



WILDLIFE TRUSTS  
**WALES**  
MONTGOMERYSHIRE

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WILDLIFE TRUST**

*Annual  
Review  
2010/11*

Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future

## Chairman's overview of the year

As one of the smallest of the 47 Wildlife Trusts we punch way above our weight, leading the way in landscape-scale conservation. This is in no small way due to the efforts of our staff and the many members who give their free time as volunteers in so many capacities. However, as Britain's economy moved into a recession MWT like so many other charities faced serious financial difficulties. We were obliged to sell our office, Collot House, to meet our debts and we also had to lose four members of staff, including our CEO. As a temporary measure an Executive Committee comprising three staff and three Trustees was set up.



From every crisis there springs opportunity and the smooth move (thanks to volunteers and staff) to rented premises in Broad Street, Welshpool has been beneficial in that our increased public visibility has attracted more members and more volunteers. As you will read in this review we are committed to delivering our charitable objective of creating an environment rich in wildlife for everyone.

I believe that your Trust has faced up to some very difficult problems and that our current team continue to take MWT forwards.

**Dr Chris Townsend**  
**Chairman**

## Membership and Volunteers

As the effects of the economic recession started to be felt, we were pleased to see that people still saw supporting wildlife conservation as a priority. We were able to welcome 61 new members to the Trust, 18 of whom were recruited from visitors to the Dyfi Osprey Project at Cors Dyfi. Our membership, which includes a number of Life and Overseas members, continued to receive updates three times a year in the form of Otter, Welsh Wildlife and Natural World magazine. The continued support of our members is essential to the Trust, not just financially, but through their attendance at events, contributions to our magazine and volunteering.

The value of our volunteers and the contribution they make to the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust cannot be overestimated. Our volunteers are vital to every aspect of our work, whether as Trustees, Reserve Work Party members or office support, and we simply could not do it without them. A special thank you to everyone who helped with the office move to 42 Broad Street in less than perfect weather conditions!

Greater focus has been given to communication in the past year, between staff, volunteers and members. Our Volunteer Coordinator, Bob Williams, has continued to improve and implement our volunteer system while also making the decision to become a Trustee. The Trust has tried to make it as easy as possible for people to contact us with their queries and feedback, utilising the website, email and social networking far more than in the past. The possibility of reviving the local group's network has also been explored by a team of volunteers and members who hope to build on this in the future. For more information on volunteering, membership, local groups or any aspect of our work please contact the office.

# Creating and Enhancing Wildlife Havens

Managing the Trust's 20 Nature Reserves for the benefit of wildlife and people is an on-going challenge, one that simply could not be carried out without the support of our hard-working volunteers, particularly in these difficult times. The success of this work can be easily measured by the wealth of wildlife they support, as well as the joy they provide to our visitors.

Residents continue to thrive, like the Meadow Saffron at Llanmerewig Glebe (see front cover), which again numbered more than ever (1,329 blooms). New species are discovered – this year, with the help of local recording groups and enthusiasts, we found Adder and Palmate Newt at Cors Dyfi, and seven scarce/rare plants at Dolforwyn Woods, including a good population of Herb Paris. Unusual vagrant species also find respite on our reserves as illustrated by the Gadwall, two Great Grey Shrikes, two Mandarin ducks, Ruff, Wood Duck and Waxwings spotted, across four reserves.

Ad hoc records are a great boost, but to truly know that we have got the management right, we need to carry out monitoring. A survey of the acid grassland at Dyfnant Meadows

unfortunately showed that it was in a poor condition and consequently we have reinstated grazing with Welsh Black cattle there.

Thankfully, monitoring at Llanymynech Rocks showed a more positive picture for the rare Pearl-bordered Fritillary, doing well following its reintroduction. A grant from the Aggregates Levy has funded a three-year Llanymynech Hill SSSI Butterfly Habitat Project which aims to significantly improve the limestone grassland habitat not only on our reserve, but also on the adjacent Shropshire site and the golf course too. Of course our work is not just focused on nature reserves, in fact the majority of our work with the Pearl-bordered Fritillary takes place on private land; this year's monitoring showed that the population of this rare butterfly was stable - encouraging after a few bad years.

We also carried out surveys for the Red Wood Ant, known from only four sites in Montgomeryshire. Sadly this species does not seem to be doing so well; the maximum number of nests found on one site was only seven and they were not found at all at one site. Surveys were also carried out at the Leighton

Centre to assess the site's habitats, including veteran trees, and to identify the presence of any protected species; it turns out that the model farm is a haven for bats, as well as nesting Swallows and House Martins!

We stand up for wildlife wherever we can and this includes scrutinizing planning applications; in 2010/11 we responded to 17, including 5 objections. We also commented on all six hedgerow removal notices. At a more strategic level, we have been working with Powys County Council on the Local Development Plan (LDP), Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) and Road Verge Nature Reserves (RVNR). We continue to support the Biodiversity Information Service (BIS), are involved in the Wales Biodiversity Action Plan review and work with our colleagues across Wales and the UK to ensure proper consideration of our natural heritage. We have produced no fewer than 2000 biological records and answered at least 200 wildlife-related enquiries.



## Pumlumon Project



Pumlumon is our largest Living Landscapes project and is designed to address the specific problems and opportunities of an area of upland Wales, and to pilot an integrated approach to delivering desired outcomes for biodiversity, water quality, flood risk reduction, carbon safeguarding, upland farming communities, and parts of the tourism industry.

Over the last year, a suite of land management actions tailored to local conditions (ditch-blocking, tree-planting, alteration of

grazing regimes and grazing species) have been completed on 8 privately owned holdings as well as Glaslyn Nature Reserve. During the year, 19km of ditches were blocked on peatland areas. 750ha of land have now been bought into conservation management for habitat and peat restoration and water management.

Our 30 year vision - 2038, a healthier more robust landscape with improved habitat and species diversity.

## Dyfi Osprey Project

Our work continued again to encourage ospreys back into mid Wales, and whilst we had some Osprey activity with 2 males (Monty and Scraggly) sharing our artificial nest for most of the season, neither could find a mate. Nevertheless, they provided great entertainment over the summer and the project received over 28,000 visits in 2010 and 42 volunteers donated 3,500 hours of their time – an amazing commitment! We were left wondering what would happen next year.....

*Right: Monty, looking out for a mate.*



# Inspiring People about the Natural World

2010/11 proved to be another extremely busy period for the People and Wildlife team delivering outreach services, running events for MWT and in collaboration with other organisations, fundraising and generally informing and inspiring local individuals and groups.

The Nurtured By Nature project, based at Severn Farm Pond nature reserve and funded by Environment Wales, has seen volunteers from a variety of backgrounds come together to learn about wildlife garden design and reserve maintenance, while enjoying the benefits of healthy outdoor activity and the opportunity to make new friends. Visitors to the reserve are really enjoying the renovated sustainability garden which includes a variety of demonstration areas to inform and inspire people to live a more sustainable lifestyle and attract wildlife to their own gardens. MWT are hoping to run other opportunities for supported volunteering that will give people skills, knowledge and confidence while making the nature reserves even better places for people and wildlife to visit.

During the year, with the help of our dedicated education volunteers, MWT reached many children and teachers, at



schools and at our reserves. Sessions based around “habitats” were extremely popular, perhaps due to the fact that our reserves offer a diverse range of habitats. We have been in demand to help with building wildlife hotels and creating wildlife gardens in schools, and we also offered some new programmes to schools, such as seasonal study days, actively encouraging children (and their teachers!) to venture outside all year round.

In addition we offered a learning package to schools in west Montgomeryshire as part of the Unesco Dyfi Biosphere Education Group, exploring what the Biosphere has to offer wildlife and people, and how people can help to keep it special.

As well as formal educational activities with schools, we held a number of events throughout the year, including Junior Rangers in the summer holiday which focussed on a different aspect of wildlife each week, helping the children to learn through fun activities and games.

The move from Collot House, though a bit disruptive, did give us opportunity to sort out our educational resources, streamlining, updating and making them relevant to the current curriculum.

There were several opportunities during the year to use the nature reserves as venues for community and education events. Dolforwyn Woods now has a lovely greenwood structure thanks to the Millennium Volunteers of Tir Coed and Llais y Goedwig who used the reserve for their “Woodland Roadshow”. The reserve was also perfect for a Halloween family fun day and a Wildfood event. In Welshpool, MWT’s other community reserves, Llyn Coed Y Dinas and Severn Farm Pond saw visits from Llys Hafren residential home, the Montgomeryshire Beavers, the Dyfi Home Schoolers and Ponthafren Mental Health Centre. The summer holiday Junior Rangers and Wild Play sessions were very popular and the People and Wildlife team were also able to attend family events at Maesydre and Llanfair.

# Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2011

These summarised accounts are an extract from the statutory annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2011. Whittingham Riddell LLP reported on the statutory accounts as independent examiners.

The annual report and accounts were approved and signed by the Trustees on 1st November 2011

These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to gain a complete understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. Copies of the full statutory annual report and accounts may be obtained from the Charity's registered address: Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, 42 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys SY21 7RR.

## Board of Trustees 2010/2011

- Neville Thomas (President)
- Glyn Davies (Vice President since 04/11/10)
- Chris Townsend (Chairman)
- Nigel Moulding (Treasurer)
- Chris Fuller (Secretary)
- Alec Goolden (Resigned)
- Simon Spencer
- Mike Green
- Barry Long
- Steve Evison
- Ketty Hughes (Resigned)
- Tony Caplin
- Rod Aspinwall
- Bob Williams (Joined)

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2011 Registered Number : 1612249

	Note	£ 2011	£ 2010
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	12	566,224	672,814
Fixed asset investments	14	<u>23,334</u>	<u>23,334</u>
		589,558	696,148
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stocks		1,200	10,537
Debtors	15	35,236	42,823
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>128,621</u>	<u>345</u>
		165,057	53,705
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year</b>	16	<u>( 114,233 )</u>	<u>( 134,078 )</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>50,824</u>	<u>(80,373)</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>640,382</b>	<b>615,775</b>
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	17	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,813)</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><b>640,382</b></u>	<u><b>612,962</b></u>
<b>CHARITY FUNDS</b>			
Restricted funds	18	160,838	188,109
Unrestricted funds	18	<u>479,544</u>	<u>424,853</u>
		<u><b>640,382</b></u>	<u><b>612,962</b></u>

## Performance:

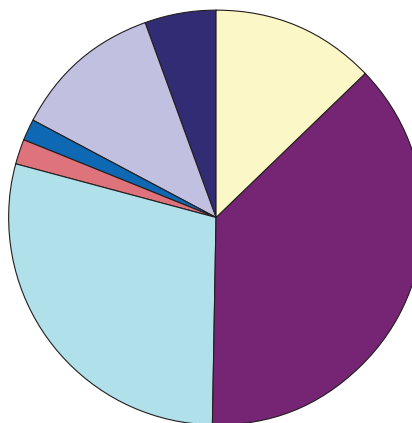
The total incoming resources for the year decreased by £20,091 to £376,258 from £396,349 the previous year. Expenditure decreased by £130,434 to £348,838 from £479,272 in the previous year. The surplus for the year was £27,420. The figures include depreciation of tangible assets of £35,792.

We would like to thank the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency, Aggregates Levy, Powys County Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, Waterloo Foundation, JP Getty, Forestry Commission, Environment Wales, The Wildlife Trusts, Laura Ashley and the BBC for their financial support over the year.

# Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2011

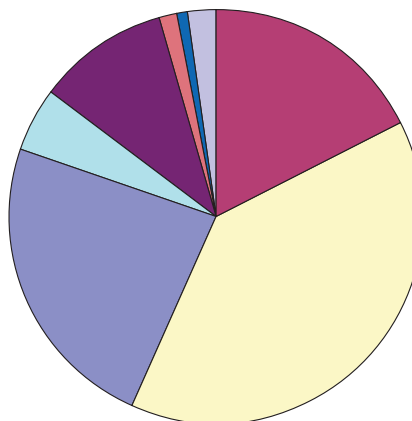
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

Note	Restricted Funds 2011 £	Unrestricted Funds 2011 £	Total Funds 2011 £	Total Funds 2010 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Incoming resources from generated funds:				
Voluntary income	2	-	44,642	31,350
Activities for generating funds	3	-	24,635	12,490
Investment income		-	-	-
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4	296,828	298,985	346,422
Other incoming resources		-	7,996	6,087
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>296,828</b>	<b>376,258</b>	<b>396,349</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Costs of generating funds:				
Trading costs		-	3,071	2,795
Charitable activities	5	321,828	340,783	471,088
Governance costs	9	-	4,984	5,389
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>321,828</b>	<b>348,838</b>	<b>479,272</b>
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES / (RESOURCES EXPENDED) BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>				
	(25,000)	52,420	27,420	(82,923)
Transfers between Funds	18	(2,271)	2,271	-
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES / (RESOURCES EXPENDED) BEFORE REVALUATIONS</b>				
	(27,271)	54,691	27,420	(82,923)
Gains and losses on revaluations of investment assets	14	-	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR</b>				
	(27,271)	54,691	27,420	(82,923)
<i>Total funds at 1 April 2010</i>		<i>188,109</i>	<i>424,853</i>	<i>612,962</i>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2011</b>		<b>160,838</b>	<b>640,382</b>	<b>612,962</b>



## Income

- Donations and Legacies
- Investment Income
- Nature Reserves inc. Tir Gofal
- Wider Countryside
- Education
- Grazing
- Shop
- Membership & Subscriptions
- Other



## Expenditure

- Nature reserves
- Wider Countryside
- Education
- Support
- Depreciation
- Governance
- Shop
- Membership

# Our performance at a glance against our Conservation Strategy, Biodiversity Matters II

Number of Nature Reserves under our management	20
Area of private land engaged in our living landscape projects	183.4ha
Number of species plan actions undertaken	18
Number of planning applications screened	52 (23 responded to)
Number of wildlife enquiries dealt with	200
Number of species records passed on to the BIS	2097
Number of volunteers directly involved in our work	100
Number of members (Households)	730
Number of events of the year	26
Number of people engaged in our Outreach Programmes	1321
Number of local groups engaged	12
Number of schools engaged	14

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Since 1982, the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust has been the leading voluntary organisation promoting wildlife conservation in Montgomeryshire.

The Trust currently manages and cares for 19 Nature Reserves within the county, totalling some 500ha in area. These reserves are a showcase of some of Montgomeryshire's finest remnants of prime wildlife habitat.

**The VISION of the Trust is:**  
'An environment rich in wildlife for everyone'

**The MISSION of the Trust is to:**  
'Rebuild biodiversity and engage people with their environment'

**The AIM of the Trust is:**  
'To be an active and influential wildlife champion'

**Our OBJECTIVES are:**

1. To stand up for wildlife and the environment
2. To create and enhance wildlife havens
3. To inspire people about the natural world
4. To foster sustainable living