

# Gwent Wildlife Trust

*Ymddiriedolaeth Natur Gwent*



## ANNUAL REVIEW 2013-2014



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



## Chairman's Introduction

At this year's AGM I reach the end of my 5-year term as Chairman of GWT and I have been looking back not just over the past year but over the full five years. Ian Rappel will tell the story of what has been

achieved by staff and volunteers in 2013-14.

First, in the climate of austerity it feels like a success just to have survived as a charity for the past five years, but we have done more than survive. We now manage more land in more reserves; more children experience the inspirational educational opportunities we offer; we provide more courses on a wider range of topics, we have more volunteers; we have kept membership numbers up. In short, we're still here, and still doing what we promise to do for our members and for the people of Gwent.

Since I became Chairman I have worked with four different Chief Executives, and this instability creates uncertainty. For the Trust to keep growing has meant hard work, creativeness and sacrifice from staff and volunteers, and repeated generosity from members, donors and partners.

Late last year it became clear that the Trust needed to review its Strategy, and you will see some of the results of this

presented at the AGM. If we ask people to join us, or help us, or donate to us, we need to be able to answer fundamental questions about our existence and performance:

- Why do we exist?
- What are our beliefs and aims?
- How do we set out to achieve them?
- What resources do we need to achieve them?
- How successful are we at achieving them?

Many of the answers are already there, but we need to join them up and tell a single story about ourselves, from high ideals to the daily hard work of conservation.

Five years ago I had some aims for my term of office: I wanted GWT to make a difference to the whole population of Gwent, wherever they live; I wanted us to have influenced changes in the behaviour of others, so that more land in Gwent was managed for wildlife; I wanted more of the people of Gwent to see GWT as an organisation they wanted to support.

We've made progress in all these areas, but there is always more to do. I am handing you over to someone else's dreams and vision. I thank you all for the loyalty and support you continue to show to GWT. I am sure that you'll show the same to Richard Waller, who takes over from me at the AGM, and to Ian Rappel, our new CEO.

**David Richards**  
Chairman, Gwent Wildlife Trust

## GWT Achievements 2013/14

Thanks to the hard work of its staff and volunteers, Gwent Wildlife Trust has had some notable successes during the year 2013/14 including:

- **Natural Assets Project** came to a close delivering 43 grants totalling £70,000 to private landowners for help towards managing their Local Wildlife Sites. 100 new Local Wildlife Sites were identified and nearly 200 landowners engaged with in land management advice.
- **Water Vole Project** at Magor Marsh grew with its second water vole release (captured by the BBC's One Show). The water voles are thriving at Magor and are spreading beyond the Nature Reserve.
- GWT continued objections to the **Circuit Wales** proposals to build a motor racing track on 350ha of species rich upland heathland. We challenge NRW's lack of objection and call-in request but also argued that due process be followed so that works do not start before de notification of the common land
- **Living Levels** work and development on the Gwent Levels will culminate in the coming year in a HLF Landscape Partnership Application
- GWT proposed an alternative 'blue' route to the **M4 Relief Road** consultation and continued campaigning as part of CALM against the wider proposals.
- **Membership & Fundraising Team.** Membership numbers have dipped slightly just under 10,000 members, although income from membership is up. An indication that our members are becoming even more generous— thank you!  
The annual appeal successfully raised over £8,000 towards Our Forgotten Corners.

We had a very successful Race for Wildlife, raising funds and profile. In our 50th year, the £50 for 50 years challenge raised over £52,000 for the wildlife of Gwent.

- **People & Wildlife Project.** We delivered the final year of our Big Lottery work at the Environmental Resource Centre in Ebbw Vale. This project engaged over 10,000 people leading to a successful Big Lottery bid for a second phase of the project – Pobl a Natur.
- **Great Transton Meadows (Eastman/Solutia):** The Veolia Habitat Improvement Project was successfully delivered. Volunteer and community groups assisted in the work, along with the IDB. The habitat works have restored the landscape characteristics of the site.
- **Pentwyn Meadows SSSI:** The Biffaward project to restore some of Pentwyn Meadows grassland areas and manage the reserves hedgerows and shelterbelts was completed. Pentwyn Farm was also chosen as a site to run the oral vaccination trials for badgers/bovine TB by the Animal Health Veterinary Laboratory Agency (AHVLA).
- **Silent Valley Nature Reserve:** A SITA grant was used to purchase traditional breed sheep (Welsh Badger Face/Torddu) to graze the meadows at the southern end of the reserve.
- **Woodland Reserves:** GWT invested in new machinery to support our charcoal operation at Croes Robert Wood. Storm damaged and unsafe trees were managed following the heavy rainfall from winter 2013/14.
- **Gwent Ecology:** Our consultancy business has contributed to GWT income streams, staff experience and biological records. It has located important, yet un-discovered bat roosts and barn owl nesting sites.

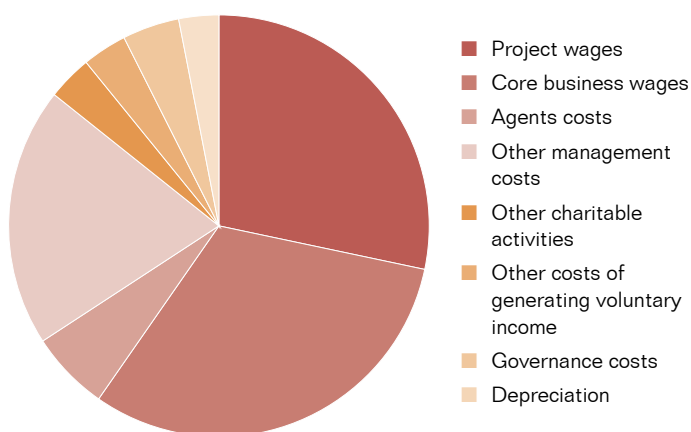
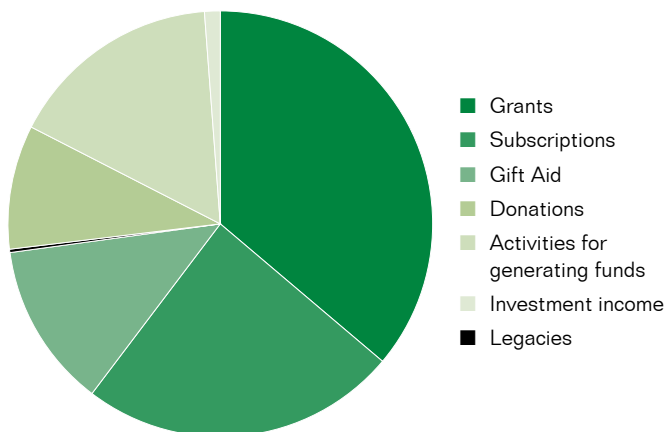
**Ian Rappel** CEO

# Summary of the Schedule to the Statement of Financial Activities

YEAR ENDED 31st March 2014

INCOMING RESOURCES	£
Grants	307,555
Subscriptions	205,537
Gift Aid	106,882
Legacies	1,723
Donations	80,067
Activities for generating funds	138,549
Investment income	10,151
Gifted assets	0
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>850,464</b>

RESOURCES EXPENDED	£
Project wages	240,276
Core business wages	266,322
Agents costs	51,927
Other management costs	168,744
Other charitable activities	29,118
Other cost of generating voluntary income	29,105
Governance costs	37,142
Depreciation	26,082
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b>848,716</b>



## Abbreviated Balance Sheet AS AT 31st MARCH 2014

	2014 £	2013 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible assets	1,318,687	1,329,606
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors	60,807	50,728
Cash at bank	200,058	211,876
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>260,865</b>	<b>262,604</b>
<b>Creditors</b>		
Amounts falling due within one year	-11,363	-25,769
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>249,502</b>	<b>236,835</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>1,568,189</b>	<b>1,566,441</b>
<b>Distribution of Funds of the Charity</b>		
Unrestricted funds	249,315	231,898
Restricted funds	1,318,874	1,334,543
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>1,568,189</b>	<b>1,566,441</b>

## TRUSTEES' STATEMENT

The accounts here are a summary of information extracted from the statutory Financial Statements which were approved by the Trustees on 14th July 2014. 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 2014

## 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 2014  
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors,  
Lanyon House, Mission Court, Newport, NP20 2DW

## Gwent Wildlife Trust Objectives:

Objectives	Description
Objective 1	To create a Living Landscape reflecting the wide variety of habitats in Gwent.
Objective 2	To support Living Seas, especially the Severn Estuary.
Objective 3	To inspire people about the natural world.
Objective 4	To encourage individual action for wildlife and the environment; standing up for wildlife.

An environment rich in wildlife for everyone (in Gwent)

Objectives	Description
Supporting Objective a	To increase the influence of Gwent Wildlife Trust.
Supporting Objective b	To raise the profile of Gwent Wildlife Trust.
Supporting Objective c	To grow the resources of Gwent Wildlife Trust.
Supporting Objective d	To cooperate effectively with other Wildlife Trusts in Wales, neighbouring Wildlife Trusts in England and with other Wildlife Trusts across TWT.
Supporting Objective e	To develop and maintain the highest levels of Governance.

# Gwent Wildlife Trust – Who's Who as at 1st June 2014

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

## GWT Council

David Richards	Chairman
Richard Waller	Vice Chairman
Fay Mansell	Hon Secretary
Norman Williams	Hon Treasurer
Andrew Baker	Trustee
Chris Hatch	Trustee
Huw Evans	Trustee
Julia James	Trustee
Paul Cawley	Trustee
Rachel Morgan	Trustee
Robert Waller	Trustee
Steve Williams	Trustee
Alison Willott	Trustee

## GWT Staff

Ian Rappel	Chief Executive & Reserves Manager
Andrew Beadsworth	Reserves Officer
Jan Kinchington	Reserves Officer
Richard Bakere	Reserves Officer
Tim Green	Farm & Wildlife Development Officer
Gemma Bodé	Conservation Manager
Alice Rees	Water Vole Project Officer
Andrew Karran	South East Wales Wildlife Sites Project Officer
Sorrel Jones	Conservation Officer
Lindi Rich	Conservation Officer
Charlene Davies	LEMUR Ecological Heritage Trainee
Kathy Barclay	Community Wildlife Education Officer (Magor Marsh)
Petra Mitchard	Community Wildlife Education Officer (Magor Marsh)
Veronika Brannovic	People & Wildlife Project Leader (Ebbw Vale)
Anthony Cook	Ebbw Vale Project Administrator
Rebecca Ward	Ebbw Vale Community Education Officer
Tom Eyles	Reserves Officer
Kay Rymer	Administration / Finance Manager
Leigh Danziger	Administration / Finance / Membership Officer
Rachael Daniels	Membership & Fundraising Manager
Annette Murray	Project & Partnership Officer
Liesel Townley	Fundraising Officer
Martyn Wright	Senior Membership Recruitment Officer

# Notice of Annual General Meeting

Gwent Wildlife Trust's 51st Annual General Meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 17th September 2014 at the Glen Yr Afon House Hotel, Pontypool Road, Usk. Following a break for refreshments, there will be a presentation by Professor Ted Benton – who will be speaking on "The Legacy of Alfred Russel Wallace".

Professor Benton works at the University of Essex. He is author of two volumes in the Collins New Naturalist series: "Grasshoppers and Crickets" and "Bumblebees". He published a book on Gwent-born A.R. Wallace during 2013 as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations of Wallace's life: "Alfred Russel Wallace: Explorer, Evolutionist, Public Intellectual: A Thinker for Our Own Times?"

## AGENDA

1. President's Welcome
2. Minutes of the 2013 AGM and matters arising
3. To receive the Annual Report of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2014
4. To receive the Annual Accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2014
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 2014/15
8. Presentation

### By order of Council 31st July 2014

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 50th AGM on 18th September 2013.
- The full statutory Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2014.

### 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 2014.



Pyrrhidium sanguineum  
Dingestow  
(Sam Bosanquet)



Ducks  
Magor Marsh,  
(Amanda Jones)



Siskin  
(Ray Armstrong)



Dennis the lamb  
(A.Murray)



**Front cover photographs:** Main image – Beacon Hill (Ray Armstrong); Badger (Jon Hawkins); Common Toad – Magor Marsh (Keith Noble); Fungi – Fly Agaric (Ray Armstrong); Lady's-Smock (L. Danziger); Woodfest (V. Brannovic).  
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