintaining their ecological quality and status. Andy also worked with Natural Resources Wales and private landowners to support the creation of over 7 hectares of orchard and woodland; creating new wildlife habitats along the River Trothy.
- Through our membership appeals and grant funding from the Wye Valley AONB, we purchased 11 traditional breed Hereford steers as part of *The Cattle Project*, which were integral to our ability to manage the organic certified grassland at Wyewood Common and Pentwyn Farm SSSI.

Support Team/Fundraising and Membership

- We're delighted to welcome 258 new members to Gwent Wildlife Trust in 2016/17. This has brought our current total to ~8,000 members, and we greatly appreciate their ongoing commitment to supporting our work.
- We have been very grateful to welcome 6 new Wildlife Guardians (members making an extra commitment to the Trust and giving more than £500 per year) to join the existing 7 Wildlife Guardians.
- Key fundraising activities went well: our Race for Wildlife attracted over 300 new and experienced runners from around Gwent and beyond and raised £3,450 and the Summer Raffle was again popular with members, raising £4,700.
- Our partnership and fundraising with regional businesses has been building. We were thrilled to be chosen as one of the retailer Wilko's charities of the year, and continue to work closely with their dedicated charities team at their Distribution Centre in Magor.

Ian Rappel CEO

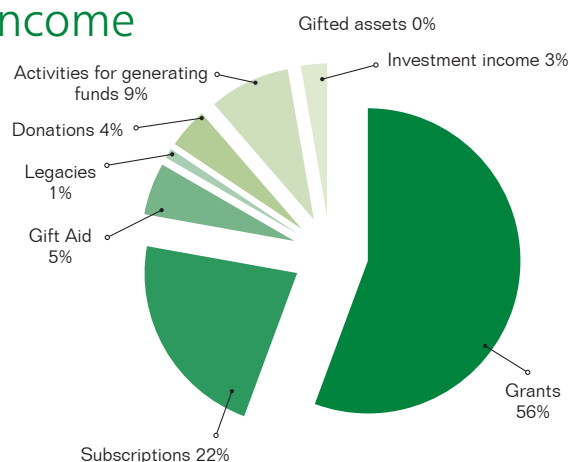
Summary of the Schedule to the Statement of Financial Activities

YEAR ENDED 31st March 2017

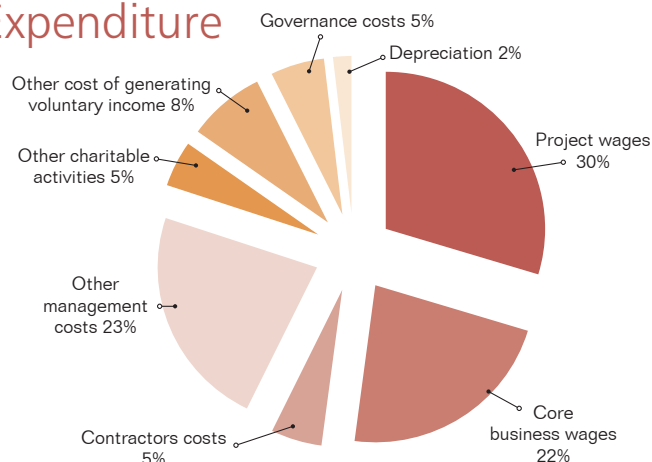
INCOMING RESOURCES	£
Grants	516,418
Subscriptions	205,774
Gift Aid	51,215
Legacies	9,670
Donations	39,650
Activities for generating funds	79,733
Investment income	25,548
Gifted assets	0
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	928,008

RESOURCES EXPENDED	£
Project wages	297,581
Core business wages	224,628
Contractors costs	51,806
Other management costs	229,014
Other charitable activities	47,251
Other cost of generating voluntary income	78,912
Governance costs	54,795
Depreciation	18,618
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	1,002,605

Income



Expenditure



Abbreviated Balance Sheet

AS AT 31st March 2017

	2017 £	2016 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	25,893	28,517
Heritage assets	1,434,385	1,439,351
Total fixed assets	1,460,278	1,467,868
Current assets		
Debtors	73,414	48,909
Cash at bank	278,300	369,987
Total current assets	351,714	418,896
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within 1 year	-7,204	-7,379
Net current assets	344,510	411,517
Total assets less current liabilities	1,804,788	1,879,385
Distribution of funds of the charity		
Designated unrestricted funds	168,837	239,510
General unrestricted funds	207,613	215,585
Restricted funds	1,428,338	1,424,290
Total funds	1,804,788	1,879,385

TRUSTEES' STATEMENT

The accounts here are a summary of information extracted from the statutory Financial Statements which were approved by the Trustees on 26th June 2017. 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
17th July 2017.

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 2017
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**

Gwent Wildlife Trust – Who's Who as at 1st June 2017

Iolo Williams	Patron
Roger James	President
Martin Anthoney	Vice-President
Trevor Evans	Vice-President
Mary Field	Vice-President
David Leat	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	Steve Williams	Trustee
Norman Williams	Hon Treasurer	Sue Finn	Trustee
Huw Evans	Trustee	Keith Allen	Trustee

GWT Staff

Ian Rappel	Chief Executive
Leigh Danziger	Finance & Administration Manager
Sarah Binmore	Finance & Administration Officer
Debbie Stenner	Marketing and Membership Manager
Martyn Wright	Senior Membership Recruitment Officer
Robert Magee	Fundraising Officer
Sarah Harris	Senior Press and Communications Officer
Dipti Patel	Membership Support Officer
Patrick Shardlow	Events Assistant
Lindi Rich	Conservation Officer
Veronika Brannovic	Living Valleys Living Landscape Manager
Anthony Cook	Living Valleys Project Support Officer
Rebecca Ward	Living Valleys Learning Officer
Tom Eyles	Living Valleys Reserves Officer
Chris Reed	Living Valleys Reserves Assistant
Liz Winstanley	Living Valleys Reserves Assistant
Gemma Bodé	Director of Conservation
Alice Rees	Project Development Officer
Kathy Barclay	Senior Education Officer
Petra Mitchard	Education Officer
Richard Bakere	Senior Reserves Officer
Lowri Watkins	Assistant Conservation Officer
Neville Hart	Usk to Wye Living Landscape Manager
Tim Green	Farm & Wildlife Development Officer
Andrew Karran	Local Wildlife Sites Officer

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Gwent Wildlife Trust's 54th Annual General Meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 20th September 2017 at the Glen Yr Afon House Hotel, Pontypool Road, Usk. Following a break for refreshments, there will be presentations on the theme of "A Celebration of Wildlife through Art."

AGENDA

1. President's Welcome
2. Minutes of the 2016 AGM and matters arising
3. To receive the Annual Report of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2017
4. To receive the Annual Accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2017
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 for 2017/18
8. Presentations

By order of Council 26th July 2017

Fay Mansell, Hon Secretary

NOTES

1 The following papers can be inspected at the AGM or obtained from the GWT office on 01600 740600 or info@gwentwildlife.org:

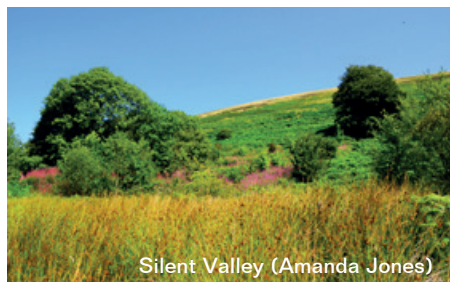
- Minutes of 53rd AGM on 21st September 2016.
- The full statutory Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2017.

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 2017.



Mute Swans (David Sankson)



Silent Valley (Amanda Jones)



Water vole (David Chard)



Dandelion clock (Ivan Kennes)



Front cover photographs: Main photo: Lower Minnetts field (Lauri MacLean);
Shrill Carder Bee (Gabi Horup); Maddy & Pheobe (Jeff Chard); Race for Wildlife (Rob Waller);
Water Vole (Cate Barrow); CALM demo (Rob Waller)
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@GwentWildlife

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Gwent Wildlife Trust

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