



Ymddiriedolaeth Natur  
**Maldwyn**  
**Montgomeryshire**  
Wildlife Trust

# Annual Review 2024/25

# Chair's Overview

The Trust has carried out lots of fantastic work for local wildlife this year – and all in the face of considerable adversity, not least diminishing funding streams and increased competition for available grants. This achievement is testament to an exceptionally dedicated staff who go above and beyond to ensure we meet our aims for nature.

As most of our supporters know, Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust is part of a wider movement (or 'federation'). We are one of 46 individual place-based Wildlife Trusts, along with a central charity (the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts). Increasingly, there is cooperation between Trusts on a Wales- and UK-wide level, to the benefit of us all. The Welsh Trusts, for instance, are currently working to find major donors in Wales, as well as encouraging people to consider leaving us gifts in their Wills (also called 'legacies'), with some significant strides. We are very grateful for any donations we receive, however, no matter their size.

The Wild Skills, Wild Spaces project has been a huge success over the past four years, using participation in nature-based activities to benefit people's mental health. While a third round of funding was unfortunately not secured, nevertheless the project has undoubtedly made its mark on both the Trust and the local community, from a new Friends of Severn Farm Pond volunteer group to help look after the urban reserve, to the individuals whose lives the project has transformed.

Partnerships can also prove very fruitful, as demonstrated by our collaboration on the Welshpool Fairway to Haven project with Welshpool Golf Club, and with Gregynog on the Welcome Home to Nature project, to name just a couple.

Our Dyfi Wildlife Centre didn't close until just before Christmas 2024, reopening on 5th February 2025, making it nearly a year-round operation. Remaining open for such a big proportion of the year is a result of consistently high public demand. At a time when many wildlife visitor centres in Wales are closing, this success is particularly gratifying. A huge factor is of course the Dyfi ospreys; Telyn and Idris blessed us with three healthy chicks in 2024, and happily returned from West Africa safe and well in spring 2025.

A committed group of volunteers carry out vital roles in every department of the Trust, from serving as Trustees to helping out in the kitchen at Caffi Tŷ Maenan, and we couldn't function without their generosity. Very many thanks to them all.

**Tim McVey, MWT Chair**





# Who We Are

**Since 1982, Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust (MWT) has been the leading voluntary organisation promoting wildlife conservation, managing and caring for 18 nature reserves within the county, totalling some 510 hectares 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

During 2024-25, 209 new members joined the Trust, bringing the number of member households to 1,235 and the total number of individual members to 2,346. This increase on 2023-24 represents steady growth – no mean feat in such a challenging financial climate – and we would like to thank all our members for their support.

Not only does the revenue generated through memberships help pay for our conservation work, as a membership organisation we represent our members through lobbying and campaigning, and the more members we represent, the stronger our voice is in the political and public arena. With increasing threats to nature in the form of government policies and legislation, this aspect of the Wildlife Trusts' mission is more important now than ever.

As always, our dedicated volunteers have gone above and beyond when helping us this year, whether that's getting stuck into maintenance work on our nature reserves, engaging the public at Dyfi Wildlife Centre and Dyfi Osprey Project, monitoring and surveying wildlife or helping the team at community events. Our regular volunteers continued to help serve customers in the Trust's Welshpool shop for two days every week, as well assisting with the Otter magazine mailings three times a year.

In total, during 2024/25, we recruited 16 new volunteers and in total our volunteers have donated a whopping 2,300 days of their time. While their contribution to the Trust extends far beyond the financial, if you were to put a monetary value to it, this time would be worth £165,576 to the Trust. As ever, we offer our heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers.

# People and Wildlife

## Learn and Build

Thanks to National Lottery Community Fund's Awards for All, this partnership with Llanfyllin Shed saw 11 workshops for community groups, including Berriew Brownies, Tanat Scouts and Cubs,



A half-term event for children at Camp Plas

Mencap and Camp Plas. Not only did participants learn about nature, they also constructed over 150 wildlife shelters. The boxes for birds, bats, insects and hedgehogs were then taken to participants' homes to create new spaces for nature in new locations.

## Welcome Home to Nature

As part of an exciting new partnership with Gregynog on the Welcome Home to Nature project – a two-year initiative

funded by Nature Networks Fund to enhance the historic estate for wildlife and people – we started work to improve habitats, boost biodiversity and engage with people. Exploration of the 750-acre site began, along with biological recording to inform conservation efforts, five events were held and a volunteer group was formed. Meeting weekly, these volunteers helped our Conservation Officer survey wildlife – including winter birds, dormice, waxcap fungi and Great Crested Newts – control invasive species and build luxury bug hotels, for a total of 624 volunteer hours.



Volunteers helped MWT staff build bug hotels at Gregynog



This partnership with Nature Friendly Farming Network saw us working with local farmers

## Grassland Communities

Grassland is vital wildlife habitat that also has important environmental benefits, from storing carbon to cleaning water. With a focus on lowland farmland, the Grassland Communities project, in collaboration with Nature Friendly Farming Network, launched in April 2024 with the aim of improving grassland habitat, and increasing its connectivity for nature, climate resilience and to benefit farm businesses. Thanks to the Nature Networks Fund, the project has carried out small-scale habitat enhancement on farms, forged relationships in the local farming community, and used social media to celebrate the actions of wildlife-friendly farmers. As of March 2025, our Farm Liaison Team had surveyed and mapped five farms and three smallholdings.

## MWT Legacy Campaign

While fortunate to receive occasional gifts in Wills or legacies over the years, the Trust has been developing its legacy marketing to help achieve its strategic aim of receiving 20% of budgeted income from unrestricted sources. In April 2024, the Trust's new Legacy Campaign officially launched and a partnership with Octopus Legacy (formerly Guardian Angel) offered supporters a free Will writing service, with the option to include a gift to us. The service was promoted with a dedicated webpage, along with social media posts, which focused on stories illustrating the power of gifts in Wills to help protect local wildlife. We were grateful to receive a residuary pledge of 10% of a supporter's estate through this free Will writing service.

## Wild Skills, Wild Spaces, Part 2

Now in its fourth year, our award-winning nature for wellbeing project continued to grow. We delivered 903 hours of ecotherapy to adults and young



people through 44 adult referrals, 116 youth referrals, and 29 events. The Friends of Severn Farm Pond and Friends of Cultivate groups contributed 4,420 volunteer hours toward vital habitat work and site maintenance.

Adult skills training included hedge-laying, dry stone walling, scything, and a certified chainsaw course – leading one volunteer to become a Reserve Warden. The Youth for Nature group volunteered 800 hours and enjoyed memorable experiences like a 4x4 safari at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, a Barmouth beach clean with Keep Wales Tidy, and trips funded by their social enterprise.

A highlight for WSWS was hosting graffiti workshops that produced striking wildlife murals at Severn Farm Pond, inspiring youth engagement and

enhancing the reserve. Funded by Tesco Stronger Starts, the project won £1,500 through a public vote. Severn Farm Pond also earned a Green Flag Community Award for 2024–25, supported by WSWS volunteers.

## Llanfechain Community Garden

Made possible by National Lottery Community Fund's Awards for All, the Trust brought people of all ages together at Llanfechain Community Garden with 14 fun sessions designed to inspire individual action while enhancing the outdoor space for nature and people. Whether attracting butterflies, welcoming hedgehogs, or planting for pollinators, 46 pupils of Ysgol Llanfechain and 20 individuals from the local community learnt how to turn their gardens into wildlife havens.

## Carbon Accounting

In 2024/25, alongside our annual carbon footprint calculations, we became one of the first five Wildlife Trusts to start mapping out our pathway to net zero by 2030, with RSWT's Climate Team.

## Dyfi Osprey Project

Returning for their 5th year together, our resident osprey pair, Telyn and Idris, landed back on the nest in late March 2024 to secure a 14th consecutive year of breeding at the Dyfi Osprey Project (DOP). All three eggs successfully hatched and the chicks – two females, Gwenlais and Coron, and one male, Senni – were ringed at the end of June. Coron was a record-breaker, weighing in at 2,005g – our heaviest osprey chick to date. Our 2024 osprey family all migrated, with Idris being the last to leave on 1st September.



2024 chicks, Gwenlais, Coron and Senni

We received news of one of our 2014 chicks, Gwynant, who was spotted again in northern Spain, as well as confirmation of some of our other chicks successfully returning to their nests for another breeding year.

This year our DOP YouTube channel saw over 2,000 new subscribers added, with 1.4 million views of our content.

## Conservation

The scrape (or lagoon) first created in 2023 has developed into a great additional wildlife habitat for the reserve, Royal Fern being one of the first plants



The Heath Rustic was one of several new moth species recorded at Cors Dyfi

to colonise the new area. We recorded two new moth species for the reserve – Neglected Rustic (*Xestia castanea*) and Heath Rustic (*Xestia agathina*) – bringing the total to 566 species recorded at Cors Dyfi.

Following on from the success of last year's owl boxes, we were hopeful of more chicks this year. When surveying the boxes, seven eggs had been laid but unfortunately these did not hatch. However, our trail cameras did manage to capture footage of some of the more elusive species on the reserve, including foxes and otters.

The winter season provided time to carry out vital reserve management. Both staff and volunteers alike undertook works to help maintain the habitat and



the removal of the invasive species at Cors Dyfi.

## Dyfi Wildlife Centre

Last year we increased our energy storage capacity at the centre by adding a further seven 13.5 kilowatt hour (kWh) Tesla batteries, creating a bank of nine. Combined, they can store a total of 121.5 kWh for our use.

Visitors can now view the tools carpenter John Felix used in 1895 to

make the pitch pine pews – reclaimed from a former church in nearby Corris – that take pride of place in Caffi Tŷ Maenan. Kindly donated by John Felix's family, these tools are now part of a display to further illustrate the story of the pews' creation.

New acoustic panels have been installed in the 360 Observatory to make the environment in there more comfortable for staff, volunteers and visitors alike. During the winter season, repairs were



A display of tools kindly donated by his family pays homage to carpenter John Felix



Our volunteers have donated more than 5,000 hours of their time to Cors Dyfi this year

made to wear and tear on some of the timber in the Observatory staircases. The centre reopened after the Christmas break on 5th February 2025 – the earliest opening on record!

## Volunteers

As always, our dedicated volunteers were integral to the success of the season. They continue to support us in a variety of roles, including people engagement, community talks, working in Caffi Tŷ Maenan and with maintenance of the reserve and visitor centre. Again this year we have been lucky enough to welcome some new faces to work alongside our regular returnees. In total our volunteers have donated more than 5,000 hours of time to Cors Dyfi.

# Living Landscapes

## Nature Reserves

MWT manages 18 nature reserves, from peat bogs to wildflower meadows, all havens for wildlife and people. Each is carefully maintained by MWT staff and a team of dedicated volunteers. In 2024/25 our Reserves Officer ran two work parties most weeks, totalling 290 volunteer days across 72 sessions.



This year's was the third best Hazel Dormouse count

Alongside usual maintenance, Pwll Penarth reserve saw a suite of biodiversity-boosting habitat enhancement carried out, notably hedge-laying, wildflower seed sowing

and planting of fruit trees in the orchard. There were mixed fortunes in this year's surveying season. For the Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly, the total number of adults was the lowest since 2017; and we also recorded the lowest count of Autumn Crocus at Llanmerewig Glebe since 2014: 178 (a far cry from 2020's 2,090). However, numbers in our Hazel Dormouse monitoring, though at more normal levels after 2023's exceptional results, were still the third best overall; and after a five-year hiatus, we were once again able to count the Lesser Horseshoe bats at Roundton Hill's mine, with a record-breaking result of 190!

## Welshpool Fairway to Haven

Our partnership with Welshpool Golf Club, which began in 2023/24,



concluded in March 2025. With help from the Friends of PBFs volunteer group, we recorded 415 species – 194 new to the 116-hectare site. Surveys and drone imagery identified 21 priority species and habitats, informing a new five-year management plan. The Pearl-bordered Fritillary (PBF) butterfly was also discovered in new areas. Volunteers contributed 551 hours toward surveys, habitat work (including coppicing, pollarding, and bracken management), and public events, which drew 224 attendees. New interpretation was installed, and a 1.9km permissive path created. A project film highlighted the site's biodiversity and showcased how golf clubs can support conservation and community engagement.

## Mynydd Waun Fawr Landscape Vision

An under-recorded biodiversity hotspot and important area for Curlew, this upland area is the focus of several proposed energy generation developments, so a strategic vision is needed. Funded by the Welsh Government's Nature Networks



Programme, the project carried out surveys and engaged with the local community to improve knowledge and identify opportunities for ecological restoration. Peatland, for instance, has the potential to contribute significantly towards climate and nature goals

The project carried out surveys to identify opportunities for ecological restoration in the Mynydd Waun



Photo: © Dominique Carpenter

## Pathways for Pearls

Working with a range of partners and stakeholders between April 2022 and March 2025, the Hafren Dyfrdwy-funded Pathways for Pearls project aimed to create a well-connected, wildlife-rich landscape between Welshpool, Cyfronydd and Guilsfield, with the aim of boosting pollinators, particularly the rare Pearl-bordered Fritillary (PBF) butterfly. As well as the strides made with habitat creation and management, the project has enabled MWT to develop new relationships with landowners and

land managers. Especially noteworthy was securing specific management objectives for PBFs in 65 hectares of NRW woodland estate.

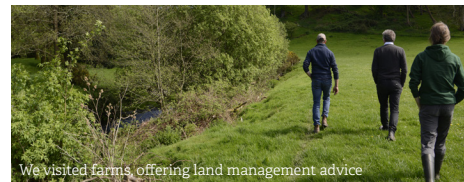
## Cefn Croes

In collaboration with Renantis (formerly Falck Renewables), MWT has continued to monitor work carried out on upland peat bogs underneath the wind farm at Cefn Croes, which included blocking of drainage ditches to create a mosaic of pools and restore the site's natural hydrology. Despite good habitat suitability for Water Voles, surveying for field signs was unsuccessful. However, four years of breeding bird surveys reveal plenty of Skylarks and Meadow Piptits, and most excitingly Short-eared Owl pellets were also found. A land management plan was created and hydrology monitoring undertaken to look at changes to the water levels since the ditch-blocking.

## Pumlumon Project

In 2024–25, this landscape-scale project, funded by British Airways Carbon Fund via Pure Leapfrog, continued supporting wildlife and farm

businesses across 40,000 hectares of the Cambrian Mountains. We helped run a key stakeholder group in Wales and launched the Ecosystems Knowledge Network Wales forum. On farms, we delivered habitat improvements such as riparian buffer strips, shelter belts, orchard restoration, pond work, and bird box installation. This year, we also conducted Phase 1 Habitat Surveys on five farms, offered land management advice, and developed peatland restoration funding bids.



We visited farms, offering land management advice

## No-fence cattle collars

This project used no-fence cattle collars to control grazing and simultaneously enabled restoration of more than 80 hectares of peatland habitat within a commercial farm. Funded through the National Peatland Action Programme (NPAP), we commissioned peat and habitat surveys and developed a costed restoration and management plan.

# Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust

## Financial Statements

### For the year end 31st March 2025

The summarised accounts herewith are an extract from the Charity's statutory annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025. Mitchell Charlesworth reported on the accounts as independent auditors.

The annual report and accounts were approved by the Trustees on 23rd September 2025.

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:

Tim McVey <i>Chair</i>	Susan Morley
	Nick Burton
Clare Boyes <i>Vice Chair</i>	Jane Storkey
Ann Bitcon <i>Treasurer</i>	Nicola Berry
Jill Robinson (resigned Oct 2024)	.....
Tim Ward	Chris Hurrell President
Sarah Evans (resigned Oct 2024)	
Sian Dorward (resigned March 2025)	

## Thank You

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

- CLA Charitable Trust
- Climate Action Fund
- Gregynog
- Groundwork (Tesco)
- Hafren Dyfrdwy
- Llanfechain Community Garden
- Llanfyllin Men's Shed
- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Natural Resources Wales
- Nature Networks Fund
- People's Postcode Lottery
- Powys County Council
- Pure Leapfrog
- Renantis Ltd
- Ricardo Energy
- RSWT
- Welsh Government
- Welshpool Golf Club

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**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Restricted funds (MWT only) 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
<b>Income from</b>				
Donations and legacies	-	234,554	234,554	252,751
Charitable activities	605,924	92,309	698,233	750,590
Trading activities	-	220,491	220,491	191,999
Investment income	5,388	1,328	6,716	301
<b>Total income</b>	<u>611,312</u>	<u>548,682</u>	<u>1,159,994</u>	<u>1,195,641</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Charitable activities	625,193	405,275	1,030,468	995,783
Trading activities	-	196,140	196,140	171,106
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>625,193</u>	<u>601,415</u>	<u>1,226,608</u>	<u>1,166,889</u>
	(13,881)	(52,733)	(66,614)	28,752
Gain on revaluation of investments	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<u>(13,881)</u>	<u>(52,733)</u>	<u>(66,614)</u>	<u>28,752</u>
Transfers between funds	(157,770)	157,770	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<u>(171,651)</u>	<u>105,037</u>	<u>(66,614)</u>	<u>28,752</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Funds at 1 April 2024	2,812,955	717,241	3,530,196	3,501,444
<b>Funds at 31 March 2025</b>	<u>2,641,304</u>	<u>822,278</u>	<u>3,463,582</u>	<u>3,530,196</u>

This document is an extract from the full accounts of  
Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust & MWT Trading Limited.

**MONTGOMERYSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible assets	2,812,649	2,937,116
Investments	37,822	37,822
	<u>2,850,471</u>	<u>2,974,938</u>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Stocks	37,462	43,070
Debtors	112,424	22,918
Cash at bank and in hand	528,669	548,980
	<u>678,555</u>	<u>614,968</u>
<b>Creditors: falling due within one year</b>	65,444	59,710
	<u></u>	<u></u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	613,111	555,258
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>3,463,582</u>	<u>3,530,196</u>
<b>Charity funds</b>		
Restricted funds – MWT only	2,641,304	2,812,955
Unrestricted funds	822,278	717,241
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>3,463,582</u>	<u>3,530,196</u>

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Wildlife Trust

# Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust

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Charity number: 512390 | Company number: 1612249

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

Cover photo: Volunteers helped the MWT team survey for wildlife such as dragonflies at the beautiful, wildlife-rich Welshpool Golf Club site, Y Golfa, as part of the Welshpool Fairway to Haven project. Photo: © Hannah Zervas