

Gwent Wildlife Trust // Ymddiriedolaeth Natur Gwent

Annual Review 2017 - 2018

PHOTO CREDITS: NEIL ALDRIDGE

Within an increasingly challenging environment, Gwent Wildlife Trust continues our mission to stand up for wildlife. We look after our nature reserves and work with other landowners across our Living Landscape areas. We campaign to keep our wildlife safe against damaging proposals such as the M4 'Black Route'. We also enable hundreds of young people to experience nature close-up so that they can be inspired.

Here in Gwent we are blessed with an extraordinary range of landscapes, habitats and species. But the challenges ahead are many - from the unclear implications of Brexit for the farmed environment, to the reduction in funds available for our work. Whatever the uncertainties, we will continue to work

hard on behalf of our membership to maximise the impact of our work for wildlife and people.

To that end, we are lucky to have a passionate, committed team of staff and volunteers, and hundreds of dedicated members who willingly give their time, expertise and financial support. As Chairperson of this vibrant Wildlife Trust, I would like to thank the partners, personal and business supporters, sponsors and grant-giving bodies which have enabled our work during the year. The legacies which we have received this year have made the most incredible difference. In particular, we are truly grateful to Pat Gorvin for her generosity. Without all this support, we could not have achieved all that we have during the year. Thank you.

Alison Willott, Chair, Gwent Wildlife Trust.

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

A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 2017 – 2018

CONSERVATION

► Continued to manage our 30 nature reserves for wildlife, covering over 600 hectares of land



Coppiced over 1 hectare of woodland at Prisk Wood and Croes Robert Nature Reserves

- Delivered 5 woodland management workshops for 57 woodland owners and managers
- Surveyed 120 hectares of woodland, recording 130 veteran trees and preparing management plans to aid with ancient woodland restoration
- Planted 100 trays of wildflower plugs, collected 3 'rubble bags' of seed and spread 260 bales of green hay from New Grove and Pentwyn, completing the Coronation Meadows project completed after 4 years

Made 31 collections of around 310,000 seeds for Kew's National Tree Seed project

- Upskilled hundreds of trainees and volunteers in conservation and practical land management, including wildlife surveys, woodland management, chainsaw and brush cutter use, hedgelaying, ATV and tractor driving and first aid
- Mapped, identified botanical species and made recommendations for 150 Local Wildlife Sites, delivering training days and producing bespoke toolkits for owners. This 3-year project generated c.15,000 botanical species records!

'You've all taught me so much and really inspired and motivated me towards my future career!' Water Vole survey volunteer now studying for a conservation degree at University.

INSPIRING PEOPLE

'When I did the first couple of sessions on reflection I felt quite anxious but since I've been helping you with other groups it has felt really therapeutic!' Joe, Wild Health Project participant

- Our reserves were visited an estimated 470,000 times during the year!
- Built support for wildlife conservation, to 8,500 members and over 10,000 Social Media followers. 500 new Gwent supporters took part in 30Days Wild

200 volunteers gave 16,400 hours of their time to protect wildlife in Gwent

- Inspired national and regional media, and specialist commentators to visit and present our work: leading to coverage in The Financial Times, Western Mail, Wales Online, BBC Radio 4, BBC Countryfile, as well as across local Gwent media

104 children from 26 schools took part in Wildlife Wizards quiz



- 2,150 schoolchildren took part in outdoor learning at our centres in Magor and Ebbw Vale, and our teams visited 26 schools
- Our staff qualified to deliver accredited outdoor and forest school training and trained 16 teachers

INFLUENCING POLICY

► We formally responded to 30 planning applications and estimate 1,500 hectares of land have been protected or enhanced for wildlife, as a result of our work to influence through the planning system.

► Our planning work in 2017/18, has however, been dominated by our opposition to the M4 Black Route. From February to September, we called on an army of expert witnesses to the Public Inquiry, supported by a legal team who generously represented our case pro bono. We spent £30,000 opposing the scheme at Public Inquiry, consistently highlighting its direct contravention of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (noting it was the first real test of this policy) and gave evidence of the threat to wildlife, inadequacy of the proposed mitigation and inaccuracy of transport projections. We would like to deeply thank the following people for giving the inquiry their invaluable expert input as witnesses:

Professor Sir John Lawton (Habitat Fragmentation), Professor John Altringham (Bats), Professor Neil Ward and Lindi Rich (Water Quality), David Boyce (Invertebrates), Geoff Liles (Otters), Richard Bakere (Impact on Magor Marsh Nature Reserve), Mike Webb (Cumulative Impact) Richard Barnes (Ancient Woodland), James Byrne (Mitigation and Sustainable Development), Peter Ogden (Climate Change) Professor Kevin Anderson, Professor Lorraine Whitmarsh, Professor John Whitelegg (Traffic Forecasting), Professor John Whitelegg, Gerald Kells, Professor Terry Marsden and Professor Calvin Jones (Economics and Sustainable Development).

We maintain our promise to people and wildlife to continue to campaign to protect the Gwent Levels from destruction

'My conclusion after what was a momentous trip [to the Gwent Levels]? I'm with the dragonflies.' Martin Shipton, Chief Reporter and Welsh Government/political reporter in the Western Mail.

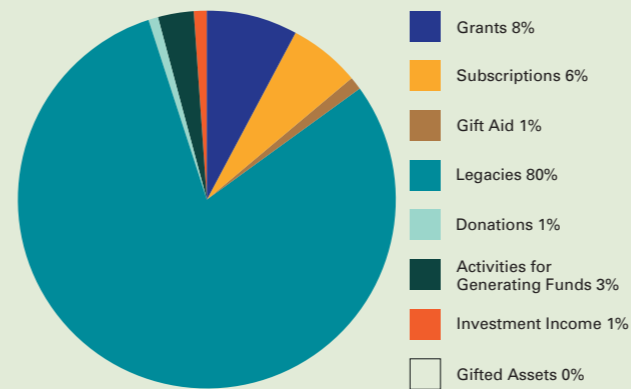


SUMMARY OF THE SCHEDULE TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

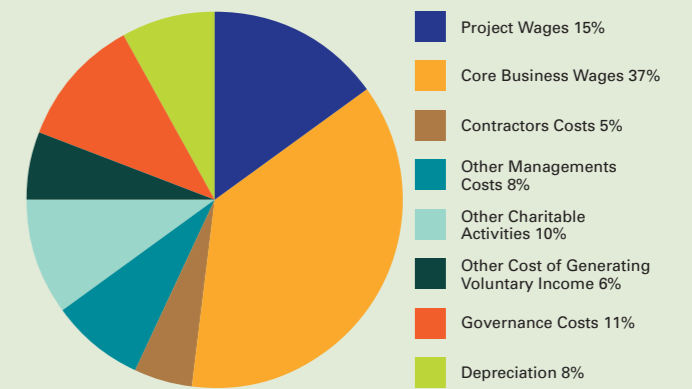
Year ended 31st March 2018

Incoming Resources	£'s	Resources Expended	£'s
Grants	269,702	Project wages	185,268
Subscriptions	181,212	Core business wages	444,344
Gift Aid	40,665	Contractors costs	59,366
Legacies	2,679,630	Other management costs	102,114
Donations	27,787	Other charitable activities	118,171
Activities for generating funds	99,309	Other cost of generating voluntary income	69,350
Investment income	34,719	Governance costs	126,377
Gifted assets	0	Depreciation	99,403
		Disposal of fixed assets	32,480
Total Incoming Resources	3,333,024	Total Resources Expended	1,236,873

Income



Expenditure



ABBREVIATED BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st March 2018

	2018	2017
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	73,333	25,893
Heritage assets	1,315,318	1,434,385
Total fixed assets	1,388,651	1,460,278
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	397,303	73,414
Cash at bank	2,143,271	278,300
Total current assets	2,540,574	351,714
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within 1 year	-28,286	-7,204
NET CURRENT ASSETS	2,512,288	344,510
Total assets less current liabilities	3,900,939	1,804,788
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS OF THE CHARITY		
Designated unrestricted funds	2,422,685	168,837
General unrestricted funds	140,477	207,613
Restricted funds	1,337,777	1,428,338
Total funds	3,900,939	1,804,788

TRUSTEES' STATEMENT

The accounts here are a summary of information extracted from the statutory Financial Statements which were approved by the Trustees on 10th July 2018. 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 be 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, from 1st September, 2018.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees Sue Finn, Honorary Secretary 17th July, 2018.

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, 2018 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 will do this by being **passionate leaders** and **natural partners** whose objectives are to: inspire people to value and take action for nature; champion nature and our work and enable this by: growing our resources; knowledge sharing, cooperation, flexibility and effectiveness, ensuring good governance.



17,998m ditches surveyed for Water Voles assisted by 61 volunteers for our Magnificent Marshy Mammals project



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Gwent Wildlife Trust's 55th Annual General Meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 19th September 2018 at the Glen Yr Afon House Hotel, Pontypool Road, Usk. Following a break for refreshments, there will be an Autumn Showcase of wildlife presentations from staff and regional ecologists.

AGENDA

1. President's Welcome
2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM and matters arising
3. To receive the Annual Report of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2018
4. To receive the Annual Accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2018
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 2018/19
8. Presentations

By order of Council July 2018

Sue Finn, Hon Secretary

NOTES

1. The following papers can be inspected at the AGM, obtained from the GWT office on 01600 740600 or by emailing info@gwentwildlife.org and also online at www.gwentwildlife.org from 1st September, 2018.
 - Minutes of 54th AGM on 20th September 2017.
 - The full statutory Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018.
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 1st August 2018.

GWENT WILDLIFE TRUST WHO'S WHO AS AT 1ST JUNE 2018

Iolo Williams	<i>Patron</i>
Roger James	<i>President</i>
Martin Anthoney	<i>Vice-President</i>
Trevor Evans	<i>Vice-President</i>
Mary Field	<i>Vice-President</i>
David Leat	<i>Vice-President</i>
David Parsons	<i>Vice-President</i>
David Richards	<i>Vice-President</i>
Stephanie Tyler	<i>Vice-President</i>

GWT COUNCIL

Alison Willott	<i>Chair</i>
Robert Waller	<i>Vice Chair</i>
Sue Finn	<i>Hon Secretary</i>
Norman Williams	<i>Hon Treasurer</i>
Richard Waller	<i>Trustee</i>
Huw Evans	<i>Trustee</i>
Chris Hatch	<i>Trustee</i>
Julia James	<i>Trustee</i>
David Jones	<i>Trustee</i>
Jonathan Stephens	<i>Co-opted</i>
Fay Mansell	<i>Trustee</i>
Keith Allen	<i>Trustee</i>

GWT STAFF

Ian Rappel	<i>Chief Executive</i>
Leigh Danziger	<i>Finance & Administration Manager</i>
Sarah Binmore	<i>Finance & Administration Officer</i>
Anthony Cook	<i>IT & Administration Officer</i>
Debbie Stenner	<i>Marketing & Membership Manager</i>
Martyn Wright	<i>Senior Membership Recruitment Officer</i>
Robert Magee	<i>Fundraising Officer</i>
Sarah Harris	<i>Senior Press & Communications Officer</i>
Dipti Patel	<i>Membership Support Officer</i>
Veronika Brannovic	<i>Living Valleys Landscape Manager</i>
Tom Eyles	<i>Living Valleys Senior Reserves Officer</i>
Rebecca Ward	<i>Living Valleys Learning Officer</i>
Liz Winstanley	<i>Living Valleys Reserves Officer</i>
Gemma Bodé	<i>Director of Conservation, Deputy CEO</i>
Lindi Rich	<i>Conservation Officer</i>
Mike Webb	<i>Conservation Officer</i>
Alice Rees	<i>Senior Development 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 Project Officer</i>
Mark Stokes	<i>Natural Heritage Senior Project Officer</i>
Neville Hart	<i>Usk to Wye Living Landscape Manager</i>
Tim Green	<i>Senior Farm & Wildlife Development Officer</i>
Andrew Karran	<i>Local Wildlife Sites Officer</i>
Doug Lloyd	<i>Woodland Conservation Officer</i>
Ian Thomas	<i>Wild Health Project Officer</i>

GWENT WILDLIFE TRUST, Seddon House, Dingestow, Monmouth NP25 4DY. Tel: 01600 740600. Email: info@gwentwildlife.org
Web: www.gwentwildlife.org. Reg Charity No: 242619. Limited Liability Company No: 812535.