

Annual Review 2018 - 2019



**Leicestershire
& Rutland**
Wildlife Trust

Welcome to our Annual Review 2018 – 2019

This Annual Review outlines our activities and achievements for the year.

Highlights include:

- Joining an exciting new Earth Observation for Wetland project to develop new ways of monitoring wetland environments and aiding nature conservation strategies over large expanses of countryside.
- Celebrating the 30th Annual Birdfair, which has raised more than £5m for international nature conservation projects over its 30 year history.
- Upgrading Shallow Water Hide at Rutland Water Nature Reserve with a fantastic new double-decker structure to provide additional osprey-viewing capacity.

The Trust's main activities and achievements are covered by two principle strategic objectives: Safeguarding Wildlife and Wild Places and Inspiring People.

The Trust is immensely grateful to everyone – our members, staff, volunteers, donors, investors and grant providers – who contributed to achieving our aims during the year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

While the wider outlook remains uncertain there is still much to do if we are to secure nature's recovery – and offer people the opportunity to connect with the natural world. Together we can get there!

Our Mission

To protect and enhance the wildlife and wild places of Leicestershire and Rutland and to engage people with nature.

Our Vision

A Living Landscape rich in wildlife, valued and enjoyed by all.

Our Work

The Trust works to safeguard wildlife by:

Protecting precious places

We care for 35 nature reserves covering 1,234 hectares (3,048 acres), spread across Leicestershire and Rutland. From woodland to meadows, wetland to heaths, these reserves contain a rich variety of animal and plant species, many rare. Not only do we manage our own land, but we also advise other landowners how to manage their land to benefit wildlife.

Encouraging people to enjoy nature

We offer everyone the chance to experience some of Leicestershire and Rutland's fantastic wildlife. Activities and events are organised throughout the year, everything from badger watches to the Birdfair.

Inspiring and educating

We invest in the future by helping people of all ages to gain a greater appreciation and understanding of nature. Children can take part too – our junior club Wildlife Watch is for young people who want to find out more about wildlife, make friends and have fun.

Research and survey

We monitor, study and survey the wildlife of our counties to identify special places and important species, to inform management and promote nature conservation, and to protect local biodiversity.

Speaking out

We campaign for wildlife, protecting threatened habitats like wildflower meadows and rare species such as ospreys, otters, bats and water voles.

During the year

30 staff, assisted by more than **900** active volunteers, delivered the day-to-day work of the Trust

15,811 members supported the Trust's work at 31 March 2019

The Trust is managed by a Council of **14** Trustees, elected from its members, who provide the overall direction for the development of the Trust.

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust is one of **46** separate Wildlife Trusts that form a powerful conservation network of local charities taking effective action to protect the UK's unique natural heritage.

Together we have over **800,000** members, manage more than **2,300**

nature reserves, run thousands of projects and events, and combine to ensure that both local and national policies and decisions are in the best interest of wildlife and wild places.

Contact us

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Company Reg. No. 561833

Annual Review team:

Director Simon Bentley,
Communications Officer Beverley Heath,
Designer Yarwood Associates.

Front cover: Painted lady (Jim Higham). This page: wetland wonder (Martin Vaughan)





Safeguarding wildlife and wild places

The Trust's nature reserves provide protection for an amazing diversity of wildlife, some rare and threatened, as well as giving people the opportunity to experience and learn about the rich variety of habitats that were once widespread.

The Trust currently manages



35 nature reserves covering more than **1,234** hectares (3,048 acres), including



19 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI),
2 National Nature Reserves and
1 Special Protection Area










Wymeswold Meadows Nature Reserve (Andy Neilson/LRWT)
Meadow saxifrage at Holwell Nature Reserves (Peter Dawson)
Timberwood Hill, Charnwood Lodge NNR (Andy Neilson/LRWT)

With your help we save our wildlife havens

Staff and volunteers committed a huge amount of effort and expertise through practical nature conservation work on the Trust's nature reserves to ensure they reach their full natural potential as wildlife havens.

Key elements of habitat management carried out on our nature reserves during the year included:

-  Creation of a further tern beach and construction of a new tern raft at Cossington Meadows to encourage additional nesting of common terns
-  Mowing the reedbed and enhancement work to the shallow wetland scrapes and ponds at Kelham Bridge
-  Thinning the plantation woodland at Timberwood Hill, Charnwood Lodge and chipping the timber to use on the outdoor livestock corral to facilitate conservation grazing
-  Felling small groups of trees at Launde Big Wood, Launde Park Wood and Prior's Coppice to create gaps in the canopy and promote tree regeneration from seedlings
-  Controlling bracken, bramble and gorse across extensive areas of Altar Stones, Charnwood Lodge and Ulverscroft to restore scarce open heath grassland habitat
-  Ongoing removal of scrub and rank vegetation at Cribb's Meadow, Ketton Quarry and the Holwell nature reserves to protect and enhance the wildflower-rich grassland
-  Clearance work at Tilton Cutting to reveal the geological faces.



*Bloody Oaks Quarry Nature Reserve (Marian Markham)
Common tern (Martin Vaughan)
Gorse at Altar Stones Nature Reserve (LRWT)*

Rutland Water Nature Reserve

The Trust's long-standing partnership with Anglian Water to manage this internationally important wetland saw extensive habitat management during the year:

The ground level on a number of islands within the shallow water lagoons was lowered to facilitate water management and ensure optimum conditions for a wide range of water birds. Silt was cleaned out from ditches and streams to create open water and better edge habitat for water voles.

Shoreline willow was controlled and pollarded to maintain open wetland habitats and 40-year-old plantation woodland was thinned to allow more light onto the woodland floor, benefitting ground flora and a host of associated wildlife.



*Shoreline willow control;
Lowering island ground level;
Clearing silt from ditches (Joe Davis/LRWT)
Water vole (David J Slater)
Thinning woodland (Joe Davis/LRWT)*



Protecting our local wildlife

Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are important places for wildlife but are not protected by law. A healthy network of LWS is crucial in providing more, bigger, better and joined-up areas of wildlife value.

The Trust continued a programme of resurveying existing LWS, with a focus on priority Living Landscape areas, particularly the Charnwood Forest and Soar & Wreake floodplain. This involved close liaison with LWS landowners to offer land management advice aimed at improving the sites for wildlife.

Recording is vital for conservation planning

Accurate habitat and species data are vital to inform conservation management policies, practices and procedures, and help protect and enhance biodiversity.

A wide range of biological recording was carried out on Trust nature reserves and other sites, with bat monitoring an ongoing focus. With little prior knowledge of bat roosts, and the number and species of bats using woodland nature reserves in east Leicestershire and Rutland, monitoring work included:

- Checking existing bat boxes and erecting new ones
- Setting up passive bat detectors in various location and analysing the recordings – including at Prior's Coppice where seven different bat species were recorded, including the rare Barbastelle
- Carrying out surveys in areas of woodland to be managed in forthcoming years to ensure any potential bat roosting features are marked and protected.

The ongoing programme of bird recording at Rutland Water Nature Reserve included:

- Monthly Wetland Bird Surveys (WeBs)
- Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) at 12 sites
- Winter bird surveys
- Breeding sea bird census
- Extensive bird-ringing including two Constant Effort Sites, artificial sand martin banks, cormorant, ducks, osprey, spring migration, nest boxes and generalised ringing.

Volunteers provided crucial help with data input and, at the end of the year, the Trust's Recorder database held in excess of 636,500 species observations, helping to inform management of the Trust's nature reserves.

To support and facilitate wildlife recording in Leicestershire and Rutland, the Trust organised another successful and informative Recorders' Conference in February 2019, attended by around 140 people, and also enabled the publication of a further edition of the Leicestershire and Rutland Recorder (vol 15).



Great white egret at Rutland Water Nature Reserve (Martin Basson)
Soprano pipistrelle found during bat box checks (LRWT)
Swift (David Tipling/2020 Vision)

Speaking out for wildlife

A whole range of policies and decisions can affect our wildlife and wild places. With ever-increasing agricultural, housing and other development pressures in Leicestershire and Rutland, it is crucial that there is an effective voice for wildlife at a local, county and regional level.

During the year the Trust responded to a variety of important consultations including the proposed east-west link road across the top of Aylestone Meadows, HS2, Leicester & Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan and the Rutland Transport Plan. Comments were provided on significant planning applications, including Broadnook garden suburb in Birstall, Leicester City Football Club Training Centre at Seagrave, Shadwell Quarry extension, and St George's Barracks in Rutland.

Support was provided to national Wildlife Trust initiatives including 30 Days Wild, National Marine Week, Wild About Gardens and the Wilder Future campaign.

Trust staff worked with Charnwood Borough Council, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council and Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society to form the Swift Project Partnership. This aims to raise awareness of the need to protect and enhance swift nesting sites in the planning system, and encourage landlords, homeowners and developers to include nesting boxes and bricks in new and existing buildings.



Restoring and reconnecting habitats so wildlife can thrive

Wildlife needs room to thrive and must have more opportunity to move across the countryside in order to adapt to whatever conditions arise in the future. Living Landscapes restore, recreate and reconnect fragmented habitats to create a sustainable biodiversity network and an environment full of wildlife and rich in opportunities for learning, health and well-being.

The Trust's Charnwood Forest Living Landscape project aims to conserve and enhance the special wildlife, geology and character of this important area.

A wide range of habitat and species surveys were carried out during the year, involving close liaison and communication with local landowners and managers and provision of tailored advice to encourage and support wildlife friendly land management. The project's Small Grant Scheme was used to fund key wildlife enhancement projects.

Aggregate Industries has extensive landholdings in the Charnwood Forest and partnership work on their Bardon Estate involved the Trust undertaking grassland and heathland habitat monitoring surveys and species surveys for farmland birds, hedgehogs, peregrine falcons and ravens.

Within the Soar Valley Living Landscape area, the Trust participated in national pilot project, led by the Environment Agency, investigating the effectiveness of natural flood management measures on the lower Soar.

The Trust was delighted to join an exciting new Earth Observation for Wetland projects led by the University of Leicester and funded by the Natural Environment Research Council. Using satellite data for the Soar and Wreake floodplains and Rutland Water Nature Reserve, processed by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the project focussed on developing new ways of monitoring wetland environments and aiding nature conservation strategies over large expanses of countryside.



Hedgehog (Tom Marshall)
Rutland Water and the landscape around as seen by the Sentinel-2 satellite



Inspiring People

Engaging with nature through volunteering

Volunteering provides intrinsic benefits through health and well-being, and also enables the Trust to achieve more for nature conservation.

The Trust is very appreciative of the hard work, commitment and dedication of all our volunteers, who provide a vital support by undertaking a wide range of tasks across all areas of the Trust's activities and initiatives. Their skills and knowledge underpin our achievements and progress.

During the year, the Trust's roving conservation volunteer group completed 153 task days of practical management work across the Trust's nature reserves, amounting to 1,461 volunteer days or 7,327 volunteer hours. Major volunteer effort went into constructing new steps to ensure safe public access at both Cribb's Meadow and Tilton Cutting nature reserves.

The volunteer team at Rutland Water numbers nearly 560 and provided operational support in all areas of the day-to-day management of the nature reserve, including habitat management, wildlife recording, running of the two visitor centres, the Rutland Osprey Project and events and activities, including ensuring the smooth operation of the annual Birdfair - a major undertaking.

A further seven long-term placements participated in our Volunteer Trainee Reserve Officer scheme over the year, acquiring the skills and experience needed to work in the nature conservation sector while at the same time providing a valuable contribution to the Trust's work.

Delivering enjoyable, informative and safe nature reserves.

The Trust's nature reserves are our most precious resource and also our showcase. The opportunities to maximise their value for both people and wildlife should be fully explored.

Trust staff and volunteer teams expended tremendous efforts throughout the year to maintain paths, trails, fences, gates, interpretation boards and viewing areas.

At Rutland Water Nature Reserve, the Shallow Water Hide overlooking Manton Bay and its osprey nest, was replaced with a new double-decker structure to provide additional capacity affording more people wonderful wildlife-watching at any one time.

*Treating Sheep at Ketton Priory Field;
Replacing steps at Cribb's Meadow (Andy Neilson/LRWT)
Volunteers building new fencing at Wymeswold Meadows (Nick Crowley)
Volunteers take a break from their labours at Rocky Plantation (Andy Neilson/LRWT)
The new Shallow Water Hide under construction (Joe Davis/LRWT)*







Something for everyone

Connecting people with nature is essential to safeguarding it. Delivering a wide range of interesting and imaginative events and activities enables people of all ages and backgrounds to experience and enjoy the wildlife of Leicestershire and Rutland at first hand and gain a greater appreciation and understanding of nature.

A fantastic variety of events and activities was organised throughout the year – ranging from wildlife watching and wild walks to natural arts and crafts – giving people of all ages and backgrounds a chance to connect with and enjoy nature.

The Trust's has seven Local Groups – Charnwood, Great Bowden, Humberstone, Oadby & Wigston, Melton Mowbray, North West and Rutland – all run by groups of volunteers.

All groups were active throughout the year providing a valuable community presence and focus with popular programmes of talks, walks and various fund-raising activities.

Members and visitors can join in with any of the groups regardless of where they live.

Trust Conservation Officer Uta Hamzaoui leads a guided walk at Charnwood Lodge NNR (Andy Neilson/LRWT)
A Wild Weekend at Rutland Water included litter picking (LRWT)



Encouraging a **new generation** of wildlife enthusiasts

The Trust believes that it is vital to provide opportunities for people to learn about the natural world and the need to safeguard its future. We have a responsibility to educate the next generation so that they in turn will play a crucial role as future guardians of our natural heritage.

Forest School continues to be the main focus for the Trust's Outreach Education Programme, helping children to develop their confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning entirely outdoors.

Funding from players of People's Postcode Lottery enabled further development of our Wild Forest School project giving children the chance to explore and experience the natural world through a range of different Forest School activities in a safe environment. The project worked with six groups of children from three Leicester primary schools, ran four Wild Tots pre-school groups and delivered sessions with seven groups of home-educated children.

Eight training sessions helped teachers make full use of the Trust's Wild About Learning pack – a curriculum-linked resource aimed at Years 1-6 that is designed to support and encourage busy teachers to take their lessons outdoors.

Our Wild Skills group for young people continued to meet monthly at Rutland Water Nature Reserve and undertook a range of wildlife tasks and activities. They joined forces with the Wild Horizons group (for 18-30 year-olds with a keen interest in the natural world) to team up with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust's Keeping It Wild group for a Wild Weekend of activities at Rutland Water. This included osprey watching, litter picking and a Bird Race, with the winning team recording 43 species in two hours.



Wildlife Watch

Our junior club, provides valuable opportunities for children and young people to explore and discover local wildlife and get involved in fun and interesting projects.

The Trust's four Wildlife Watch groups – Attenborough Arboretum, Braunstone, Heart of the Forest and Rutland Water – had another full and active year, organising fun monthly activity sessions enabling youngsters to discover and enjoy local wildlife.

Wildlife Watch Family Events run during the year included learning about migrating wildfowl and a visit to the Leicestershire Wildlife Hospital.

A busy year for Grow Wild

The Trust's Grow Wild gardeners kept busy helping local schools and community groups make the most of their outdoor spaces for both people and wildlife, including improvements to 12 school grounds in the Melton and Oakham area thanks to funding from the Melton Mowbray Building Society.

*Having fun at a Wild Tots session at Belgrave Hall;
Brooke Hill Academy pupils enjoying outdoor activities;
Teacher training sessions encouraged outdoor lessons (LRWT)*



A great season for the Rutland ospreys



The Rutland Osprey Project, a partnership between the Trust and Anglian Water, has successfully established a breeding colony of ospreys in Rutland.

Spring and summer 2018 was another great season for the Rutland Osprey Project with nine nests producing 14 chicks and bringing the total to 147 young ospreys fledged from nests in the Rutland Water area since 2001.

The osprey is a charismatic species and has generated a huge amount of public interest and visitors to Rutland Water Nature Reserve. This has allowed the project to engage with a significant range of people and offer valuable opportunities to broaden knowledge and understanding of ospreys, helping to foster care and respect for our environment.

The Rutland Osprey Project website www.ospreys.org.uk provided comprehensive information on the behaviour and antics of the ospreys, including popular live webcam footage of the osprey nest in the Manton Bay area of Rutland Water Nature Reserve. Two male ospreys were fitted with mini GPS trackers so their amazing global journeys and local movements can be monitored and recorded throughout the year.

The project staff and volunteer team welcomed over 23,000 people to the Lyndon Visitor Centre, facilitated visiting groups, gave external talks to a range of organisations and engaged with around 3,000 young students from 30 local schools. They also ran a full programme of events and activities, including 18 public Osprey and Wildlife Cruises on board the Rutland Belle, dawn chorus walk, bird ringing demonstration and a family fun day.



Fishing osprey (Geoff Harries)
Osprey S1 receives his satellite transmitter (Lloyd Park/LRWT)



Birdfair is now the **biggest** event of its kind in the world

The annual Birdfair at Rutland Water Nature Reserve is an important showcase for birdwatching and wildlife organisations, as well as raising vital funds for global nature conservation programmes.

Organised jointly by the Trust with the RSPB, Birdfair celebrated its 30th anniversary in style.

More than 23,000 people attended over the three days, and visitors interacted with a range of 395 exhibitors from 66 countries. The programme of events and lectures was hugely popular, with 8,278 people attending 27 events in the main marquee supported by well-known wildlife personalities, and 188 different talks attracting an audience of 17,776.

A sum of £320,236 was raised to support the BirdLife International project 'Mar Chiquita: A haven for Argentina's flamingos'. This brought the total raised to more than £5m for international nature conservation projects over Birdfair's 30 year history.



Chilean flamingo (Pablo Rodriguez Merkel)

Wild Zone was popular with young visitors;

Pointless Bird Brain champions Bill Oddie and Fay Harriss;

Cook Street was a hit with hungry Birdfairers (Eric Renno)



Gaining new skills at the Volunteer Training Centre

The Trust's Volunteer Training Centre offers an exciting opportunity to deliver an effective hub for practical nature conservation and recording and monitoring at Rutland Water, and other nature reserves in Leicestershire and Rutland.

The Volunteer Training Centre was used well throughout the year with the carefully-designed facilities enabling volunteers of all ages and background to get the most out of their experience.

Comprehensive volunteering opportunities were provided, complemented by a programme of volunteer support and training.

A wide range of activities, courses and workshops were organised for both volunteers and the public to enhance wildlife knowledge and countryside skills including species identification, dry stone walling, hedgelaying, willow weaving, nature painting and field sketching, lino printing and a monthly Wildlife Book Club.

Thank you for your support

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust would not exist without the thousands of members who support our work.

Members are the lifeblood of the Trust, contributing in many different ways – providing income, giving volunteer help, offering moral support and helping to influence public opinion.

A committed and engaged membership that is representative of the local community is vital to the success of the Trust.

Membership rose slightly to 15,811 at the end of the year (compared to 15,742 at 31 March 2018).

We work hard to build a lasting relationship with our members through free-to-members magazine, Wildlife News (now relaunched as Wild), regular online newsletters, guided walks on our nature reserves, training courses and special events. Our Nature Reserves Guide encourages members to get out and explore the Trust's 35 nature reserves.

*The Volunteer Training Centre (Eric Renno)
A new hobby: Painting by Nature (Dawn Wright).
Fundraisers are busy at events such as Birdfair (Beverley Heath/LRWT)*



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Who's who

Council

Chairman

Andrew Cotton

Honorary Secretary

Maggie Morland

Honorary Treasurer

Ann Tomlinson

Trustees

Bob Bearne

Anthony Biddle

John Bleby

Tony Clarke

Linda Jones

Stuart Love

Andrew Moffat

Ray Morris

Helen Nott

Ian Selmes

Peter Williams

Patrons

Sir David Attenborough, CH, FRS

Lady Gretton DCVO, JP

Sir Lawrence Howard KVCVO, OBE

Vice Presidents

Hugh Dixon FCA

Peter Ward MA, LLB

Members of staff

Director

Simon Bentley (to end November 2019)

Chief Executive Officer

Tim Graham (from end November 2019)

Leicester office

Head of Conservation

Michael Jeeves (to September 2018)

John Clarkson (from August 2019)

Senior Conservation Officers

Claire Install

Neil Pilcher

Conservation Officers

John Bristow

Nathalie Cossa

Ben Devine

Uta Hamzaoui

Chris Hill

Andy Lear

Andy Neilson

Senior Education Officer

Martha Rose

Education Officers

Corinne Clark

Rachel Ibbotson

Communications Officer

Beverley Heath (to November 2019)

Supporter Development Officer

Harriet Hickin (from September 2018)

Finance & Support Services Officer

Georgina Boonham

Finance Assistant

Jeein Hong

Membership Officer

Matthew Billings (to May 2019)

Josephine Taylor (from July 2019)

Membership Assistant

Julie Burnside

Rutland Water Nature Reserve

Reserve Manager

Mat Cottam

Senior Reserve Officer (Habitats)

Joe Davis

Senior Reserve Officer (Projects)

Rebecca Pitman

Reserve Officers

Lloyd Park

Frances Payne

Paul Trevor

Assistant Reserve Officer

Matt Taylor

Administrator

Julia Fisher-Robins

Information & Retail Assistant

Sarah Box

Events & Volunteer Co-ordinator

Holly Hucknall

Birdfair

Tim Appleton MBE

Carole Allen

Nicola Brown

Sarah Marsh



Lea Meadows Nature Reserve (Michael Webster)

Investors in wildlife

2018 – 2019

The Trust relies on the support and loyalty of our members; the dedicated work of local groups that provide guided walks, lectures and talks, fundraising and social events throughout the year; Wildlife Watch groups that organise activities for our junior members; and more than 900 volunteers who are involved in virtually every aspect of the Trust's work.

Thank you to all those who have given their support over 2018/2019, including a range of businesses and organisations.

Companies and grant-making trusts

Aggregate Industries
Anglian Water plc
Banister Charitable Trust
Cambridge Community Foundation
East Midlands Airport
Hanson Cement
Jack Patston Charitable Trust
Lafarge Aggregates
Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation
Martin Lawrence Memorial Trust
Mather Jamie
Melton Mowbray Building Society
National Forest Company
Next plc
Peter De Haan Charitable Trust
People's Postcode Lottery
Ponds by Michael Wheat
Rutland Trust
Samworth Foundation
Severn Trent Water
TMC Distribution
Vine House Farm Bird Foods
Whitley Animal Protection Trust

Local authorities and statutory bodies

Blaby District Council
Braunstone Town Council
Charnwood Borough Council
DEFRA
Environment Agency
Forestry Commission
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Leicester City Council
Leicestershire County Council
Melton Borough Council
Natural England
North West Leicestershire District Council
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
Rural Payments Agency
Rutland County Council

Grant Schemes

Cory Environmental Trust in Rutland
Grantscape / Augean
Heritage Lottery Fund
Tesco Bags of Help

Other organisations

The Conservation Volunteers
East Midlands Wildlife Trusts
Friends of Charnwood Forest
Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society
The National Trust
Natural Environment Research Council
Rotary Club of Market Harborough
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts
Rutland Natural History Society
RSPB
University of Leicester
Welland Rivers Trust

Birdfair main sponsors

in focus
Viking Optical Ltd

Birdfair associate sponsors

Andalucia Tourism
Anglian Water
Argentina
Australia's Northern Territory
BBC Wildlife Magazine
Birdwatch magazine
Colombia
Kowa
Leica Sport Optics
Naturetrek
Nikon
Panasonic
Park Cameras
Swarovski Optik
Toyooka, Japan
Zeiss

Gifts in Wills

The Trust is especially grateful for the generosity of supporters who remember the Trust with a gift in their Will, and particularly in the last year the late Elizabeth Baird, Florence Barker, Jill Elliott, Elisabeth Loveland and Lynda Roach.

The Trust is also grateful to have received a number of donations from friends and family in memory of loved ones.

Gifts in Wills and In Memoriam donations make a tremendous difference to the amount of conservation work the Trust is able to achieve.

Leicestershire and Financial Review

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31st March 2019 and the Balance Sheet at that date are a summary of information extracted from the Trust's financial statements for the year comprising the 12 months ended 31st March 2019, which include the financial statements of the subsidiary company, Leicestershire Wildlife (Sales) Limited.

The consolidated SOFA shows a net movement in funds for the year of £11,603 surplus (2018: £112,319) and total charity funds of £4,839,497 (2018: £4,827,894). The activities of the subsidiary company contributed profits for the year of £25,576 (2018: £28,969) which will be transferred to the Trust under Gift Aid, as well as raising £320,236 (2018: £338,468) through Birdfair. This was donated to support the BirdLife International project "Mar Chiquita: A haven for Argentina's flamingos". Operational results are in line with budget. Overall, income has stayed fairly static, reflecting a difficult economic environment. The Trust has had to work hard to maintain the current level of unrestricted income from membership subscriptions. Donations and legacies were similar to last year's figures, though the level of grants received was somewhat higher.

The charts reflect the Trust's different income sources and the ways in which that income is spent, indicating the enormous amount of work carried out by the Trust during the year in fulfilling its charitable objects. Overall, expenditure levels broadly match income received, reflecting the way the Trust budgets for its charitable activities.

The Trust's legal obligation to meet its share of the deficit on the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme has continued to have a significant effect on the Balance Sheet. This year, changes to the net present value of the Trust's full 10-year liability have resulted in an increase in the necessary provision, together with an additional charge to the Income and Expenditure account of around £39,000. We are currently awaiting the results of the latest triannual actuarial valuation of the Scheme's assets, which was carried out as at 1st April 2019, and this may require yet further substantial provision to be made against additional costs in the future.

Growth in unrestricted funds is essential if the Trust is not only able to deal with pressures such as the Pension Scheme liability, but also grow substantially and be able to meet the challenges to our wildlife and environment both now and in the future. Growing unrestricted income takes time, but already sound advances have been made, with a new appeals strategy in place, and an improved social media presence, whilst other new initiatives are in the pipeline.

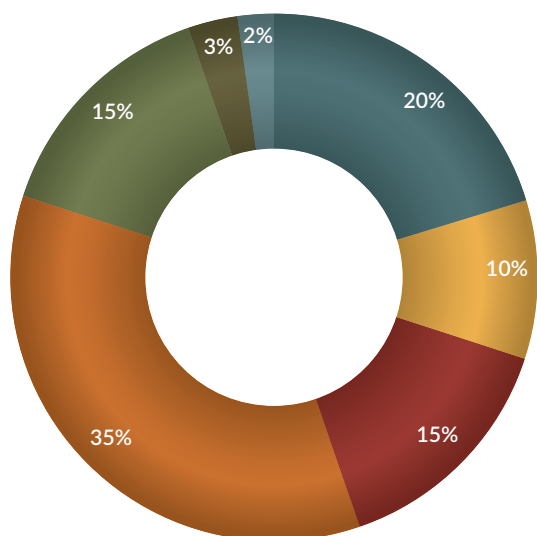
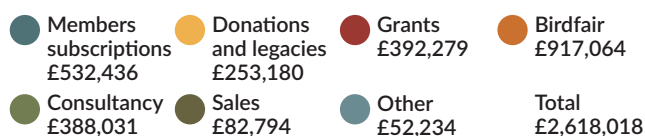
The auditor issued an unqualified report on the full annual financial statements, and their statement under section 496 of the Companies Act 2006 regarding the consistency of those financial statements with the Annual Report of the Council was also unqualified. The Annual Report of the Council, summarised accounts, and supplementary material presented here are only a part of the full Annual Report and financial statements of the Trust. Copies of these, and those of the subsidiary company, can be obtained from the Trust office at The Old Mill, 9 Soar Lane, Leicester, LE3 5DE.

The financial statements of the Trust were approved by the Trust Council on 30 September 2019, and a copy of these financial statements has been filed with the Registrar of Companies and the Charity Commission.

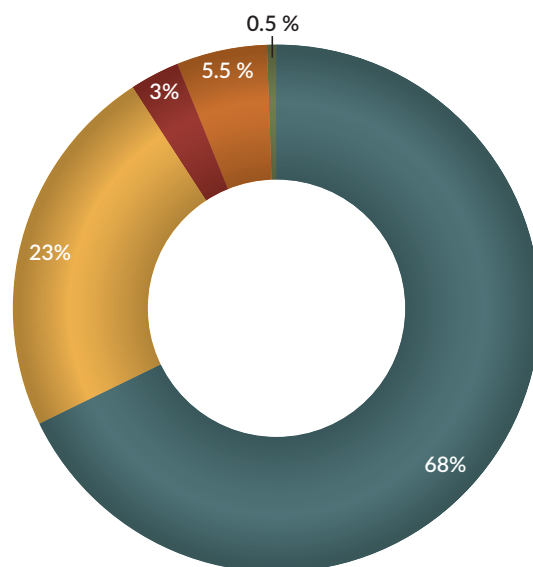
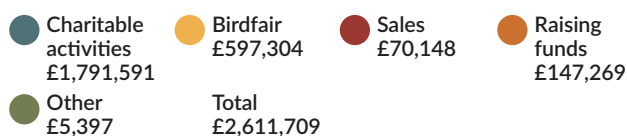
Ann Tomlinson MA FCA
Hon Treasurer

Rutland Wildlife Trust Limited and Results for the Year 2018 – 2019

Where our income came from



How it was spent



Statement Of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31st March 2019

| | 2019 | 2018 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Income | | |
| Members subscriptions including Gift Aid | 532,436 | 530,144 |
| Donations and legacies | 253,180 | 251,683 |
| Grants | 392,279 | 377,977 |
| Birdfair | 917,064 | 869,170 |
| Rent receivable | 34,144 | 33,179 |
| Shop sales | 82,794 | 74,559 |
| Consultancy fees | 388,031 | 374,507 |
| Investment income and interest | 10,703 | 7,730 |
| Livestock | 7,387 | 6,856 |
| Total income | 2,618,018 | 2,525,805 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Raising funds | 147,269 | 149,431 |
| Expenditure relating to sales | 70,148 | 61,735 |
| Expenditure on Birdfair | 597,304 | 530,872 |
| Charitable activities | 1,791,591 | 1,676,651 |
| Taxation charge | 5,397 | - |
| Total expenditure | 2,611,709 | 2,418,689 |
| Net (losses)/gains from investments | 3,204 | (1,637) |
| Net income | 9,513 | 105,479 |
| Gains on revaluation of fixed assets | 2,090 | 6,840 |
| Net movement in funds | 11,603 | 112,319 |

Balance Sheet

as at 31st March 2019

| | 2019 | 2018 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Fixed assets | | |
| Tangible assets | 1,416,936 | 1,510,646 |
| Heritage assets | 1,932,586 | 1,932,586 |
| Investments | 735,701 | 729,210 |
| | 4,085,223 | 4,172,442 |
| Current assets | | |
| Stocks | 27,044 | 21,068 |
| Debtors | 323,588 | 419,951 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 1,487,395 | 1,371,316 |
| | 1,838,027 | 1,812,335 |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | (641,225) | (702,862) |
| Net current assets | 1,196,802 | 1,109,473 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | 5,282,025 | 5,281,915 |
| Defined benefit pension scheme liability | (442,528) | (454,021) |
| Total net assets | 4,839,497 | 4,827,894 |
| The funds of the charity | | |
| Unrestricted accumulated charitable funds | 317,965 | 285,334 |
| Designated funds | 2,259,708 | 2,240,285 |
| Restricted charitable funds | 2,261,824 | 2,302,275 |
| Total charity funds | 4,839,497 | 4,827,894 |

Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust Annual General Meeting

The 63rd Annual General Meeting of Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust Limited will be held on Wednesday 20 November 2019 at 7.30pm

AGM AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Notice of the meeting
3. Minutes of the 62nd Annual General Meeting held at Trinity Methodist Church, Oadby on Wednesday 14th November 2018
4. Report of Council 2018/19
5. The Trust Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2019
6. Election of members to Council to serve for a three year term.

The following members of Council have completed their three year term of office but have indicated their wish to stand for re-election:

John Bleby
Andrew Moffat
Ian Selmes
Peter Williams

7. The appointment of RSM UK Audit LLP as Auditors to the Trust
8. Comments from the floor

Refreshment break

Guest speaker

**Venue: Trinity Methodist Church,
Harborough Road (A6), Oadby LE2 4LA**

Parking is available in the adjacent shoppers' car park

For more information contact the Trust office: 0116 262 9968



GUEST SPEAKER

Professor Ian Rotherham of Sheffield Hallam University is the guest speaker at this year's Annual General Meeting.

His talk will be Shadow Woods & Scrub – Lost Landscapes & the Cinderellas of Conservation – a fully illustrated whistle-stop tour through a thousand years of ecological history.

Professor Rotherham (pictured) is a researcher, writer, and conservation campaigner who works with local and national media, and with conservation organisations such as the Wildlife Trusts.

For nearly 30 years he has been working on trees, woods, and landscape-scale issues to promote a better understanding of how heritage and nature knit together. Using evidence of ecological evolution, of indicator species, of environmental histories, and of map-based and archive-based materials, Ian has developed the concept of 'shadow woods' as lost 'Domesday landscapes', and of 'biodiversity time-capsules' with indicator plants and other species travelling through time and space to be in the modern landscape.

Working with colleagues across Europe, Ian has been driving forwards ideas on 'cultural landscapes' and 'cultural severance', whilst at the same time, leading discussions on the possibilities of 'rewilding'. As remarkable evidence of ecological systems largely now gone, the survival of 'shadow woods' from the medieval commons and wood-pastures which once dominated our countryside, provide a unique insight into a lost biodiversity. Through the recognition of 'shadow woods' and the reappraisal of the richness and value of 'scrub' and ecotone habitats, these ideas provide ways to enmesh nature conservation and landscape history into future rewilding.

Ian is the author of over 500 academic papers and around 40 books.

Photograph: c. Sheffield Newspapers Ltd.