



Montgomeryshire  
Maldwyn

# Annual Review

2019/20



## Chair's Overview

We are living in interesting times. The year 2019/20 was a challenging one for everybody. At the last AGM Bob Williams stood down as Chair of MWT. He had helped keep the Trust on a sound footing for many years and everyone was very sorry to see him go. He left behind an excellent team with a great esprit de corps and we wish him well for the future.

MWT delivers a range of activities, including educational events for all ages, species monitoring and habitat creation, volunteer groups such as the Friends of Severn Farm Pond and the thriving Dyfi Osprey Project. As Monty left to go south in September 2019, unbeknown to us for the last time, the contractors moved in and the new visitor centre at Cors Dyfi took shape. It is an impressive facility where every aspect has been carefully considered and brought in within budget. We are grateful to all our funders, including the Heritage

Lottery Fund, for their support but this ambitious project could not have gone ahead without the generous donations of members of the public.

Climate change is high on the national agenda and is a major issue for wildlife. MWT has led the way on peat bog restoration; a severely endangered habitat but also the most efficient carbon sink. The Trust has worked with landowners to encourage appropriate land management, ground works and extensive surveying.

2020 promised to be an interesting and exciting year. New Health and

Well Being projects were due to start. The new Dyfi Wildlife Centre was due to open in the spring. Then in February and March there were the floods. It was a challenge to get about and there was damage sustained at Severn Farm Pond and Dolforwyn Woods. On March 23rd Boris Johnson announced lockdown due to Covid 19. The reserves were closed, projects were cancelled and staff were furloughed. That is for next year's report but, rest assured, we have survived and we remain strong.

**Tim McVey**  
MWT Chair



Tim McVey at Llyn Mawr Nature Reserve

# 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 124 new members in 2019/20, with the total number of member households at 1041 and the number of individual members at 1932.

Over the summer of 2019 our Welshpool shop began to wind down as we were due to move premises in the autumn and were not expecting to have a suitable space to continue to retail. We were, however, delighted when new premises were sourced which included a fantastic shop area with increased space for stock, interpretation and displays. October 2019 saw the grand opening of our new shop stocked with wildlife gifts, wildlife homes and eco-friendly products, including some items made by our project volunteers. We received very positive feedback from our customers and visitors and planned to hold regular special promotional events, the first of which was a book signing by Iolo Williams. The shop and visitor area has enabled us to boost our income and raise the profile of the Trust and we would like to say a big thank you to all our supporters and volunteers who have helped to make it a success.

Volunteers have continued to play an essential role within the Trust, helping us deliver our vital work for wildlife across the county. Whether engaging visitors at the Dyfi Osprey Project, maintaining the Nature Reserves on the weekly work parties or helping to staff the Welshpool shop and office, our volunteers are committed and enthusiastic and we are grateful for their continued support.

In total, during the 2019/20 period, our volunteers have donated 2715 days of their time with a value to the Trust of £135,750.

# People and Wildlife

## Community Outreach and Events

MWT continued its mission to protect and promote the wildlife of Montgomeryshire with a series of talks and events during 2019/20. Trust staff and volunteers engaged with local community groups and schools, including local WIs,



Beetle ID event

Newtown College and Llanfair Caereinion primary school, who were able to find out more about the Trust's ongoing conservation work and the amazing wildlife the county has to offer.

The Trust also held a varied programme of events, with something for everyone to enjoy. These included a Dawn Chorus event at Bodfach Hall, a Bioblitz at Roundton Hill and a Bat and Moth night at Deri Woods. The Bird Group held a series of fascinating talks in Welshpool throughout the autumn/winter and the Trust worked in conjunction with the Biodiversity Information Service to deliver a Beetle ID day at Severn Farm Pond.

## Friends of Severn Farm Pond

The volunteer members of the Friends of Severn Farm Pond (FoSFP) have had another busy year, despite the storms and floods that have tried to hamper their efforts! New infrastructure,



Installing the bug hotel water feature

including brash hedging, replacement boardwalk, seating, a new entrance sign, raised beds and fencing have been created and installed by the group. Existing features have been maintained and enhanced, such as the renovation of the compost bins and the addition of a pool to the top of the bug hotel. New bird boxes have been built, installed and mapped and surveying during the breeding season has helped with species records for the nature reserve. The group not only maintain the reserve as a haven for wildlife but also promote it as a sanctuary for people. FoSFP ran a Nettle Appreciation day in the summer with demonstrations of the many uses of this often maligned plant, as well as information about its

importance for wildlife. In July, Severn Farm Pond, thanks to the efforts of the FoSFP, won its second, well deserved, Green Flag award.

## Wild to Work

Working in partnership with the Department for Work & Pensions and the local Job Centre Plus, the Wild to Work Project offers opportunities for the long term unemployed to participate in a programme of training and outdoor activities. Those attending the project sessions were given the chance to enjoy being outdoors while learning new skills, making new friends and building their confidence to improve their



Nest boxes and a Mud Kitchen made by Wild to Work participants

chances in the job market. Over 100 participants have benefitted from the course in 2019/20 and many have joined the Trust as volunteers.

## Deri Woods

The Deri Woods Project officially came to an end in 2019/20, though MWT continue to offer support to the local team of volunteers who are helping manage the site. Deri Woods is a fantastic community resource and MWT was able to engage with every pupil from Llanfair Caereinion Primary, over several educational sessions. Topics covered included bushcraft, food chains, adaptations and survey techniques, all supporting key areas of the school curriculum.

Work began on new interpretation for the site, working with local artists, ecologists and historians to cover all aspects of the Deri Woods story. The volunteers also finished work on their new permanent tool store, built into the old Pump House. This is not only a new base for the volunteers, it also has a bat-



Deri Woods volunteer tool store

loft built into the roof, providing a new home for nature as well!

## Open Newtown

MWT staff seconded to the Where the Severn Smiles project, and working in partnership with Open Newtown, were able to offer free workshops in Newtown in an effort to engage people with their local green spaces. The workshops offered everything from hedge laying to reptile surveys. Unfortunately, only three were carried out before the lockdown began, but there are plans to complete these workshops in the autumn, with some workshops being delivered online.



# Cors Dyfi

## Dyfi Osprey Project

2019 was the ninth and sadly final season for our legendary breeding male, Monty. In the second year of a new partnership with female, Telyn, they again reared three chicks successfully to migration age. Eldest chick Berthyn (KA1)

was noticeably larger than her two brothers Peris (KA2) and Hesgyn (KA3) and was the heaviest Dyfi chick to date at ringing weighing in at almost 2kgs!

2019 also saw the return of 2017 chick Aeron (Z2). He landed on the Dyfi nest, two years after leaving on his first migration. As expected, he did not receive a warm welcome from his father, although all humans present were delighted to see him.



Aeron Returns!



Beaver Enclosure

## Conservation

The biggest change to the landscape at Cors Dyfi during 2019/20 was the installation of fencing for a beaver enclosure. This is the exciting first step to housing a pair of these ecosystem engineers. The very wet ground and tricky terrain of this part of the reserve has meant it has been near impossible for the Trust to manage the endless growth of willow and birch with human power alone. It was even beyond the skills of our water buffalo! The addition of beavers will bring this habitat under control and will also provide a key education point for these persecuted and often misunderstood mammals.

## Volunteers

The usual programme of Winter work parties was not possible this year due to construction beginning on the new Dyfi Wildlife Centre. However, the level of support from our volunteers during our Dyfi Osprey season was as high, and as vital, as ever. Covering a range of roles including people engagement, eggwatch, reserve management, and online support our team of over 100 volunteers contributed nearly 10,000 hours to the project. Once the Ospreys had migrated and the season closed, the volunteers helped take down the old portacabins and prepare the site for the building of the Dyfi Wildlife Centre.



Volunteers at Cors Dyfi



View from the Dyfi Wildlife Centre Balcony

## Dyfi Wildlife Centre

2019/20 saw the start of the biggest project at Cors Dyfi to date. After ten years of service the portacabins were removed and the construction of the Dyfi Wildlife Centre began. The centre will provide purpose built space to house staff and volunteers, an indoor cafe area, a shop and a dedicated, high tech nature viewing and education area. And that's just the downstairs!

Upstairs includes a large open-plan exhibition space called the Galeri, with spectacular views of the reserve, which will be used to hold events, talks and education

sessions, as well as a display space for local artists. A separate classroom will provide space to allow us to deliver a programme of events and be a venue for outside organisations. There is a focus on inclusivity and the centre will be fully accessible and provide a "changing places" toilet, a facility for severely disabled people to use with respect and dignity. This is only the second such public bathroom in the whole of Wales.

With a 40kW solar panel system on the south-facing roof, power wall electrical storage and ground-source heating, this building will be carbon positive and a flagship of sustainability for Wales.

# Living Landscapes

## Nature Reserves

MWT manages 18 nature reserves around the county, each a haven for the wildlife found there, as well as an inspiring place for people to visit and get close to nature. They include limestone grassland, ancient woodland, upland lakes, peat bogs and wildflower meadows. Each habitat is carefully managed by MWT staff and a team of dedicated work party volunteers to maintain these sites as havens

for wildlife and visitors alike. In 2019/20, the team continued to move around the reserves each week undertaking tasks including hedge laying, scrub clearance, coppicing, meadow management, seed harvesting, and infrastructure repairs. Volunteers also assisted with monitoring and survey work on the nature reserves, including 16 Dormouse surveys over 4 sites and 2 bat hibernation surveys at Roundton Hill where the highest count to date was recorded (137 Lesser Horseshoe bats).



The Where the Wild Things Are project was a Powys wide initiative which aims to survey existing and potential Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and support landowners to manage their sites for the benefit of wildlife. In 2019/20 project staff completed 22 site surveys in Montgomeryshire and produced a new Powys LWS criteria to help monitor and identify sites in the future. Across the 3 year project Trust staff, supported by 69 volunteers, have completed 199 surveys, collated data from 300 sites, hosted 25 events and raised awareness of the importance of Local Wildlife Sites in the press and through social media.

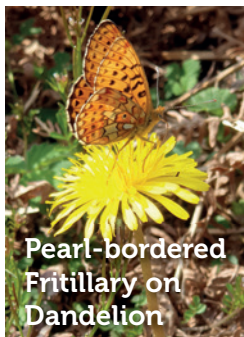


## Where the Wild Things Are



## Precious Pearls

The Pearl-bordered Fritillary (PBF) is a rare and threatened species of butterfly and most of its remaining populations in Wales are found in Montgomeryshire. The Precious Pearls project, supported by Natural Resources Wales, aims to protect and increase the current PBF populations and this year has completed 13.6ha of habitat management on seven sites, surveyed for PBF's on 9 sites and engaged with over 500 people through educational sessions and talks. Social media has allowed the Trust to keep over 26,000 people updated on the status of the PBFs and new interpretation, including information boards and a beautifully illustrated leaflet for Llanymynech Rocks, will help inspire more people to protect the PBFs in the future.



Pearl-bordered Fritillary on Dandelion

## Cefn Croes

MWT and NRW have been working with Falck Renewables to restore the upland peat bogs underneath their Cefn Croes windfarm above Llangurig. Despite the awful weather early in the year, local contractors have blocked drainage ditches at regular intervals on the site which has created a myriad of small ponds and raised the water table. These things are essential for a healthy peat bog and for the unique flora and fauna found there. In addition, this rejuvenated site will now act as a giant sponge for rainwater, slowing its flow and reducing flooding, as well as holding carbon to help combat climate change. The restoration of the site and its wildlife will be monitored through hydrology testing, Water Vole and breeding bird surveys and vegetation habitat mapping.



Cefn Croes



Cefn Croes

## Pumlumon

funding for the Pumlumon Project by the Welsh Government has continued in 2019/20. MWT and its partners are working with local landowners to promote the benefits of sustainable land management for rural farming and the county's wildlife. Eco-System Services is a system where the inherent benefits of good land management, such as flood prevention, carbon sequestration and biodiversity, are recognised and valued. This approach continues to gain momentum with landowners, environmental bodies and the Welsh Government.

# Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust

## Financial Statements

### For the year end 31st March 2020

The summarised accounts herewith are an extract from the Charity's statutory annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020. Whittingham Riddell LLP reported on the accounts as independent auditors.

The annual report and accounts was approved by the Trustees on 24th November 2020.

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 <i>Chair – retired September 2019</i>	Tim McVey <i>Chair – from September 2019</i>
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Chris Hurrell <i>Vice Chair</i>	Jill Robinson
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Ann Bitcon <i>Treasurer</i>	Clare Boyes
Mike Green – <i>retired September 2019</i>	Bob Beaman <i>from November 2019</i>

Simon Boyes – <i>retired September 2019</i>	Jenny Lloyd <i>from January 2020</i>
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Jane Lloyd Francis	Chris Townsend <i>President</i>
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Peter Powell

## Thank You

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

Heritage Lottery Fund  
Garfield Weston  
Welsh Government  
Arwain  
Natural Resources Wales  
People's Postcode Lottery  
Falck Renewables  
Heathrow Airport Ltd  
RSWT  
Department for Work and Pensions  
Open Newtown  
Sainsbury's  
Vine House Farm  
Hilltop Honey

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 2020**

	Restricted funds 2020 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
<b>Income from</b>				
Donations and legacies	78,694	155,115	233,809	246,648
Charitable activities	1,074,268	-	1,074,268	293,488
Trading activities	-	62,276	62,276	53,245
<b>Total income</b>	<u>1,152,962</u>	<u>217,391</u>	<u>1,370,353</u>	<u>593,381</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Charitable activities	413,103	158,683	571,786	525,176
Trading activities	-	17,682	17,682	17,046
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>413,103</u>	<u>176,365</u>	<u>589,468</u>	<u>542,222</u>
	739,859	41,026	780,885	51,159
Gain/(Loss) on revaluation of investment	(1,648)	-	(1,648)	330
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<u>738,211</u>	<u>41,026</u>	<u>779,237</u>	<u>51,489</u>
Transfers between funds	(1,170)	1,170	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<u>737,041</u>	<u>42,196</u>	<u>779,237</u>	<u>51,489</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
<i>Funds at 1 April 2019</i>	<i>1,029,431</i>	<i>602,670</i>	<i>1,632,101</i>	<i>1,580,612</i>
<b>Funds at 31 March 2020</b>	<u>1,766,472</u>	<u>644,866</u>	<u>2,411,338</u>	<u>1,632,101</u>

Restricted funds received during the year ended 31 March 2020 included £874,825 grants and donations relating to the Dyfi Wildlife Centre of which £771,668 was expended on construction costs in the year. This cost has been included as a fixed asset addition, as reflected in the balance sheet.

This document is an extract from the full accounts.

**MONTGOMERYSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2020**

	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible assets	2,152,322	1,412,041
Investments	19,780	21,428
	<u>2,172,102</u>	<u>1,433,469</u>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Stocks	8,901	12,232
Debtors	337,465	260,422
Cash at bank and in hand	57,480	75,515
	<u>403,846</u>	<u>348,169</u>
<b>Creditors: falling due within one year</b>	<u>164,610</u>	<u>149,537</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<u>239,236</u>	<u>198,632</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>2,411,338</u>	<u>1,632,101</u>
<b>Charity funds</b>		
Restricted funds	1,766,472	1,029,431
Unrestricted funds	644,866	602,670
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>2,411,338</u>	<u>1,632,101</u>

This document is an extract from the full accounts.



# Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust

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Charity number: 512390 | Company number: 1612249

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Cover Photo: A blanket of Bluebells at one of Montgomeryshire's Local Wildlife Sites.