

Annual REVIEW 2020/ 2021



**Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust**



Dropping Well Farm © Charlie Bird



As I write the 2020/21 review, the Covid-19 vaccination programme continues apace, giving us hope

of a return to normality very soon. Covid-19 has had a great impact on the Trust this past year, as with the whole country. Our staff have had to work remotely for much of the year, there have only been a handful of school visits, no fundraising events and our volunteers stood down.

We have had to be creative in how to keep vital work going during this time – utilising digital engagement and management of contractors for essential work, becoming experts in the use of Zoom!

We are particularly grateful for how our 23,000+ members have stuck with us throughout the year, even though they have also faced uncertainty with health and financial concerns. They have supported our campaign to raise funds for our Saving Worcestershire's Heathlands appeal to buy land at Dropping Well Farm near Kidderminster. With further support from trusts and

foundations, and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the purchase should be finalised this summer.

Due to the reduction in many revenue streams, the Trust has been financially conservative in ensuring tight control over expenditure. Through this management and securing the National Lottery Heritage Fund Emergency Fund funding, we have been able to re-open and recover many areas affected by the pandemic. An example of this is the new cuckoo hide that we have installed at Upton Warren. We are also pleased to have been able to maintain our trainee scheme, enabling our four trainees to run small projects and learn vital new skills for a career in nature conservation.

One positive from the pandemic restrictions on face-to-face contact has been an 83 per cent increase in social media engagement and we hope to continue growth in all areas of digital engagement.

Within Worcestershire the Trust now owns or manages over 3,000 acres of land, an area larger than the footprint of the Malvern Hills. We

advise other land managers who are responsible for 100,000 acres, around a quarter of the county. We continue to be driven to improve nature locally whilst contributing to the national objective of restoring 30 per cent of land for nature by 2030.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the continuing support of you, our members, our staff and trustees and the incredible work done by our volunteers. We are thankful to our funders, particularly the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Severn Waste Services, The Banister Charitable Trust, The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and The Rowlands Trust for their continued support. We would also like to thank those who left a gift in their will to the Trust, or donated in memory of loved ones, during the year.

On behalf of all Trustees, we say a big thank you to everyone for your continued support to enable us to look forward with confidence to continuing the Trust's vital work.

David Montiboy,
Chair



Our work in 2020/21



3,081 acres



owned or managed in nature reserves

425 volunteers



23,100 members



100,000 acres across Worcestershire for which our team are providing land management advice.

14

species of bat recorded at Tiddesley Wood



17

dormice recorded at Hunthouse Wood

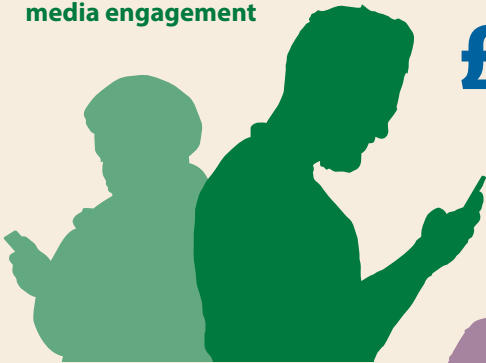


51

species of bird recorded at Tiddesley Wood

83%

increase in social media engagement



£1,000,000

raised for our Saving Worcestershire's Heathland appeal to buy and restore land at Dropping Well Farm



1 new Cuckoo Hide at Upton Warren

40

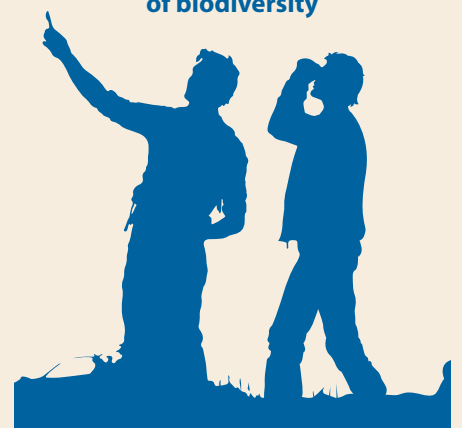
planning officers and elected officials trained in importance of biodiversity



4 new conservation trainees started at the Trust



250 planning applications scrutinised, including **3** draft Local Plans



Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's income and expenditure in 2020–21

Income

Membership	628,872.00	24%
Donations	606,880.00	23%
Trading activities	336,087.00	13%
Charitable activities	314,892.00	12%
Grants	276,507.00	11%
Gift aid	168,671.00	6%
Legacies	158,035.00	6%
Investment income	63,839.00	2%
Other income	41,961.00	2%

Total income in 2020–21 **2,595,744.00**

Expenditure

Charitable activities – nature reserves	775,199.00	37%
Raising donations and legacies	478,676.00	23%
Charitable activities – wider countryside	383,029.00	18%
Trading company	259,817.00	12%
Charitable activities – education	220,844.00	10%

Total expenditure in 2020–21 **2,117,565.00**

Financial performance

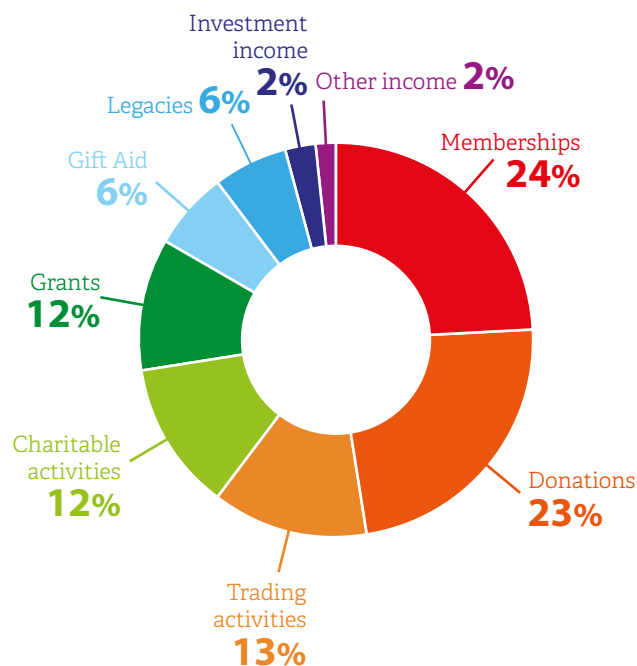
A surplus of £1,008,658 was recorded in the year after gains and losses. There was an unrealised gain on investments for the year of £519,239, which accounts for the majority of the surplus. Net assets stand at £16,687,198 of which £12,159,470 represents the value of our nature reserves and other fixed assets, and £3,607,367 the value of our investments. At 31 March 2021, £4,051,456 was designated for use in conservation and development projects.

Independent Auditors' Report to the members and trustees of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Due to the increasing length of Auditors' Reports required by today's accounting standards, it is not possible to include the report in this brief financial summary. However, the Auditors' Report from Thorne Widgery is included in the Trust's published accounts, which will be available at or immediately after the Annual General Meeting. For the purposes of this Annual Review, the Trustees are pleased to confirm that the audit was successfully completed and the information in the Trustees' Annual Report, from which this information is extracted, is consistent with the financial statements.

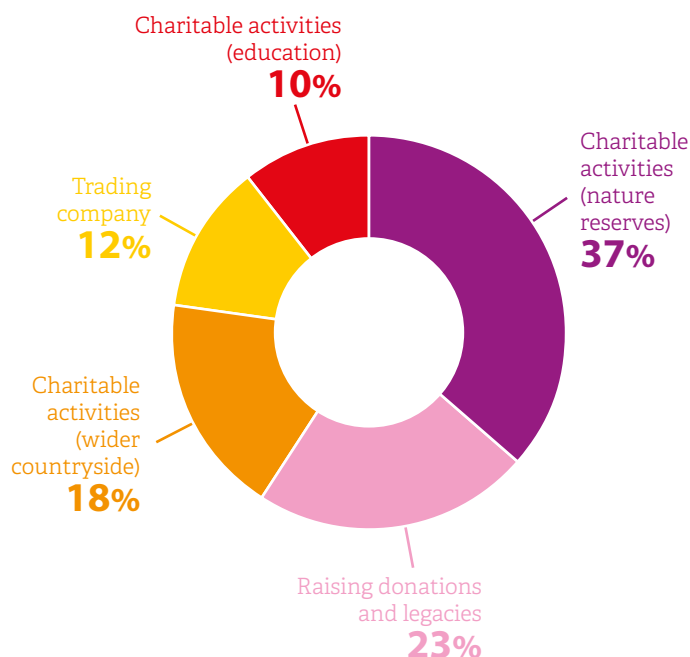
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's income in 2020–21

Total 2,595,744.00



Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's expenditure in 2020–21

Total 2,117,565.00



Members and Supporters

Thank you to all members, supporters and partners of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust who contribute to the future of wildlife in our county.

Legacies for wildlife

Gifts left to us in Wills have been critical for purchasing nature reserves, assisting with their development and for other specific uses as agreed by our Council of Trustees. We are indebted to those who have left gifts to the Trust this year.

E. M. Attwood
Janet Blackett
Chris Bond
Audrey Davies
Clifford Dolley
Olive Frost
Philip Johnson
Joyce Parr
John Parkes
John Sage
Jill Slater
Elizabeth Staley
Claire Turner

We are also grateful for those who have donated to us in memory of loved ones.

Grants and donations

Thank you to the organisations and individuals who have provided us with a grant or donation during the year. These include:

National Lottery Heritage Fund
Severn Waste Services
The Banister Charitable Trust
The Rowlands Trust
The Andrew Harris Charitable Trust
L. G. Harris Trust
Norman and Evelyn Proffitt Trust
OCM Business Systems Ltd

Volunteers

Thank you to our 425 amazing volunteers who, despite most needing to stay at home for most of the year, continue to help the Trust to deliver its mission in so many ways.

The Worcestershire Wildlife Medal 2020

The Worcestershire Wildlife Medal is awarded 'For dedicated services to nature conservation in Worcestershire'.

In 2021 the medal is awarded to: **Brett Westwood.**

Brett has made a unique and outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation as one of the county's foremost natural history experts and has promoted the cause through his career as a well-known radio presenter and author/co-author of many books including *The Nature of Worcestershire*, *A Year in the Life of Worcestershire's Nature Reserves*, and *The Nature of Wyre*. He was a leading contributor to the *Worcestershire Flora*, and regularly contributes articles on a wide range of natural history to many publications. Recently Brett has acted as Ambassador the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's Saving Worcestershire's Heathlands campaign, just one facet of his support for the Trust which included service as a trustee.

WNCT Enterprises

This wholly owned independent company encompasses Worcestershire Wildlife Consultancy, which provides independent ecological services to individuals and commercial clients. Profits from these services together with those from facilities hire and sales activities are covenanted directly to support the charitable activities of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. Thanks to everyone who has used our consultancy, hired our meeting space or purchased logs, cards, bird seed or other items from us. Every purchase makes a difference to wildlife.

To find out more please visit **www.worcestershirewildlifeconsultancy.org**

Council, Officers & Staff at 31st March 2021

Hon. Vice Presidents:

L. Butler
T. Carrick
G. H. Green
R. W. Stanton
G. Trevis
Professor G. Martin

Council of Trustees

John Blakiston: Hon. Treasurer
Richard Cory: Hon. Secretary
Andrew Forecast
Pat Gildea
Robert Gillmor
Harry Green MBE: Hon. Officer
Christopher Greensmith
Dr Peter Holmes
Prof. Graham Martin: Vice Chair
Tom Meikle
Poppy Morris
David Mortiboys: Chair
Mervyn Needham: Hon. Officer for Conservation
Roger Pannell: Hon. Officer for Resources
Peter Scriven
Christianne Tipping
Sandra Young

Staff Team

Julie Allen: Membership Officer
Robin Allen: Reserves Team Leader
Sian Bakewell: Grants Officer
Robin Bickley: Catchment Partnership Agriculture Advisor
Steven Bloomfield: Senior Conservation Officer – Planning
Becky Bradshaw-King: Funding Development Officer
Becca Bratt: Assistant Ecologist
Sadie Carr Simons: Engagement Officer – Campaigns and Events
Wendy Carter: Communications Lead
Moira Conn: Finance and Administration Assistant and Meetings and Conference Organiser
Caroline Corsie: Senior Land Advisor
Dominique Cragg: Western Reserves Officer
Joshua Evans: Consultancy Manager
Pauline Gardner: Administration Assistant
Andrew Harris: Northern Reserves Officer
Sue Kinsey: Warden Officer
David Molloy: Southern Reserves Officer
Jessica Nott: Catchment Partnership Agriculture Advisor
Nick Packham: Senior Engagement Officer
Mike Perry: Head of Resources
Colin Raven: Director
Eleanor Reast: Eastern Reserves Officer
Ben Rees: Engagement Officer – Youth
Daniel Roberts: Water Environment and Agriculture Officer
Marissa Ryland: Engagement Officer – Education
Laura Thomson: Finance and Administration Manager
Iain Turbin: Practical Land Management Officer
Jessica Vuckovic: Assistant Ecologist
Jasmine Walters: Natural Networks Officer
Sean Webber: Natural Networks Officer
Anne Williams: Membership Development Officer
Emily Williams: Catchment Partnership Agriculture Advisor
Helen Woodman: Head of Conservation
Emma Wurml: Volunteer Development Officer

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Lower Sme Farm, Hindlip, Worcester, WR3 8SZ
Web: www.worcestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk
Tel: 01905 754919
E-mail: enquiries@worcestershirewildlifetrust.org

 @WorcsWT

 www.facebook.com/worcestershirewildlifetrust

Registered charity number 256618
A Company Limited by Guarantee number 929644