



# Annual Review

2018/19

## Chair's Overview

The Trust enjoyed another successful year in 2018/19, delivering projects for the benefit of both people and wildlife, while also undertaking vital habitat and species work on our nature reserves and in the wider countryside.



monitor how the flora and fauna of Montgomeryshire are coping with the challenges of climate change and habitat loss and also help us to know where our conservation efforts are most needed.

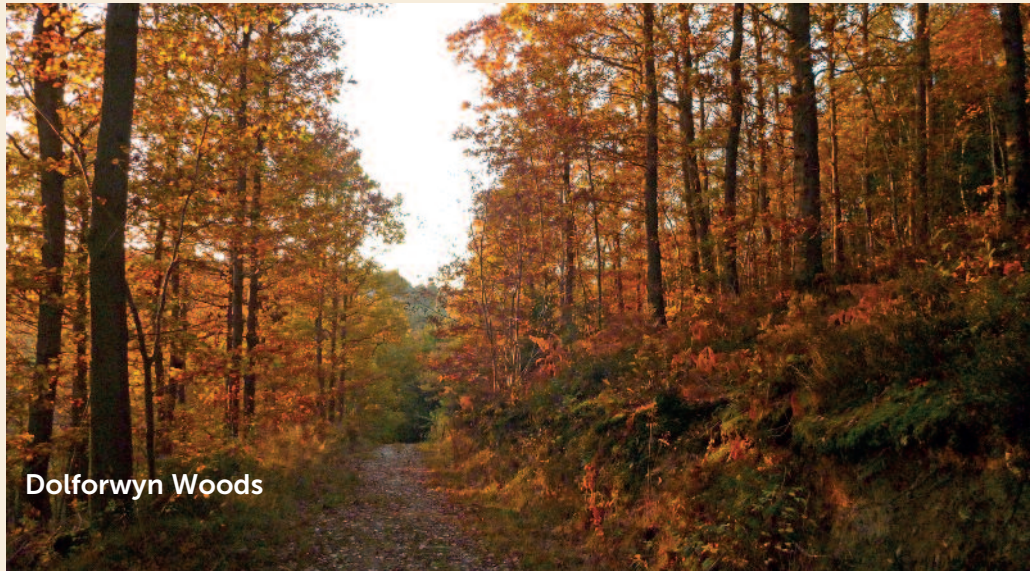
None of the above could be achieved without our amazing band of volunteers who give so freely of their time, skills and experience. Volunteers can be found working on the nature reserves, engaging with visitors at Cors Dyfi, offering support in the

office, guiding the Trust as a Trustee and in every other area of the Trust's work.

The political situation remains uncertain and securing funding for conservation work continues to be a challenge, but we start 2019/20 in a positive frame of mind, with a strong team of skilled staff and volunteers ready to take advantage of opportunities as they arise.

**Bob Williams**  
MWT Chair

Education and community outreach were key themes during the period, with projects such as Art Oasis and the Wild Schools Award connecting people of all ages with the natural world around them. Habitat management has also been a vital component of our work, be it for a specific species such as the Pearl Bordered Fritillary butterfly and the Red Wood Ant, or to maintain the biodiversity of sites such as Deri Woods, the Local Wildlife Sites and, of course, our 18 nature reserves. Surveys and species recording help MWT to



**Dolforwyn Woods**

## 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

The Trust welcomed 106 new members in 2018/19, bringing the total number of membership households to 1100 and the number of individual members to 2018.

The shops at Welshpool, Cors Dyfi and Online have continued to provide an additional source of income while affording the Trust an opportunity to promote environmentally friendly products and other wildlife related items. Attendance at several local shows and events has also given MWT the opportunity to promote the Trust's work and offer wildlife advice and information.

The Trust launched a new website in Mid-December, which received over 5,000 new users by the end of March, a 15% increase on the same period the year before.

More people have joined MWT as volunteers this year and they do so for a variety of reasons. Some are keen to support the Trust's work, promoting and protecting the wildlife of Montgomeryshire. Others want to learn new practical skills or improve their wildlife knowledge, while many more enjoy volunteering for the social interaction and sense of camaraderie. Whatever their motivations, the simple fact is that we could not deliver the work we do for wildlife without the support of our volunteers and we are grateful for their commitment and tireless enthusiasm.

In total, during the 2018/19 period, our volunteers have donated 2191 days of their time with a value to the Trust of £109,550.

# People and Wildlife

## Art Oasis

The Art Oasis project was conceived as a response to vandalism and anti-social behaviour on the Trust's nature reserves. The project aims to connect people of all ages and backgrounds with wildlife in their local area by fostering a sense of



Spider Sculpture



Banners at Severn Farm Pond

respect and responsibility for the natural world.

Funded by Arwain, the project uses art in a variety of forms to enable people to think about what nature means to them. Supported by local artists, participants in the project during 2018/19 have created a range of nature inspired artwork

including a new welcome sign and several colourful banners for the Severn Farm Pond entrance walkway. A group of young people have worked with a local blacksmith to produce a metal spider sculpture which is now on display at Newtown art gallery and school pupils have worked with Trust staff to create Worry Trees, made of wood, to help young people with behavioural issues to communicate their feelings.

## Community Outreach and Events

Several MWT projects have involved outreach events and sessions with local schools and community groups. Outreach staff have engaged with secondary schools to create "worry trees" to help students deal with emotional issues, as part of the Art Oasis project. The Precious Pearls project has been teaching pupils and youth groups across the county about the endangered Pearl Bordered Fritillary



Precious Pearls Outreach

Butterfly through interactive games and creative play.

The Trust has also held a varied programme of events, with something for everyone to enjoy. Whether learning more about the Trust's nature reserves or focusing on a particular species, such as the Bat and Moth nights, our walks, talks and interactive events have helped people of all ages get closer to nature and the wildlife on their doorstep.

## Friends of Severn Farm Pond

The Friends of Severn Farm Pond (FOSFP) volunteers have been busier than ever during 2018/19, improving the site for the wildlife which lives there and the people who visit the reserve. The replacing of areas of damaged boardwalk, along with maintenance work on the remaining sections, has ensured full access for all around the reserve. In addition, the

pathways have been resurfaced with slate, following a successful fundraising appeal, brush hedges have been constructed and coppicing of willow and scrub has been undertaken. The group have helped replace or repair bird boxes at Severn Farm Pond and have been involved with their monitoring, as well as other species surveys, helping the Trust to monitor the wildlife that can be found on the reserve. The group have also undertaken litter picking on the industrial estate and have hosted a Primrose Celebration Week, encouraging visitors to enjoy the lovely blanket of Primroses found on the reserve in the Spring.



FOSFP work on the boardwalk

# Cors Dyfi

## Dyfi Osprey Project

The osprey season started uncertainly with Monty alone on the nest as Glesni failed to return. The situation was quickly turned

around with the arrival of Telyn, a five year old, Rutland born female osprey ringed Blue 3J. Telyn, whose name is Welsh for harp, laid her first egg around the same time as Catrin Finch and Sekou Keita were performing in the 360 Observatory. Telyn proved to be a mature and competent mother and with Monty they raised three healthy chicks, Alys (KS4) Helyg (KS5) and Dinas (KS6).

2018 was a great season for returning chicks from the Dyfi nest. We saw three of our male chicks return, 2014 chick Gwynant arrived back in Wales and visited the Glaslyn nest, 2015 chick Merin was sighted on a nest and attempted to breed in Denmark and 2016 chick Tegid arrived back on his natal nest in the Dyfi valley. Our 2013 born female osprey Clarach also returned for the second time to her nest near Aberfoyle.



Telyn

## Education and Events

Education work at Cors Dyfi continued primarily through informal sessions for families and groups. In 2018 we welcomed 25 group visits to the reserve for guided walks and talks. This is in addition to the programme of guided walks we offered during the school holidays. We were also visited by two school groups and three university groups, including a group of conservation and land management students from a college in France.

## Conservation

Over the winter our reserve management work focused on clearing scrub from around the three ponds in the center of the reserve and thinning the trees in the top woodland. Much of the cut material was used to create habitat piles around the ponds that will hopefully benefit our amphibian population.



Pond at Cors Dyfi



Volunteers at Cors Dyfi

## Volunteers

Volunteer numbers remained steady with 104 volunteers donating over 10,000 hours during the year. In addition to the people



Volunteers at Cors Dyfi

engagement roles volunteers were also active throughout the winter with our winter work parties and, of course, contributed greatly to the 'Egg Watch' rota.

## Dyfi Wildlife Centre

In June we heard that we had been successful in securing Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funding to develop a new visitor centre at Cors Dyfi and immediately started our 12-month development plan.

By the end of the financial year we had received full planning consent from Powys County Council and had submitted our second round application to HLF (it's a two stage-process); that also was successful. We raised over 80% of the match funding we required via a Dyfi Wildlife Centre Appeal and grants from Arwain and the Community Facilities Programme (Welsh Government).

# Living Landscapes

## Nature Reserves

MWT manages 18 nature reserves around the county, each a resource rich habitat for the wildlife found there, as well as an inspiring place for people to visit and get close to nature. The Roaming Weekly Work Party of volunteers, led by MWT staff, work tirelessly to maintain these sites as havens for wildlife and visitors alike. In 2018/19, the team continued to



Scrub Clearance at Llanymynech Rocks

move around the reserves undertaking tasks including hedge laying, scrub clearance, coppicing and tree management.

## Wider Countryside

As a result of our surveys and monitoring, both on MWT nature reserves and across the county, the Trust generated over 3,700 species records, which were shared with the local recording community and the Biodiversity Information Service. The Trust continued to stand up for wildlife in 2018/19, reviewing and responding to several planning applications where wildlife was at risk and encouraging our supporters to join campaigns such as 30 Days Wild.



Dormouse Monitoring



Red Wood Ant nest

During 2018/19 MWT and its volunteers were able to work with Natural Resources Wales to manage some of their SSSI's. The Trust's volunteers also helped NRW manage scrub on two sites where the increasingly rare Red Wood Ant have established nests.

## Where the Wild Things Are

The Where the Wild Things Are project continued to engage with local landowners in 2018/19, with 29 potential and existing Local Wildlife Sites surveyed in Montgomeryshire and 82 surveyed across the whole of Powys. Through events, surveys and talks, the project staff engaged with





Local Wildlife Site Visit

340 stakeholders. A new bilingual, Wales-wide leaflet about Local Wildlife Sites was also produced.

## Precious Pearls

With funding from Natural Resources Wales and our 'PBF: A New Hope' appeal, the Trust's Precious Pearls project completed 8.2ha of bracken management, coppicing and scrub clearance to benefit the Pearl Bordered Fritillary butterfly (PBF). In addition, over 4,000 people were reached through social media using the #PreciousPBFs.



Habitat Management at Y Frochas

## Pumlumon

The Pumlumon Project continues to work with local landowners, the Welsh Government and its partners to promote the benefits of sustainable land management for rural farming and the county's wildlife. The idea of Eco-System Services, where the inherent benefits of good land management such as flood prevention, carbon sequestration and biodiversity, should be recognised and valued, has continued to gain support and is now being replicated in other projects around the UK.

## Deri Woods

The Deri Woods Volunteer Group have been undertaking work to ensure safe access for visitors to the woodland including replacing steps and handrails, clearing overgrowing vegetation and unblocking culverts. They have also been learning greenwood working skills which they were able to demonstrate at the Llanfair Caereinion show. Extensive bird box monitoring and recording has also been carried out.

One of the biggest undertakings for the group was the creation of a "leaky dam" in the stream channel to catch submerged woody debris for the benefit of invertebrates who inhabit waterlogged wood.



Leaky Dam at Deri Woods

# Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust

# Financial Statements

## For the year end 31st March 2019

The summarised accounts herewith are an extract from the Charity's statutory annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019. Whittingham Riddell LLP reported on the accounts as independent auditors.

The annual report and accounts was approved by the Trustees on 17th September 2019.

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, Park Lane House, High Street, Welshpool, Powys SY21 7JP.

Trustees who served during the year and subsequently:

Bob Williams *Chair*                      Jill Robinson  
*from April 2018*

Chris Hurrell *Vice Chair*                      Clare Boyes  
*from February 2019*

Ann Bitcon *Treasurer*  
.....

Mike Green                      Chris Townsend  
*President*

Simon Boyes

Jane Lloyd  
Francis

Peter Powell

Tim McVey

## 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  
Vine House Farms  
Department for Work and Pensions  
Powys County Council  
Arwain  
Heritage Lottery Fund  
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 2019**

	Restricted funds 2019 £	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £	Total funds 2018 £
<b>Income from</b>				
Donations and legacies	74,954	171,694	246,648	197,921
Charitable activities	293,488	-	293,488	284,237
Trading activities	-	53,245	53,245	46,999
<b>Total income</b>	<u>368,442</u>	<u>224,939</u>	<u>593,381</u>	<u>529,157</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Charitable activities	307,025	218,151	525,176	543,703
Trading activities	-	17,046	17,046	15,054
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>307,025</u>	<u>235,197</u>	<u>542,222</u>	<u>558,757</u>
Gain/(Loss) on revaluation of investment	61,417	(10,258)	51,159	(29,600)
	330	-	330	(1,978)
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	61,747	(10,258)	51,489	(31,578)
Transfers between funds	6,406	(6,406)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	68,153	(16,664)	51,489	(31,578)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
<i>Funds at 1 April 2018</i>	961,278	619,334	1,580,612	1,612,190
<b>Funds at 31 March 2019</b>	<u>1,029,431</u>	<u>602,670</u>	<u>1,632,101</u>	<u>1,580,612</u>

This document is an extract from the full accounts.

**MONTGOMERYSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2019**

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Tangible assets		1,412,041		1,442,994
Investments		21,428		21,098
		<u>1,433,469</u>		<u>1,464,092</u>
<b>Current assets</b>				
Stocks		12,232		13,547
Debtors		260,422		121,168
Cash at bank and in hand		75,515		60,781
		<u>348,169</u>		<u>195,496</u>
<b>Creditors: falling due within one year</b>		(149,537)		(78,976)
<b>Net current assets</b>		198,632		116,520
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>1,632,101</u>		<u>1,580,612</u>
<b>Charity funds</b>				
Restricted funds		1,029,431		961,278
Unrestricted funds		602,670		619,334
<b>Total funds</b>		<u>1,632,101</u>		<u>1,580,612</u>

This document is an extract from the full accounts.



# Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust

**Park Lane House, High Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7JP**

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**Charity number: 512390 | Company number: 1612249**

**[www.montwt.co.uk](http://www.montwt.co.uk)**

Cover Photo: View of Montgomeryshire looking west from the top of Y Figyn.