

Gwent Wildlife Trust

Ymddiriedolaeth Natur Gwent



ANNUAL REVIEW 2012-2013



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





Chairman's Introduction

For any organisation like GWT to reach 50 years is a reason for celebration, and I hope that you have all found at least one opportunity to join us and celebrate in 2013. Just survive implies that

the Trust must be meeting a need in our audience, but we have done much more than just surviving.

By any measure, GWT has been successful, and outgrown the aspirations of its visionary founder members. We have followed their example and protected some of the most precious parts of Gwent's landscape from degradation or even destruction; we manage these reserves to keep them healthy and improve their value for wildlife where we can; and we open them to the public, not just to our members, at no charge.

Since the early days with only volunteers, we now employ over 20 staff, and have over 400 volunteers on our list. These additional resources, far beyond what the founding

members must have envisaged, enable us to carry out a wide range of actions and activities in support of Gwent's wildlife. Tom gives more details later in this Review.

In our turn we must set a stable platform for the next generation of Wildlife Trust supporters to take the Trust on to the next level. Our Education programme is spreading the message to many schoolchildren in the confident belief that many will grow up to value the fantastic natural heritage with which Gwent is blessed, and want to get involved with the Trust. I can't imagine what things will look like in 20 years' time under their stewardship, still less in 50 years. If we can count on your continuing support, whether you are a member, or a volunteer or both, we can make wildlife matter to more of Gwent's population.

In our 50th year, I would like to pay tribute to the founders who started our history, to thank today's members, staff and volunteers who achieve so much, and to ask more of the next generation to get involved, so that GWT will have many more anniversary celebrations.

David Richards
Chairman



GWT Achievements 2012/13

Thanks to the hard work of its staff and volunteers, Gwent Wildlife Trust has had some notable successes during the year 2012/13, a selection of which is listed below:

- **Barecroft Common.** In April 2012, GWT raised over £126,000 in three weeks from its members, the public and local statutory organizations. This was to purchase and safeguard over 28 acres of unimproved wetland on the Gwent Levels, a GWT Living Landscape area and adjacent to Magor Marsh.
- **Water Voles.** A successful application to Biffa allowed GWT to reintroduce water voles at Magor Marsh. In addition to this, we have formed a very pro-active Gwent Levels Living Landscape steering group to take forward our conservation aspirations for the Levels.
- **Proposed M4 Relief Road.** Together with Friends of the Earth, GWT successfully challenged the process of the Corridor Enhancement Measures Public Consultations in late 2012. We await fresh consultation in 2013.
- **People and Wildlife Project.** Our work in Ebbw Vale continues to over-deliver. The forthcoming third and final year should see the total number of local people actively engaging with their natural environment exceed 10,000.
- **Magor Marsh.** Almost 3,000 children visited Magor Marsh with their schools again this year. We have also increased teacher training in the outdoor classroom because these teachers can influence thousands more children during their professional careers.
- **Volunteers.** Volunteering continues to be a key contributor to GWT's success and we have more than 400, which enables more conservation activity to take place.
- **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.
- **Usk to Wye.** Developing our Living Landscape work, GWT is continuing the Monmouthshire Natural Assets Project, which builds upon the Trust's successful connections with

landowners. The project provides management advice, botanical surveys and administers a small grant scheme to help enhance or restore Local Wildlife Sites.

- **Shrill Carder Bee.** Additional funds were secured to continue this project and encourage sensitive land management to help secure the future of this rare bumblebee.
- **Membership & Fundraising Team.** Membership numbers remain steady during these difficult times. Thank you to all our supporters – it is your contributions that are making a difference to the wildlife of Gwent. The team is preparing a raft of fabulous fundraising activities for the forthcoming year to improve our core finances. Keep an eye out for them and if you can support us, please do!
- **Website.** The new website this year has made an enormous difference to our internet presence and enables staff to make changes whenever they have something interesting to tell you.
- **Glastir.** GWT has entered the Glastir Advanced Scheme, which is a 5 year agri-environment scheme. This will enable us to receive payments for existing habitat management works, and facilitate essential capital works.
- **Conservation Grazing.** The Heritage Grazing Project was a great success and has boosted Gwent's reputation as a source of knowledge for conservation grazing. It also led to a successful bid for a full-time, 12-month Wye Valley AONB supported, Conservation Grazing Traineeship.
- **Pentwyn Farm.** GWT was awarded a grant of £35,000 from Biffa Award for a 2 year project to help restore and recreate grassland at Pentwyn Farm. Additional fields have been purchased and added to the Pentwyn Farm landholding through sale of land that had been legacied to GWT (with full permission of the donating family).
- **Great Traston Meadows (Eastman-Solutia).** The Veolia Habitat Improvement Project is now well underway - willow scrub has been controlled with the help of the Wildlife In Newport Group and the Kaleidoscope project (a local addiction rehabilitation group).

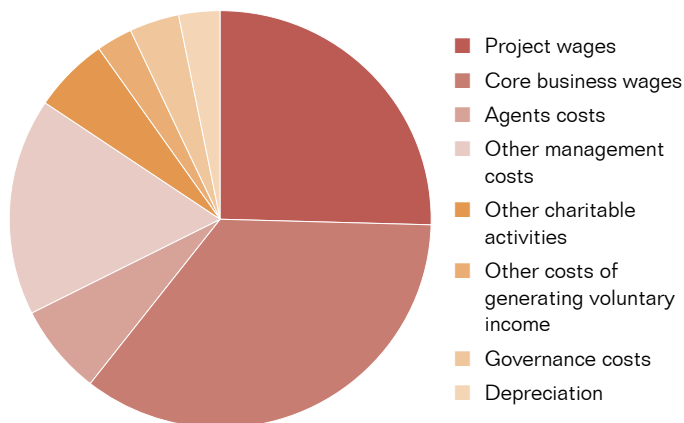
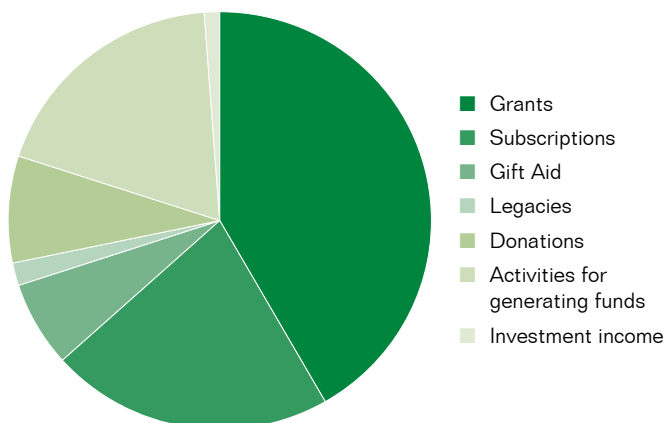
Tom Clarke
CEO
Gwent Wildlife Trust

Summary of the Schedule to the Statement of Financial Activities

YEAR ENDED 31st March 2013

INCOMING RESOURCES	£
Grants	387,322
Subscriptions	201,037
Gift Aid	61,701
Legacies	16,322
Donations	76,823
Activities for generating funds	174,821
Investment income	10,916
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	928,942

RESOURCES EXPENDED	£
Project wages	215,294
Core business wages	297,487
Agents costs	59,464
Other management costs	142,589
Other charitable activities	49,319
Other cost of generating voluntary income	23,459
Governance costs	32,309
Depreciation	26,806
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	846,727



Abbreviated Balance Sheet AS AT 31st MARCH 2013

	2013 £	2012 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	1,329,606	1,200,412
Current assets		
Debtors	54,083	75,069
Cash at bank	211,876	271,999
Total current assets	265,959	347,068
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year	-25,769	-59,899
Net Current Assets	240,190	287,169
Total assets less current liabilities	1,569,796	1,487,581
Distribution of Funds of the Charity		
Unrestricted funds	235,253	256,567
Restricted funds	1,334,543	1,231,014
Total Funds	1,569,796	1,487,581

TRUSTEES' STATEMENT

The accounts here are a summary of information extracted from the statutory Financial Statements which were approved by the Trustees on 31st July 2013. 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 2013

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 2013
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 2013

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

GWT Council

David Richards	Chairman
Richard Waller	Vice 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
Rob Waller	Trustee

GWT Staff

Tom Clarke	Chief Executive
Ian Rappel	Reserves Manager
Tim Green	Farm & Wildlife Development Officer
Richard Bakere	Reserves Officer
Jan Kinchington	Reserves Officer
Annette Murray	Wyeswood Common Project Officer
Tom Eyles	Reserves Officer
Andrew Beadsworth	Wye Valley Conservation Grazing Trainee
Gemma Bodé	Conservation Manager
Rebecca Price	Wildlife Projects Officer
Sorrel Jones	Conservation Officer
Alice Rees	Water Vole Project Officer
Andrew Karran	Seasonal Surveyor
Laura Dell	LEMUR Ecological Heritage Trainee
Denis Jackson	People & Wildlife Manager
Kathy Barclay	Community Wildlife Education Officer (Magor Marsh)
Helen John	Community Wildlife Education Officer (Magor Marsh)
Veronika Brannovic	People & Wildlife Project Leader (Ebbw Vale)
Rebecca Ward	Ebbw Vale Community Education Officer
Anthony Cook	Ebbw Vale Project Administrator
Ken Howman	Trainee People & Wildlife Assistant
Anna Storhaug	Trainee People & Wildlife Assistant
Rachael Daniels	Membership & Fundraising Manager
Liesel Townley	Fundraising Officer
Martyn Wright	Senior Membership Recruitment Officer
Kay Rymer	Administration / Finance Manager
Leigh Danziger	Administration / Finance / Membership Officer
Helen Gwilliam	Office cleaner

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Gwent Wildlife Trust's 50th Annual General Meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 18th September 2013 at the Glen Yr Afon House Hotel, Pontypool Road, Usk. Following a break for refreshments, there will be a presentation by naturalist, author and TV Producer Dr Stephen Moss on 'What Makes Britain's Wildlife So Special?' Stephen has produced Springwatch, winning a BAFTA in 2011 and has travelled all over the world filming wildlife. However, his first love is the wildlife of Britain and this is the subject on which he will be presenting.

AGENDA

1. President's Welcome
2. Minutes of the 2012 AGM and matters arising
3. To receive the Annual Report of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2013
4. To receive the Annual Accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2013
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 2013/4
8. To elect Vice-Presidents of Gwent Wildlife Trust
9. Presentation

By order of Council 31st July 2013

Fay Mansell, Hon Secretary

NOTES

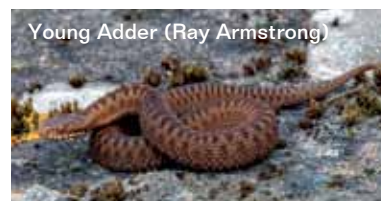
1 The following papers can be inspected at the AGM or obtained from the GWT office or on-line from info@gwentwildlife.org:

- Minutes of 49th AGM on 19th September 2012.
- The full statutory Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2013.

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 2013.



Young Adder (Ray Armstrong)



Orb Spider (Dave Nutter)



Front cover photographs: Main image – Blaenavon (Amanda Jones); Dandelion seed head (Amanda Jones); GWT Hebridean sheep (Tim Green); Sleepy dormouse (Amanda Jones); Red dead nettle (Amanda Jones); Meadow Brown butterfly (Les Binns)

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