



BEV LEWIS

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust



Gloucestershire

Annual Review 2016 – 2017



NICK TURNER



NICK TURNER



JON HAWKINS



WILDSTOCK



ANNE-MARIE RANDALL



NICK TURNER



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Introduction

Thanks once again to the support of our members and supporters, this report celebrates another year of achievement for the Trust. A year that started with the transfer of five great sites from Gloucestershire County Council and ended with work starting on our first visitor centre at Greystones Farm. Much has been achieved, but there is still much to do.

Never before has our work been so important. Wildlife continues to decline, with one species in 10 at risk of extinction in the county. Agriculture, housing, development and climate change continue to threaten the idea of a Gloucestershire rich in wildlife that we know is so important to the people who live here.

Despite this, there is much to celebrate in this report, not least the increased support from our members. Total membership reached over 28,000 this year, making GWT the largest organisation in the county dedicated to local wildlife. With your help, we protect and improve wild places in Gloucestershire which benefit wildlife and people. And we inspire people to appreciate and enjoy nature both in towns and the countryside.

Total membership has reached over **28,000** this year, making **GWT the largest organisation** in the county **dedicated to local wildlife.**

We can't do it alone – and working in partnership remains key, whether it's our members and volunteers, businesses and communities, or public bodies and our valued conservation partners in the county. Special thanks again go to Grundon Waste Management, who have supported much of our work through the Landfill Communities Fund.

We hope you enjoy this summary of what we have achieved with your help.



F. Rundall

Francis Rundall
Chair of Trustees



Roger Mortlock

Roger Mortlock
Chief Executive

Never before has our work been so important. **Wildlife continues to decline**, with one species in 10 at **risk of extinction** in the county.

Here are some of the highlights of 2016-17, made possible with the support of our members. Thank you for your ongoing support – we have achieved so much together.

APRIL



LEIGH COUSINS

On 1st April ownership of Crickley Hill, Barrow Wake, Coopers Hill, Coaley Peak and Kilkenny Viewpoint transferred from Gloucestershire County Council to GWT. This was marked by a tree-planting with our President, Ellie Harrison.

The transfer added 270 acres to GWT's estate, including some of the most iconic viewpoints from the Cotswold escarpment.

MAY



ANNE-MARIE RANDALL

Following a huge effort by a dedicated team of volunteers, who turned out in all weathers, the Sudeley Maze was in full leaf.

A significant amount of our work can only be achieved with input from our **425 regular volunteers** who contributed **33,161 hours in total last year**.

JUNE



DAVID SIMCOX

June saw the start of the flight period of the large blue butterfly, which was reintroduced to the Cotswolds following its extinction.

It enjoys a stronghold at Daneway Banks, secured by GWT members and now jointly owned with the Royal Entomological Society. This year, **more than 100,000 eggs were laid** on the reserve resulting in the highest population density of this species for any site in Europe.

JULY

The final of this year's Primary Schools' Quiz was held during the 40th Anniversary year of this highly successful annual competition.

This year we helped more than **6,300 young people** to get closer to wildlife.

AUGUST



NICK HALL

In August, we reached a milestone with **more than 28,000 members**. This represents around 5 per cent of all households in Gloucestershire. Thank you for your support!

SEPTEMBER

Thanks to the generosity of our members following a successful appeal, work got underway in September on our Barn Owl Project.

The project aims to address the decline in the population of this **iconic species in the Cotswolds** by providing habitat improvements, erecting new barn owl boxes and providing advice to farmers and landowners.



MARGARET HOLLAND

OCTOBER



Our regular Halloween event at Robinswood Hill in Gloucester proved popular yet again with families.

More than **3,300 people** took part in our events programme during the year, with 99% of attendees confirming that they would attend another of our events.

NOVEMBER

We organised a conference highlighting links between nature and health for health professionals from across the South West.

The workshop was attended by nearly **100 key health sector decision makers** and provided an opportunity to promote the health and wellbeing benefits of wildlife and wild places.

DECEMBER



The Countryfile Christmas Special was filmed at Greystones Farm and provided a great opportunity to thank our regular volunteers in the Cotswolds.

Throughout the year, the **time** contributed by all our volunteers was valued at more than **£400,000**.

JANUARY



Our pioneering partnership with Stroud District Council delivering natural flood management was celebrated at a national conference in Gloucester.

The Rural Sustainable Drainage project is working to **alleviate flooding** in the Stroud Valleys as well as create valuable habitat for wildlife.

FEBRUARY

Building work on our planned **Discovery Centre** started at Greystones Farm Nature Reserve in Bourton-on-the-Water, which will open in 2018 as a visitor and education hub for Gloucestershire and beyond.

We launched our Wild Film & Photography Academy as part of the project, encouraging a new generation of wildlife film-makers and photographers.

MARCH



DAVID PUGH

Work started on the creation of a much-needed **outdoor classroom at Robinswood Hill**, adding to our facilities at our HQ to support education visits from young people in Gloucester.

The new classroom, supported by Grundon through the Landfill Communities Fund, will help us to increase the number of schools and other groups that we are able to work with.

GWT's plans for 2016/17 were divided between four work areas: Managing and enhancing our nature reserves, Creating Living Landscapes, Inspiring people and communities, and Championing the value of nature.

Managing and enhancing our nature reserves

Key sites in county transfer to GWT

We have completed our first year of managing the five sites formerly owned and managed by Gloucestershire County Council. We have been working on plans for Crickley Hill with our partners the National Trust to deepen the experience of visitors and help to preserve the key archaeological and ecological features of the site.

A new research and educational partnership

We launched a new educational and research partnership with the Royal Entomological Society, now joint owners with GWT of Daneway Banks nature reserve. The site continues to be managed for a range of important species including the iconic large blue butterfly.

Woodland community co-operation

GWT has entered into an innovative partnership with the villagers of Box on the southern edge of Minchinhampton Common. Having clubbed together to buy their local ancient beech woodland, GWT agreed to manage this site together with the local community.

Creating Living Landscapes

Return of the Pine Marten?

Our pine marten feasibility study started in the summer of 2016 exploring the costs and benefits of a pine marten reintroduction to the Forest of Dean. The project, run in partnership with the Forestry Commission and Vincent Wildlife Trust, looks at all aspects of pine marten biology, and the impacts and opportunities they may provide for people and wildlife living alongside them.

Working together to restore the River Leadon

We have continued our programme of river restoration for fish and other wildlife on the River Leadon, working alongside farmers adjoining the river. Over 3,000 metres of watercourse fencing has been erected to protect river banks and reduce diffuse water pollution.

Volunteers power Cotswold River improvements

195 volunteer task days have been delivered in the Cotswold Rivers Living Landscape area, continuing our large-scale restoration of the head-waters of the Thames. Work has included management of bankside vegetation, control of invasive species, river restoration work and water vole surveys.

Natural solutions for people and wildlife

We have continued our pioneering programme of Natural Flood Risk Management in partnership with Stroud District Council, working to reduce the risk of flooding and improve habitat for wildlife in the upper reaches of the River Frome. Following successful work in the Stroud Valleys we are exploring ways to extend this approach across the county.

We have helped more than **6,300 children** experience and learn about **wildlife**

Inspiring people and communities

Children and young people

We have helped over 6,300 children experience and learn about wildlife through events, school sessions, projects and our Watch groups. The Big Lottery-funded Our Bright Future project is revolutionising our engagement with 11-24 year olds. Through this project we are regularly working with five secondary schools and have engaged nearly 700 young people.

Urban engagement and broadening audiences

In partnership with the Podsmead Big Local we are co-ordinating a community-led green space improvement project in the heart of Gloucester. The first stage of our successful Brighter Futures project concluded with remarkable impacts on participants' health and wellbeing, access to wildlife and employability.

Volunteers

Another great year for our fantastic volunteers. Huge amounts of work were undertaken on our reserves, in the office and at events. A new Gloucester Watch group was added to the four established groups. We launched the Cirencester Wildlife Group, which is looking to run a range of wildlife initiatives. The Forest of Dean Group continued their sterling support of GWT through events and fundraising.

Improving wildlife skills

We trained over 180 people in wildlife identification, survey and monitoring skills. Our programme of courses went from strength to strength whilst the Stroud Wildlife Survey group continued to train new naturalists and undertake valuable surveys. A formal partnership with the University of Gloucestershire has led to student internships undertaking a wide variety of training at the Trust.

Championing the value of nature

Building with Nature – a new benchmark for green infrastructure

We have worked closely with local authority planners and developers to create a green infrastructure benchmark, 'Building with Nature'. This benchmark has been designed to support the delivery of high quality green infrastructure features including parks, play areas, nature reserves and street trees, as well as rivers, ponds and other water features.

Net gain for wildlife in infrastructure plans

We have worked hard to ensure a net gain for wildlife in respect of plans for large infrastructure projects including the planned improvements to the A417 around the Air Balloon roundabout.

Lobbying

We have lobbied our local MPs following the Brexit vote to ask that the environment is given sufficient weight in a post-Brexit Britain.

Looking ahead and our plans for 2017/18

Foresters' Forest

The Forestry Commission-led Foresters' Forest programme will help GWT significantly increase the size of our nature reserves in the Forest of Dean. This amazing project will allow us to restore large areas of heathland to their former glory. We will grow our 'Forest Explorers' youth group, run in partnership with the RSPB and we will train a new Community Wildlife Survey Group in the Forest.

Cradle of the Cotswolds

The building work for our new Discovery Centre at Greystones Farm will be completed next year and we will be preparing for the formal opening in April 2018. This project also has an extensive programme of events and activities to increase our engagement with schoolchildren, visitors and the local community.

Relaunch of the Education Programme

In addition to our new Discovery Centre at Greystones Farm, we are developing Robinswood Hill and Crickley Hill as hubs for our outdoor education programme. We are also looking to create a forest school site in the Forest of Dean. These will contribute towards our aim of working with at least 1 in 3 primary schools and 1 in 5 secondary schools in the county by 2022.

Our **Discovery Centre at Greystones Farm** will be opened in April 2018

Thank you

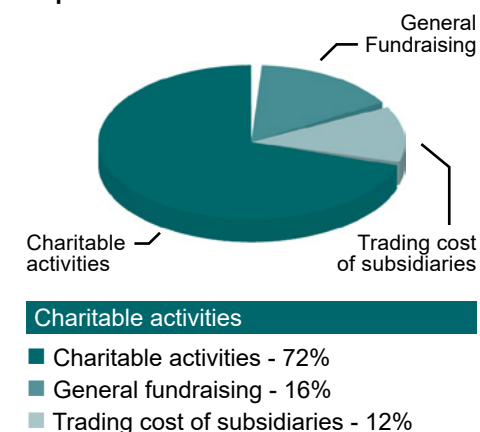
We would like to thank all our members, individual supporters, corporate and institutional partners, trusts and foundations who have supported Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust in 2016/17. Without your support our work would not be possible. Your ongoing support means we can continue to connect and improve Gloucestershire's wild places for wildlife and people.



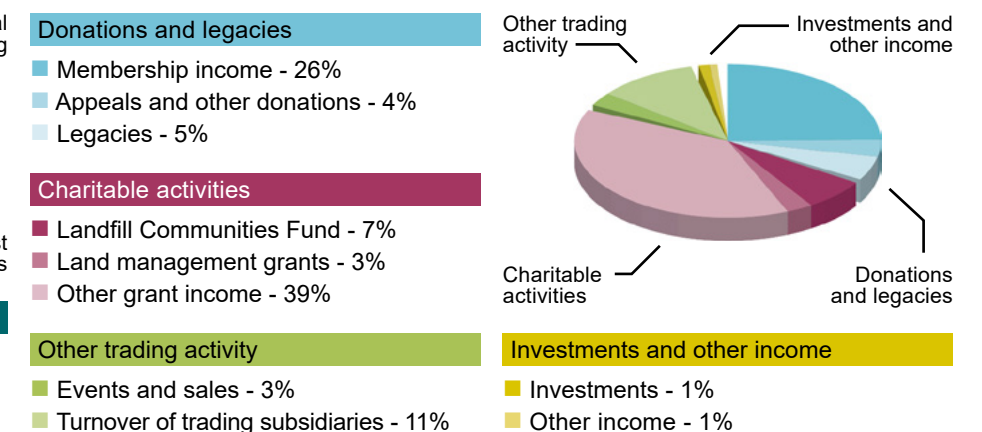
In our Annual Review we provide a short interpretation of the figures contained in our Trustees Annual Report and Accounts. A full set of accounts is available on request or can be accessed on our website.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activity for year ended 31st March 2017	Endowment Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	2017 Total	2016 Total
Incoming and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	-	60,465	1,239,213	1,299,678	1,063,686
Charitable activities	778,500	916,921	133,935	1,829,356	897,588
Other trading activities:					
- Events and sales	-	-	124,869	124,869	90,899
- Turnover of trading subsidiaries	-	-	399,403	399,403	228,629
Investments	-	127	18,539	18,666	15,077
Other income	-	-	23,856	23,856	-
Total Income and Endowments	778,500	977,513	1,939,815	3,695,828	2,295,879
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds					
- General fundraising	1,777	-	454,997	456,774	340,545
- Trading cost of subsidiaries	-	-	342,981	342,981	232,773
Charitable activities	15,903	789,247	1,259,433	2,064,583	1,717,506
Total Expenditure	17,680	789,247	2,057,411	2,864,338	2,290,824
Net gains / (losses) on investments					
Realised	-	-	4,049	4,049	322
Unrealised	-	-	44,532	44,532	(12,086)
Net income / (expenditure)	760,820	188,266	(69,015)	880,071	(6,709)
Transfers between funds	-	(23,941)	23,941	-	-
Net movement in funds	760,820	164,325	(45,074)	880,071	(6,709)
Total funds brought forward	1,233,283	813,931	1,210,576	3,257,790	3,264,499
Total funds carried forward	1,994,103	978,256	1,165,502	4,137,861	3,257,790
Net income/(expenditure) attributable to					
Parent Charity	760,820	188,266	(76,186)	872,900	(14,357)
Non-controlling interest in GWM Ltd	-	-	7,171	7,171	7,648
Total funds carried forward	760,820	188,266	(69,015)	880,071	(6,709)

Expenditure 2016-2017



Income 2016-2017





Gloucestershire

Thank you

Corporate membership

Alderley PLC
All Cooper
Aspey Lawrence & Co Ltd
Ecotricity
Euro Diesel (UK) Ltd
Forest Holidays
Horse and Groom
JPR Environmental
Lucozade Ribena Suntory
Snow Business

Other corporate support

Cotswold Outdoor
Ecclesiastical
Horizon Nuclear Power
Intel
Lloyds Banking Group
Melcourt
Severn Ltd
Sudeley Castle
Vine House Farm
Waitrose Cheltenham Ltd
Western Power Distribution
Wildlife Travel

Landfill Communities Fund

Grundon Waste Management
Biffa Award
Cory Environmental Trust
in Britain
Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust

Grants

Big Lottery Fund
Bristol and Gloucestershire
Archaeological Society
Cotswolds AONB Conservation
Board
Cotswold Visitor Giving Scheme
DEFRA
Department of Work
and Pensions
Environment Agency
Forest of Dean District Council
Forestry Commission
Gloucester City Council
Gloucester City Homes
Gloucestershire County Council
Gloucestershire Police & Crime

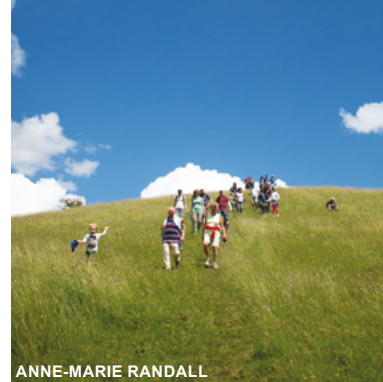
Commissioner's Fund
Heritage Lottery Fund
Jobcentre Plus
Natural England
Rural Payments Agency
Santander
South Gloucestershire Council
South West Environmental Network
Stroud District Council
Thames Water Community
Investment Fund
Woodland Trust

Charitable Trusts

Barnwood Trust
Carter Conservation Trust
Charles Irving Charitable Trust
CLA Charitable Trust
Dent-Brocklehurst Family
Charitable Trust
Ernest Cook Charitable Trust
Gordon Gray Trust
Hamamelis Trust
Holbeche Corfield
Charitable Settlement
J & M Britton Charitable Trust
John and Ruth Howard
Charitable Trust
Miss Edith Mary Sage Deceased
Charitable Trust
Montague Panton Animal
Welfare Trust
MV Hillhouse Trust
Naturesave Trust
Percy Bilton Charity
Robert Clutterbuck Charitable Trust
St James' Place Foundation
Stephen Clark 1957 Charitable Trust
Stock Exchange Veterans
Charity Association
Verdon-Smith Family Charitable Trust
WF Southall Trust
Wild Trout Trust

Additional thanks

Forest of Dean area Group
Wildlife Guardians and Patrons
All of our members, supporters
and volunteers



ANNE-MARIE RANDALL



TOM MARSHALL



MARGARET HOLLAND



To find out more and get involved please contact us.

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DAVID SLATER