



Montgomeryshire
Maldwyn

Annual Review

2017/18

Chair's Overview

2017/18 saw MWT continue to budget carefully and explore new funding streams to enable new projects to get off the ground and existing projects to continue to thrive.

Our membership continues to grow and it is a great credit to the MWT team that our supporter retention rate is one of the best across the Wildlife Trusts movement. We have also seen an increase in support from our volunteers in nearly every aspect of our work, for which we are extremely grateful. Our vital conservation projects would not be possible without their help.

People engagement and education continue to be a key component of our work, encouraging people to learn more about wildlife and appreciate its value.

As I write we are awaiting clarity on the proposed Environment Bill and how its powers will be devolved to Wales. The future for conservation is uncertain, but MWT will continue to face whatever challenges come our way with a continued determination to protect biodiversity across Montgomeryshire.

Bob Williams
MWT Chair



Art Oasis Launch Event

Who We Are

Since 1982, the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust has been the leading voluntary organisation promoting wildlife conservation in Montgomeryshire, managing and caring for 18 Nature Reserves within the county, totalling some 530ha in area.

Our Vision:

An Environment rich in Wildlife for everyone

Our Mission:

To rebuild biodiversity and engage people with their environment

Our Objectives:

- 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

Membership and Volunteers

2017/18 saw further growth in our membership, with 124 new households joining the Trust. The number of households supporting our work now stands at 1144 and the number of individual members has risen to 2097.

The Trust has benefitted from its retail opportunities, including a shop at both the Welshpool office and Cors Dyfi Nature Reserve, as well as an online shop. With a wide range of local gifts and wildlife related items, the shops also represent an additional source of income for the Trust.

MWT is committed to the protection and promotion of wildlife in Montgomeryshire. However, we are also a relatively small Trust, facing new challenges every year. Without the continued and committed support of our volunteers we would not be able to deliver our vital work across the county. Whether braving all weathers on the weekly work parties, offering admin support or joining the Trustee board our volunteers go above and beyond to support their local Wildlife Trust and we are deeply grateful for them.

In total, during the 2017/18 period, our volunteers have donated 2322 days of their time with a value to the Trust of £116,121.



Volunteers Collecting Washed Up Rubbish

People and Wildlife

Art Oasis

The Art Oasis project continued to forge links with local groups and organisations, individuals, volunteers, schools and businesses to connect people to their environment and inspire them to care for their natural world using



the arts. During early 2018 the Art Intervention Retreat Trail project held 10 sessions working with substance misuse clients and local artists to produce nature inspired art/craft work which was placed on panels around Welshpool to form a trail. The project also engaged with

Powys Young Carers, local Youth Services, Cedewain and Bettws Lifehouse special needs schools and local families, engaging young people with the natural world and encouraging them to get creative!

Community Outreach and Events

MWT were delighted to be invited to give talks to a variety of local groups on a number of subjects, including a thought provoking



presentation on “Plastic Soup” and the crisis facing our seas, given to the Montgomeryshire Federation of Women’s Institutes. We were also able to engage with visitors at several local events, offering activities and wildlife advice at the Newtown Food Festival, Monty Street Fair and Welshpool Winter Festival.

The Trust provided a programme of informative and enjoyable events for all ages. The 2017/18 events calendar aimed to offer something for everybody, ranging from sketching and craft through to beginners guides to plants, moths, bats, birds and bugs! There were family events such as the spring family fun day and the Wild Play sessions at Severn Farm Pond and even a quiz night to raise funds for the PBF appeal. We also offered a series of guided walks designed to showcase our nature reserves, including Llanymynech Rocks, Llandinam Gravels and Glaslyn, which aimed to tell people about the various species which can be found on each site, as well as our work to protect them.



Friends of Severn Farm Pond

Over the past year the Friends of Severn Farm Pond group has grown, welcoming several new members, and learning and developing new skills. The members have been involved in various projects, such as helping to create a brash hedge and the removal of the old boardwalk, as well as continuing with ongoing

maintenance of the reserve and community garden. The volunteers have also been tapping in to their creative side by making new additions for the reserve including the giant bug hotel ‘Bugkingham Palace’ designed by one of the volunteers which includes a water butt! The FOSFP team were also delighted to see their hard work rewarded with a Community Green Flag Award in 2017.

Cors Dyfi

Dyfi Osprey Project

2017 turned out to be the last breeding year for our female, Glesni. In her fifth successful year the pair raised a clutch of three chicks, a boy, Aeron and two girls, Menai and Eitha. We also celebrated a new milestone when Clarach, a 2013 chick, bred for the first time at a nest in Aberfoyle, Scotland, raising two chicks.



2017 Ospreys



Beginners Sketching at Cors Dyfi

Education and Events

At Cors Dyfi we like to offer new experiences to our visitors as we believe you never stop learning.

Following the success of our introductory 'plants for beginners' and 'birds for beginners' sessions we trialled a new session called 'sketching nature for beginners'. It proved hugely popular and we plan to offer more sessions next year. Events like this broaden our reach in to the community and help us to engage more people with the natural world, including those who may not usually do so.

Conservation

October to March is the time for our weekly work parties. During winter 2017/18, in addition to routine maintenance and general reserve



Bug Hotel at Cors Dyfi

management, we focused our efforts on clearing scrub around the lower pools on the site. Willow and birch growth was beginning to encroach on the pond margins and

by clearing this back we hope to maintain a more open habitat around the pools. Rather than removing large quantities of material from the reserve we have created a number of skillfully built habitat piles that will provide refuge above the flood levels for many of our reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.

Volunteers

Once again the Dyfi Osprey Project was supported by a wonderful team of volunteers. During the 2017/18 period, over 100 volunteers donated more than 8000 hours between them. A lot of this time came from our dedicated team of red tops who are on hand

to welcome and assist visitors to Cors Dyfi and the 360 Observatory. We mustn't forget the unsung heroes of the protection team who guard the osprey nest 24/7 for nearly six weeks during egg incubation. This is to monitor the birds and protect the nest from any human disturbance which could damage the breeding success of this pair and the recovery of the species in Wales. Although the project closes in the autumn, the volunteer work continues with our winter work party team. They are not afraid of throwing on some gloves and wellies and getting stuck in to some hard work to tidy up the reserve. The volunteers are our most valuable asset and we simply couldn't do it without them!



Cors Dyfi Volunteers

Living Landscapes

Nature Reserves

The Trust's 18 Nature Reserves offer a range of habitats rich in resources for wildlife. Not only are these sites havens for the species who live there, they are also inspiring places to visit for people wanting to engage with the natural world on their doorstep. These sites are maintained by the MWT staff and volunteers who attend weekly work parties undertaking vital land management. As well as the inevitable scrub clearance, fencing and hedge planting there have been more specialist tasks undertaken during 2017/18, such as the ring barking of the Red Cedars at Dolforwyn Woods and the use of a mobile saw mill to convert some of the Cedar into timber that can be used on the nature reserves. At Severn Farm Pond the removal of sections of the old boardwalk was started and new boardwalk will be



installed later in 2018. At Red House volunteers have helped install a large bug hotel and at Dolydd Hafren boxes for Tree Sparrows have been erected.

In order to check the positive impact of these works, monitoring and surveys are undertaken



throughout the year, including breeding bird surveys, BTO WeBS surveys, and monitoring of Pied Flycatchers, Dormice, Lesser Horseshoe Bats and Butterflies.



Wider Countryside

The Where the Wild Things Are project surveyed 54 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) in Powys with 21 of those being in Montgomeryshire. The sites include wetlands, ffridd, standing open water and mosaic habitats and almost half were grassland sites, the most vulnerable habitat. Across Powys, the project engaged with 111 event participants

and 260 stakeholders. In Montgomeryshire alone, 13 individual volunteers took part in LWS events and surveys. After another poor weather spring pushed the Pearl-bordered Fritillary (PBF) butterfly even closer to the edge, we launched our 'PBF: A New Hope' appeal. This was a success, raising over £16,000 in time to carry out urgent habitat management work on the remaining sites. In all, 5 hectares of scrub and bracken management was undertaken on 5 sites. We also worked with Greengage Films to produce 'Precious Pearls', a short film about our work for PBFs, narrated by Iolo Williams.

We continue to stand up for wildlife throughout the county and, during 2017/18, we provided objections or comments to 17 Powys County Council planning applications, seven of which were intensive agricultural units. On social media, our followers increased by over 15% and we set up an Instagram account. Our website received over 18,000 new visitors over the year! We were also

able to provide the local recording community and the Biodiversity Information Service with 2,900 species records gathered through our work, from volunteers and from members of the public.

Pumlumon

In previous years the Pumlumon project has shown how sustainable land management can support rural farming and local wildlife. In 2017/18 the Trust and its partners have been working with the Welsh Government to investigate innovative ways of funding this work in the future. Several Montgomeryshire farmers have contributed to the project and MWT continue to lead the way in the promotion of Eco-System Services and their importance for the future of farming in Wales.

Deri Woods

Following a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Deri Woods project, working in



New Seating Area at Deri Woods

conjunction with Llanfair Caereinion Town Council, is set to continue till 2019. Popular monthly volunteer work parties have made a significant impact on the site with woodland management tasks such as coppicing, bird box maintenance, creating dead hedges, thinning of non-native species and infrastructure maintenance to establish a more natural ground flora, increase biodiversity and improve access to the site.

This winter has also seen our 'Wild to Work' team supporting the project and creating a new seating area, while contractors have undertaken essential tree surgery and footpath repairs, to alleviate the continual flooding due to poor drainage.

Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust

Financial Statements

For the year end 31st March 2018

The summarised accounts herewith are an extract from the Charity's statutory annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018. Whittingham Riddell LLP reported on the accounts as independent auditors.

The annual report and accounts was approved by the Trustees on 18th September 2018

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 office: Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, 42 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR.

Trustees who served during the year and subsequently:

Bob Williams <i>Chair</i>	Simon Boyes
Chris Hurrell <i>Vice Chair</i>	Jane Lloyd Francis
Val Lewis <i>Secretary</i> <i>(Resigned 26th September 2017)</i>	Peter Powell
Ann Bitcon <i>Treasurer</i>	Tim McVey
Chris Fuller <i>(Resigned 2nd January 2018)</i>	Jill Robinson <i>(Joined 14th April 2018)</i>
Mike Green
	Chris Townsend <i>President</i>

Thank You

We would like to thank the following organisations for their financial support during the year:

RSWT
Natural Resources Wales
Welsh Government
Hilltop Honey
Potters Waste
RGB Kew
Vine House Farms
Mercers' Charitable Foundation
Tesco's Bags of Help Scheme
Department for Work and Pensions
Powys County Council
Arwain
Heritage Lottery Fund
The Co-operative
People's Postcode Lottery

Furthermore, we would like to thank all the individuals and groups who made donations to Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, whether financially or through volunteering.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

	Restricted funds 2018 £	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £	<i>Total funds 2017 £</i>
Income from				
Donations and legacies	15,079	182,842	197,921	195,181
Charitable activities	284,237	-	284,237	255,928
Trading activities	-	46,999	46,999	55,092
Total income	<u>299,316</u>	<u>229,841</u>	<u>529,157</u>	<u>506,201</u>
Expenditure				
Charitable activities	297,919	245,784	543,703	461,300
Trading activities	-	15,054	15,054	25,395
Total expenditure	<u>297,919</u>	<u>260,838</u>	<u>558,757</u>	<u>486,695</u>
(Loss)/Gain on revaluation of investment	1,397	(30,997)	(29,600)	19,506
	<u>(1,978)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,978)</u>	<u>(3,297)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>(581)</u>	<u>(30,997)</u>	<u>(31,578)</u>	<u>16,209</u>
Transfers between funds	(30,211)	30,211	-	-
Net movement in funds	<u>(30,792)</u>	<u>(786)</u>	<u>(31,578)</u>	<u>16,209</u>
Reconciliation of funds				
<i>Funds at 1 April 2017</i>	<i>992,070</i>	<i>620,120</i>	<i>1,612,190</i>	<i>1,595,981</i>
Funds at 31 March 2018	<u>961,278</u>	<u>619,334</u>	<u>1,580,612</u>	<u>1,612,190</u>

This document is an extract from the full accounts.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	1,442,994	1,476,070
Investments	21,098	23,076
	<u>1,464,092</u>	<u>1,499,146</u>
Current assets		
Stocks	13,547	11,375
Debtors	121,168	96,167
Cash at bank and in hand	60,781	49,242
	<u>195,496</u>	<u>156,784</u>
Creditors: falling due within one year	<u>(78,976)</u>	<u>(43,740)</u>
Net current assets	<u>116,520</u>	<u>113,044</u>
Net assets	<u>1,580,612</u>	<u>1,612,190</u>
Charity funds		
Restricted funds	961,278	992,070
Unrestricted funds	619,334	620,120
Total funds	<u>1,580,612</u>	<u>1,612,190</u>

This document is an extract from the full accounts.



Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust

42 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR
Tel: 01938 555654 | Email: info@montwt.co.uk
Charity number: 512390 | Company number: 1612249

www.montwt.co.uk

Cover Photo: Pearl-bordered Fritillary