

# The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales

Annual Review  
for the Financial Year ended  
31st March 2011



Protecting **Wildlife** for the future



# Introduction from the Chief Executive

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Front cover image:  
M J Clark

There are encouraging signs that the profile of the natural environment and the role it plays in our lives is rising up the political and business agendas. Awareness of the natural environment amongst the public also continues to grow, as demonstrated by the increasing popularity of television shows such as Springwatch and Countryfile. Despite these advances, the work of the Wildlife Trusts has never been more vital, both in protection and management of wildlife in our own area, and in campaigns, lobbying and advocacy work at a wider level. Delivering this work in the face of the global economic downturn, increased funding cuts and the pressure on everyone's income is also more challenging than ever. The good news is that despite these problems, our amazing team of staff and volunteers are working together more closely than ever, pouring energy and enthusiasm into their work and

inspiring those around them. In times like these we lean more heavily on volunteers and all the staff have been deeply impressed by the positive response from existing and new volunteers, as well as the generous financial contributions towards our work over the past year. With resources like these, we are confident that the work of your local Wildlife Trust can continue to expand.

In a business sense we are demonstrating our commitment to achieving a lean and efficient organisation by having reduced our operating costs by almost half over the last two years. Our staff, Trustees and Local Groups have all engaged in our strategic planning work so that we have a clear and agreed map of our plans for the future, and can focus our combined efforts to achieving those goals.

Sarah Kessell, CEO

New bird hide Castle Woods March 2011



## Conservation Highlights

All of our conservation work is reported through a national on-line system called BARS, and you can see those reports at the following address: <http://ukbars.defra.gov.uk/> and this will soon include a mapping function, so you will be able to see exactly where our work has been carried out. This year the Wildlife Trust Officers led 326 volunteer work parties on the mainland alone, making up 1550 volunteer days. Six hundred biological records were sent to our local records centre, mainly collected from our nature reserves. In addition to the work on our own reserves we have given advice to other landowners, covering an area of roughly 5,000 hectares this year, and responded in detail to 128 planning applications.

### *Pembrokeshire:*

Three new pools were created at Llangloffan fen, creating great new habitats for wildlife. Access was also improved with a new bridge, new boardwalk, gates, a new bird hide and waymarkers.

### *Ceredigion:*

Vital tree safety works were completed at the Nanteos reserves, meaning that Old Warren Hill could be opened to the public again. A beautiful new memorial bridge was installed at Coed Maidie B Goddard, in memory of the late voluntary warden on the reserve Brian Healey.

Pond clearance at Llangloffan Fen



Brian's Bridge



Castle Woods Fencing Team



## Conservation Highlights

### *Carmarthenshire:*

Significant work was undertaken on Castle Woods nature reserve, including replacement of a long boundary fence by the volunteer group, thinning of Church Woods and South Lodge Woods, as well as the installation of visitor counters, benches, an oak picnic table and bird boxes, two new interpretation panels and the production

of a new reserve leaflet, through a Better Woodlands for Wales grant from the Forestry Commission.

### *Glamorgan:*

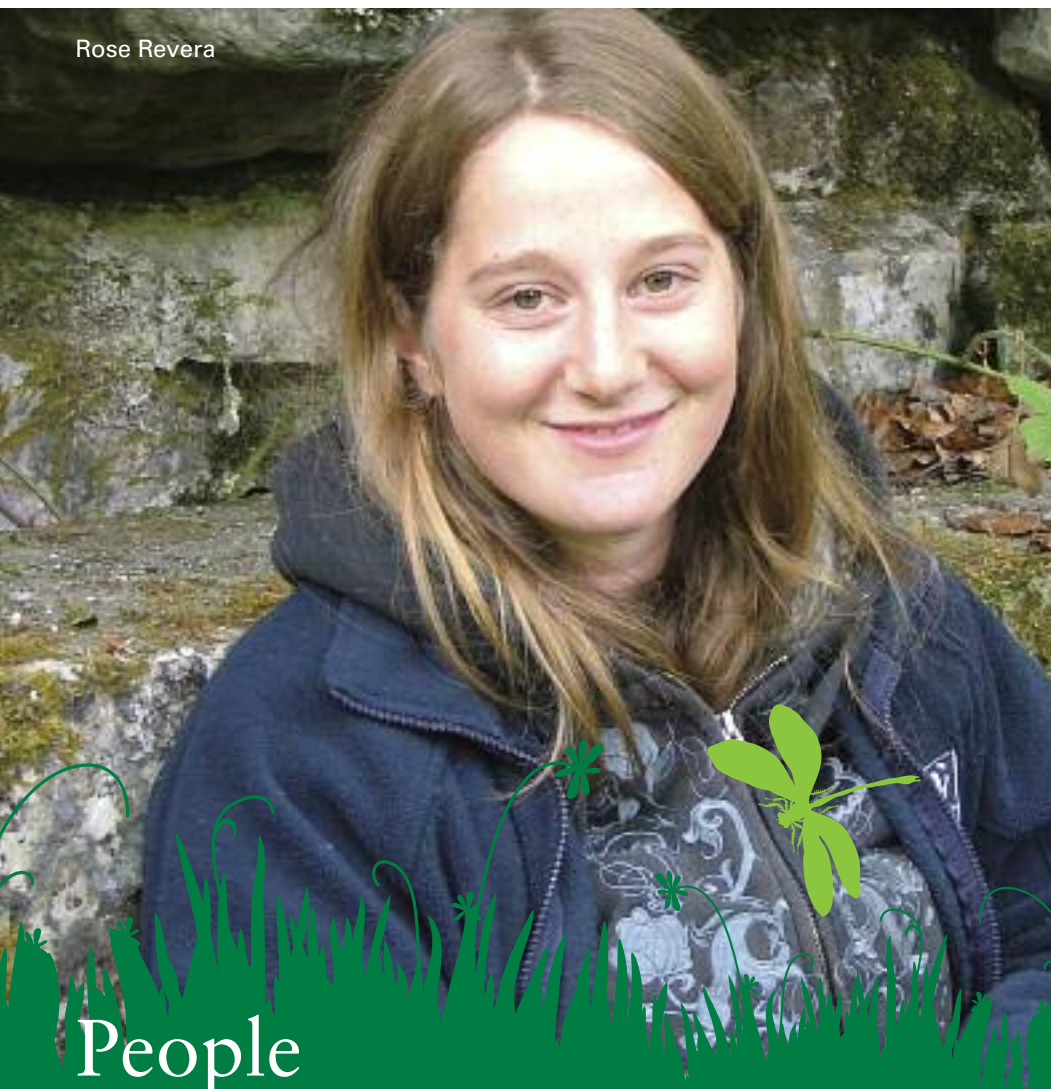
Many Gower woodlands have benefitted from Better Woodlands Wales funding over the last year, making it worth the considerable man-hours expended. Work included extensive Rhododendron and Cherry Laurel removal from Priors Wood and Gelli Hir, installation of many bird boxes, control of Japanese Knotweed in Kilvrough and Llanrhidian Hill, and traditional woodland coppicing at Gelli Hir.

Brynna Woods and Llanharan Marsh is one of our most recent nature reserves, covering over 38 hectares of semi-natural broadleaved woodland and marshy grassland. We have improved access to over 1,000 metres of footpath, increased the meadow and marshy grassland habitat and undertaken a specific dormouse project, which involves monitoring and woodland management.



Brynna Wood

Rose Revera



# People

People are integral to our work, whether they be staff, students, volunteers or members of the public. Our staff are passionate about wildlife and we want to pass that passion on to other people. Without volunteers, we would not be able to deliver even half of the fantastic work we have delivered and we worked with over 1,000 volunteers this year. We know that the future of wildlife depends on us engaging students and children, and passing on our knowledge to them.

### Michael:

Michael is from Cilgerran, and left school after GCSEs without any clear plans. After a spell working in the tyre industry, he was made redundant and remained unemployed for around 6 months. He came to the Wildlife Trust under the Future Jobs Fund scheme,

working in the café in the Welsh Wildlife Centre and seized the opportunity to make a good impression on everyone! Michael's confidence, team work and communication skills increased as well as his work experience, and we have now taken him on as paid staff. The Wildlife Trust is taking him through an NVQ in catering, enabling Michael to pursue a career in this field.

### Rose:

Rose is studying an Ecology degree at Cardiff University and did a year's placement with the Trust. Rose said: 'I have loved the time I've spent with the Wildlife Trust. I have really enjoyed meeting like-minded people and being a part of the Wildlife Trust team. I feel like the year has really helped me progress my career, for example, I have now gained enough

experience and had enough training to enable me to apply for my great crested newt license. My public speaking has improved through presenting a talk on my project at the AGM and giving talks and guided walks to local groups and university students. Through the Wildlife Trust I have had articles published in Welsh Wildlife and other Wildlife Trust publications. I have attended and will attend a number of training courses that will be great on my CV. I want to say thank you to everyone at WTSWW for making me feel so welcome and part of the team, and for giving me all the opportunities I have had through the year. I will miss working for the Trust a huge amount when I go back to Uni next year and am stuck indoors studying!'



Dinefwr throne  
Tir Coed

Skokholm Island was closed to visitors in 2007 due to deterioration of the buildings. The initial idea of a complete overhaul along the lines of the Skomer renovation, would have cost over £1 million. However, plans could never be fully agreed and funding on this scale was unlikely to be achievable so soon after the large lottery grants awarded for the Skomer project, and in the face of deteriorating financial conditions countrywide. The solution was proposed by the Friends of Skokholm and Skomer Islands, and over the course of the year they worked closely with staff to renovate the farm complex using mostly volunteer labour and a much smaller budget. The renovations are likely to take 2-3 years in total, and as a direct consequence of this new approach, the renovation costs will have been reduced to under £100,000. This incredible achievement is testament to the unfailing energy and commitment shown by a dedicated group of volunteers. Over the course of this year, volunteers collectively put in around 2,200 hours of work on Skokholm alone.

In Carmarthenshire and at the Teifi Marshes, we linked up with local healthcare providers and now have volunteers regularly attending work parties from local care centres.

We also held over 20 corporate volunteering days, including HBOS Banking. We are also lucky to benefit from the very specialist skills of some professionals who are willing to donate their time to our work, such as qualified arborists.

This year also saw the start of the CAN funded 'Branching Out' project in partnership with Tir Coed, where groups of unemployed 16-28 year olds volunteer and are trained in traditional woodworking skills. The result has been creative and attractive new facilities on nature reserves in the west, including benches, bird hides and split oak fences.

## Working In Partnership With Volunteers

# Inspiring People

This year we held 270 local events (run by staff and Local Groups) to which an estimated 10,000 people came, and attended another 30 externally-organised events through which we engaged with another 4,000 people. We gave 94 guided walks, with an estimated attendance of 940 people, and gave 92 talks, to a total audience of around 4,000. We estimate that just over 100,000 people came to our nature reserves.

Over the course of the year we did 25 radio interviews, 5 broadcast interviews, and 110 local press stories were printed, along with 71 regional press stories and 6 national press stories. We make use of social media with Facebook sites for the Trust, the Islands and the Welsh Wildlife Centre and we are tweeting regularly!

We use our visitor centres to engage with and inspire people, and to pass on information about our work. Over the next few years we are planning more investment in the Welsh Wildlife Centre and Parc Slip Visitor Centre.



Volunteers helping with the Skokholm Restoration Project



Cycle day event at Teifi Marshes

Puffin



Ben carrying out research on Skomer



## Research

We are committed to developing the ecological skills of our own staff and to provide training opportunities for others so that we can nurture the next generation of Recorders and continue to help develop and refine the theory of management for nature conservation. Research into habitats and species provides evidence to help us lobby for better protection of wildlife, informs our government consultation responses, provides vital information to inform management decisions on our own land and enables us to share best practice with other landowners.

### Skomer Island

Skomer Island attracts 15,000 visitors a year but is also a hub of cutting edge seabird research. The Island Warden ensures that the research carried out does not negatively affect the conservation importance of one of

Wales' key National Nature Reserves. Accommodation on the island provides space for up to seven researchers at a time and there is a well-stocked library for researchers and public to use. Working with several partners including Oxford University, Microsoft Research, University of Sheffield, Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the Countryside Council for Wales research is being carried out throughout the seabird season which is vital for monitoring long term changes to the marine environment as well as assessing the impacts of disasters such as the Sea Empress in 1996 and providing up to date information to help guide informed decisions on the conservation of rare species. Current research includes:

- **Long term monitoring of seabird populations**, productivity and adult survival rates – with data going back to the 1960s.
- **Two PhD students** based on the island are studying Manx Shearwaters as well as studying

the individual at-sea behaviour of Puffins, Guillemots, Razorbills and Kittiwakes.

- **Long-term deployment of geolocators and GPS devices** on various seabirds to study foraging behaviour.
- Other long term research is also carried out on Atlantic Grey Seal productivity and the Skomer Vole among a host of other smaller research projects.



Manx Shearwater with Geocator

Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Centre volunteers collecting data aboard MV Sulaire



Brown Hare



Ongoing work on the Carmarthenshire Hedgehog Survey (in partnership with Carmarthenshire LBAP) and the Ceredigion Brown Hare survey means that records continue to come in and help inform conservation work on these species. The public are involved with recording sightings. Ceredigion Wildlife Trust Officer Em Foot also became Ceredigion's mammal recorder.

on brown hares and water voles, under contract to the Welsh Assembly Government.

Marine monitoring through Sea Trust and the Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Centre, mostly undertaken by volunteers, continues to make a major contribution to our understanding of the ecology of Welsh waters.



Bottlenose Dolphin

The Vale of Glamorgan adder survey, in partnership with the Local Authority and CCW, focused on three Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. Volunteers were trained to help, and the survey has been extended in 2011 to cover more sites and support more university students to carry out detailed research.

We continued to work on assessing the impacts of the Tir Gofal agri-environment scheme



Hedgehog survey work is ongoing



## Campaigns & Advocacy

As a local organisation we can respond to local issues, but we can also use the leverage of our 46 other Wildlife Trust partners when strength in numbers is needed. Our membership demonstrates to policy-makers that we are representative and the support of our members is vital in key campaigns such as our opposition to the badger cull. Over the last year we engaged with 58 AMs and MPs and met 20 of them.

We provide advice and briefings to AMs and MPs on issues of local and national importance. We use our best nature reserves to provide opportunities to build relationships with politicians, and we also engage with politicians in more formal settings.

This year we celebrated the success of the Skomer Project with an official launch, accompanied by our main funders, the First Minister and partner organisations. An essential

element of these visits is to give ministers the time to experience the natural environment that they are tasked with protecting!

Our badger campaign continued this year, and we are grateful for the support of Iolo Williams who spoke at an awareness-raising event at Cardiff university.



*Westminster event to celebrate the partnership and achievement of Heritage Lottery Fund and The Wildlife Trusts*

*First Minister Carwyn Jones with Prof. Lynda Warren Trust Chairman, and Skomer project funders.*



*Iolo Williams signing the petition*

# The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales Ltd

## Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

(Incorporating The Income And Expenditure Account)  
For The Year Ended 31 March 2011

	Notes	Un-Restricted Funds 2011 £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2010 £	Total Funds £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary Income:					
Membership Subscriptions		200,961	-	200,961	200,494
Donations and gifts	2	15,152	16,723	31,875	14,663
Legacies	2	34,374	10,000	44,374	19,312
Grants	3	-	528,636	528,636	462,767
Activities for generating funds:					
Fundraising income	2	3,696	92,590	96,286	67,220
Trading Activities	4	270,944	-	270,944	274,487
Income derived from Nature Reserves		106,881	-	106,881	100,718
Investment income	5	26,555	725	27,280	37,562
Other income	5	16,745	27,214	43,959	17,246
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>675,308</b>	<b>675,888</b>	<b>1,351,196</b>	1,194,469
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
Costs of generating funds					
Membership	6	68,270	9,576	77,846	96,559
Fundraising costs	6	14,233	86,897	101,130	51,003
Trading expenses	6	262,347	13,710	276,057	214,315
Charitable activities					
Nature Conservation	6	302,735	393,412	696,147	708,196
Environmental Education	6	91	9,899	9,990	22,674
Support Costs	6	89,495	17,531	107,026	221,555
Governance costs	6	5,048	-	5,048	4,025
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<b>742,219</b>	<b>531,025</b>	<b>1,273,244</b>	1,318,327
Net Incoming Resources before transfers		(66,911)	144,863	77,952	(123,858)
<i>Transfers Between Funds</i>					
Exceptional Item	12	(36,775)	36,775	-	-
	16	(23,215)	-	(23,215)	-
Realised gain on sale of investments assets	8	-	-	-	280,000
Unrealised gain/(loss) on revaluation of investment assets	8	627	5,692	6,319	19,638
Net movement in funds	11	(126,274)	187,330	61,056	175,780
Funds brought forward at 1 April 2010	11	1,312,348	200,678	1,513,026	1,687,246
Release of Revaluation Reserves on sale of investment asset		-	-	-	(350,000)
<b>Funds carried forward at 31 March 2011</b>	13	<b>1,186,074</b>	<b>388,008</b>	<b>1,574,082</b>	1,513,026

All of the net (outgoing)/incoming resources are from continuing activities.



The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales Ltd  
**Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses.**

For The Year Ended 31 March 2011

	2011 £	2010 £
Surplus/(Deficit) for the financial year	<b>77,952</b>	(123,858)
Release of Revaluation reserve on sale of investment asset	-	(350,000)
Realised Gain on the sale of investment assets	-	280,000
Unrealised gain/(loss) on the revaluation of investment assets	<b>6,319</b>	19,638
<b>Total gains and losses recognised</b>	<b>84,271</b>	(174,220)



# The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales Ltd

## Balance Sheet

at 31 March 2011

	Notes	Group 2011 £	Charity 2011 £	Group 2010 £	Charity 2010 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	7	<b>1,639,386</b>	<b>1,638,149</b>	1,635,923	1,635,923
Investment	8	<b>72,202</b>	<b>72,202</b>	65,883	65,883
Quoted	8	-	<b>40</b>	-	40
Unquoted					
		<b>1,711,588</b>	<b>1,710,391</b>	1,701,806	1,701,84
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Stock		<b>15,543</b>	-	14,376	-
Debtors	9	<b>113,751</b>	<b>127,748</b>	129,734	147,580
Cash at bank and in hand		<b>341,335</b>	<b>326,553</b>	220,036	197,326
		<b>470,629</b>	<b>454,301</b>	364,146	344,906
<b>Creditors</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	<b>(380,807)</b>	<b>(326,531)</b>	(309,113)	(272,493)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>89,822</b>	<b>127,770</b>	55,033	72,413
Amounts falling due after one year	13	<b>(227,328)</b>	<b>(227,328)</b>	(243,813)	(243,813)
<b>Net Assets</b>	11	<b>1,574,082</b>	<b>1,610,833</b>	1,513,026	1,530,446
<b>Funds</b>					
Unrestricted		<b>(453,312)</b>	<b>(415,324)</b>	(323,575)	(306,155)
Unrestricted : Fixed Assets	7	<b>1,639,386</b>	<b>1,638,149</b>	1,635,923	1,635,923
Restricted	11/12/13	<b>388,008</b>	<b>388,008</b>	200,678	200,678
		<b>1,574,082</b>	<b>1,610,833</b>	1,513,026	1,530,446

Approved by the Directors and signed on their behalf

*Lynda Warren*

Professor Lynda Warren

Date 18th July 2011



# The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales Ltd Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales Ltd

For The Year Ended 31 March 2011

We have audited the financial statements of The Wildlife Trust Of South And West Wales Ltd for the year ended 31 March 2011 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 495 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

## *Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors*

The trustees' (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) responsibilities for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and for being satisfied that the charity's financial statements give a true and fair view are set out in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, and have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

We also report to you whether in our opinion the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the charity has not kept adequate accounting records, if the charity's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made.

We read the Trustees' Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

## *Basis of audit opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and

explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

## *Opinion*

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the groups affairs as at 31 March 2011 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, and
- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is consistent with the financial statements.

## **Sarah Case FCA DChA**

Senior Statutory Auditor  
For and on Behalf of  
Broomfield & Alexander Limited  
Chartered Accountants  
and Statutory Auditors  
Waters Lane Chambers  
Waters Lane  
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Gwent  
NP20 1LA

Dated 18th July 2011

# The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales Ltd

## Thank You to Our Funders

### Donations over £500.

**The Trust is grateful to the following major funders and donors, and families of those who have left legacies to help the Trust's work.**

Brian Martin (bequest)

Cardiff and District Ramblers

Cemex

Dorothy and Phil Blatcher

Ethel Gwynne Morgan Charitable

Friends of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Friends of the Skomer and Skokholm

Gudrun Skeels (legacy)

Hedley Foundation

J Talbot

Jenny Cripps GAYE

Julia Mount

Legal & General

Lord Merthyr Fund

Martin Heywood

Megan Foster (legacy)

Mid Pembrokeshire Local Group

Molly Jennings (legacy)

Oakdale Foundation

Pembrokeshire Bird Group

Pembrokeshire Impact Fund

Ratcliffe Foundation

Rees Jeffries Road Fund

RWE Npower

South Hook LNG Terminal

Thanks also to several anonymous donors and to families of those whose legacy has been received via RSWT



This report has been printed using 100% vegetable based inks on paper that is FSC accredited

This Annual Report is available in Welsh to download as a PDF from our web site [www.welshwildlife.org](http://www.welshwildlife.org) or as a hard copy by sending an SAE to the address below.

With thanks to the following photographers for the use of their images:

M J Clark, Vaughn Matthews, Ben Dean, Dave Boyle, Nigel McCall, Gillian Day, and other Trust staff and volunteers



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Members of the Fundraising Standards Board

