

Gwent Wildlife Trust

Ymddiriedolaeth Natur Gwent



ANNUAL REVIEW 2011-2012



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

Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to this review of our activities in the financial year 2011-2012. One of the frustrations I find in writing this report is that by the time you read it, a large part of the current year will already have passed.



I have to think back to the year which is the subject of this report and try to ignore what has happened since it ended. This is difficult, because GWT is always moving forward, dealing with the threats and opportunities that arise. A year ago we didn't have a full time Chief Executive, but that had already changed by the time of the AGM. Tom Clarke became our CEO in September 2011 and he has thrown himself into the role. I know that many of you have met Tom since he took up his post, and that he values the contact he has with GWT members. You have made him welcome, and I thank you personally for that.

The year 2011-2012 has been a difficult one financially for Wales, for families, and for organisations such as GWT. We cannot survive without the continuing support of our members, and I am grateful to all of you for sticking with us, and to the GWT staff whose job it is to recruit and develop membership numbers. I am delighted that our membership continues to increase at a time when that of many other organisations is reducing. Our achievements are best told here by those who delivered them and I won't steal their thunder. I would just like to say a few words about our vision and mission, and about our strategic focus on Living Landscapes. We reviewed our development plan in 2011, and our revised Mission is: "To achieve an environment richer in wildlife for everyone in Gwent". That is, deliberately, a tall order. We have 'only' 24 staff and 10,000 members; our 29 reserves cover only a fraction of one percent of the area of Gwent, yet we aspire to deliver conservation that matters to the entire population of the old county. How can we do that without massive investment in land and membership recruitment?

The answer, I believe, lies in the model of Living Landscapes. This is a concept which was developed in The Wildlife Trust movement several years ago and which, together with a parallel initiative on Living Seas, is the main focus for the movement to influence conservation policy in all parts of the UK. What this means for GWT is working with others – conservation and land management organisations, landowners, local and national government agencies, industry and communities – so that distinctive landscapes are managed to achieve conservation successes over the widest possible area. Other benefits of this management include a stronger local economy and better recreation for people. Our development plan and initial strategy has identified four important Living Landscapes in Gwent – Usk to Wye, Gwent Levels, Eastern Valleys, and Newport. You will be hearing more about these projects in the coming years.

However, our aspirations are not confined to these four parts of Gwent and we recognise that setting priorities can be counter-productive if it makes people living outside those areas feel that where they live is not important to GWT. I would like everyone living here to be able to look at the landscapes where they live, or through which they travel on the way to work, and know that what they see matters to GWT. Only through this commitment can we achieve our mission, and deserve the support of our members, old and new.

David Richards

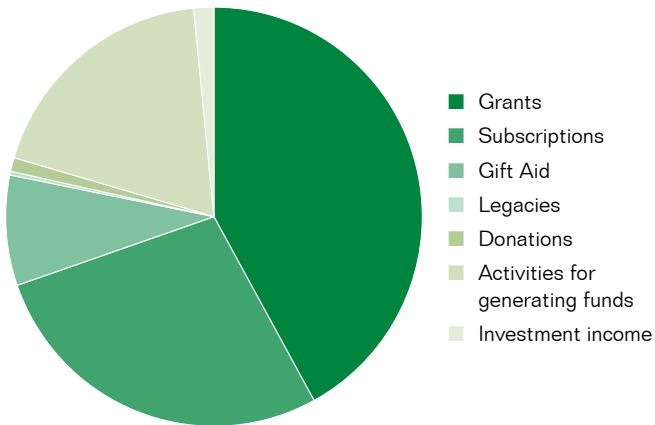
GWT Achievements 2011/12

- **Woodland Reserves.** GWT was awarded nearly £48K from the Welsh Government for woodland work on seven of its reserves. This has funded equipment including a tracked dumper and new charcoal kiln to assist in charcoal production at Croes Robert, as well as work at Magor Marsh, Great Traston Meadows, and Prisk Wood.
- **Conservation and Farming.** Our flock of Hebridean sheep (together with four endangered Hill Radnor ewes) continues to assist in the grassland management of our Wyewood Common, Pentwyn Farm, and New Grove Meadows reserves. GWT has entered Glastir, the new Welsh Agri-environment scheme.
- **Picked Lane Fields.** A 99 year lease was signed between Environment Agency Wales and GWT for the trust to manage 5.5 hectares of EAW land adjacent to Great Traston Meadows (Solutia).
- **Gwent Ecology.** Our consultancy business has made a good financial contribution to GWT finances, whilst generating thousands of biological records and influencing a number of developers.
- **The People and Wildlife Project.** Based at the ERC in Ebbw Vale, the project has firmly established GWT as a real presence for conservation in Blaenau Gwent. In this first year, more than 4,000 people of all backgrounds took part in formal taught programs, courses and events. The project has exceeded almost all of its first year targets.
- **Magor Marsh.** Almost 3,000 children visited with their schools and we continue to run courses for teachers. Wildlife Warriors, our after-school youth group based at Magor, had sixteen regular attendees.
- **Volunteers.** Val Jackson signed up our 400th volunteer this year. The GWT volunteers have contributed a significant amount of practical work to all departments in GWT, such as the volunteer shepherds, bird nest box surveyors, wildflower surveyors, the Mid Week Volunteer Group, and the Gwent Levellers. Thank you for your help and support.
- **Local Land-Use Planning.** GWT contributed to consultations on emerging Local Development Plans and prepared focused responses to planning applications. Special planning casework included a proposed incinerator, wind turbines on the Gwent Levels and the A465 in Blaenau Gwent. GWT also monitored re-emerging plans to develop the M4-Newport corridor across the Gwent Levels.
- **Gwent Orchards Project.** The project has worked to identify Gwent's remaining traditional orchards and support landowners to help preserve them and their biodiversity. Over 100 orchards were surveyed in Monmouthshire and a series of over-subscribed training days in orchard management were held.
- **Monmouthshire Natural Assets Project.** This new project builds upon GWT's successful Local Wildlife Sites work and connections with landowners, offering habitat management advice, botanical surveys and a small grant scheme to help enhance Local Wildlife Sites.
- **Gwent Winter Bird Feeding Project.** Involving all five of Gwent's LBAP partnerships, this project created winter bird feeding opportunities and raised awareness of the decline of farmland birds.

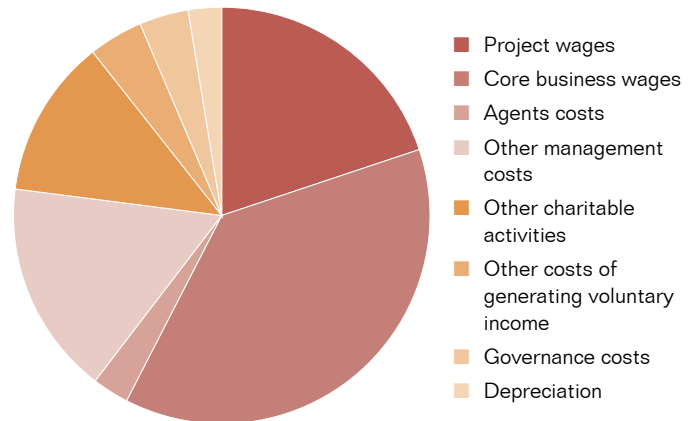
Summary of the Schedule to the Statement of Financial Activities

YEAR ENDED 31st March 2012

INCOMING RESOURCES	£
Grants	349,215
Subscriptions	229,879
Gift Aid	70,745
Legacies	2,415
Donations	8,748
Activities for generating funds	157,044
Investment income	12,973
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	831,019



RESOURCES EXPENDED	£
Project wages	155,582
Core business wages	294,965
Agents costs	22,273
Other management costs	130,212
Other charitable activities	96,577
Other costs of generating voluntary income	33,067
Governance costs	29,908
Depreciation	20,252
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	782,836



Abbreviated Balance Sheet AS AT 31st MARCH 2012

	2012 £	2011 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	1,200,412	1,165,612
Current assets		
Debtors	75,069	50,129
Cash at bank	271,999	230,023
Total current assets	347,068	280,152
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year	-59,899	-6,366
Net Current Assets	287,169	273,786
Total assets less current liabilities	1,487,581	1,439,398
Distribution of Funds of the Charity		
Unrestricted funds	256,770	222,202
Restricted funds	1,230,811	1,217,196
Total Funds	1,487,581	1,439,398

TRUSTEES' STATEMENT

The accounts here are a summary of information extracted from the statutory Financial Statements which were approved by the Trustees on 16th July 2012. 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 16th July 2012

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 Auditor 1st August 2012
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.

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 2012

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
Tim Green	Acting Reserve Manager
Richard Bakere	Reserves Officer
Jan Kinchington	Reserves Officer
Annette Murray	Wyeswood Common Project Officer
Tom Eyles	Reserves Officer
Gemma Bodé	Conservation Manager
Rebecca Price	Acting Conservation Manager
Sorrel Jones	Conservation Officer
Nicola Stone	Assistant Conservation Officer
Steven Heaton	Seasonal Surveyor
Alice Rees	Perllanau Gwent Projects Officer (Orchards)
Denis Jackson	People & Wildlife Manager
	Director of Gwent Ecology
Kathy Barclay	Community Wildlife Education Officer (Magor Marsh)
Helen John	Community Wildlife Education Officer (Magor Marsh)
Veronika Brannovic	People & Wildlife Project Leader (Ebbw Vale)
Ria Banscherus	Community Education Officer (Ebbw Vale)
Anthony Cook	Project Administrator (Ebbw Vale)
Alison McGachy	Fundraising Manager
Rachael Daniels	Membership Development Officer
Martyn Wright	Senior Membership Recruitment Officer
Russell Johnson	Membership Recruitment Officer
Kay Rymer	Administration / Finance Manager
Leigh Danziger	Administration Officer
Alaw Hughes	Heritage Grazing Project Trainee (GAP/HLF)

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Gwent Wildlife Trust's 49th Annual General Meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 19th September 2012 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's People and Wildlife team.

AGENDA

1. President's Welcome
2. Minutes of the 2011 AGM and matters arising
3. To receive the Annual Report of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2012
4. To receive the Annual Accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2012
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
10. Resolution to allow trustees to serve longer than the existing term of five years
11. Resolution to increase the maximum number of trustees to fifteen
12. Election of Richard Waller as Vice-Chairman
13. Presentations

By order of Council 16th July 2012

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 48th AGM on 5th October 2011.
- The full statutory Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2012.

Call for Trustees

Notice is hereby given that the approval of the resolution to expand GWT Council will lead to vacancies at trustee level. GWT Council welcomes applications from GWT members wishing to serve as trustees, particularly those with legal, fundraising and land management skills to offer as governance in support of GWT. Interested parties are requested to contact the GWT Honorary Secretary in writing at Seddon House in the first instance. There will be a selection process managed by GWT Council.



Water Vole –
NE Wildlife



Toad –
Amy Lewis



Treecreeper –
Neil Aldridge



Front cover photographs: Main Image – Silent Valley – Jane Corey; Velvet Shank (*Flammulina velutipes*) – Jan Kinchington; Ragged Robin – Shirley Freeman; Hill Radnor – Annette Murray; Green Woodpecker female – www.15acresinkent.com; Common Blue – Gabi Horup

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