

Devon Wildlife Trust's income and spend in 2018-19

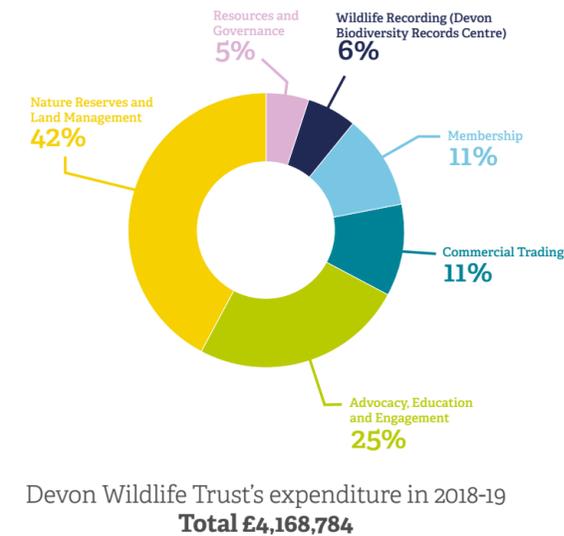
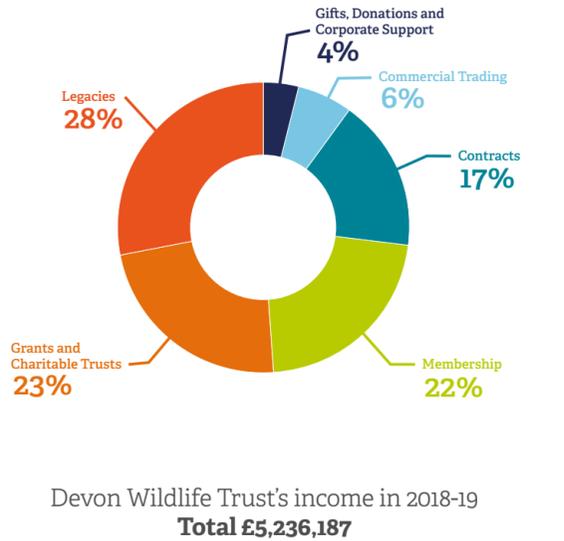
It has been an excellent year for Devon Wildlife Trust. Total income for the Group was £5,236,187 against expenditure of £4,168,784 and the charitable Group accounts show a surplus for the year of £1,067,403. This means that our unrestricted financial reserves have grown and are now at a level that is in line with Charity Commission guidance.

A significant legacy is responsible for the bulk of this unplanned surplus in 2018-19. Legacy income and membership continue to be critical sources of income for the Trust. We have also continued to benefit from the support of a range of grant funders, from businesses and from partners. Please do see the full Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts on our website for detailed information about who supports us and how we spend and manage our money.

We simply couldn't do the work we do without our supporters and I cannot thank you enough for your generosity and your commitment to protecting Devon's amazing natural environment. If you have any questions about the annual accounts or if you want to find out more about supporting our work or leaving a gift in your Will, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



Penny Mason
Director of Resources and Marketing



A charity you can trust

As a member of the Fundraising Regulator, Devon Wildlife Trust follows the Code of Fundraising Practice. We make a public promise to adhere to best practice, honesty, transparency, clarity and accountability in all fundraising activity.



Our dedicated team of staff

Photo: Aiam Atkinson



Our 35,000 loyal members



Our 300+ inspirational volunteers

Photo: Kevin McDonagh

Together we are making a difference to Devon's wildlife

Devon Wildlife Trust works for local wildlife and wild places. Our charity is able to achieve so much because of the people and organisations that support us. These include...

- Our 35,000 loyal members
- Our more than 300 regular volunteers
- The charitable trusts, businesses, foundations and grant-giving bodies that generously support our work
- Our dedicated network of volunteer Local Groups
- Our committed board of trustees
- The people and groups who donate to our fundraising appeals
- The generous people who remember us in their Will
- Our dedicated team of staff

For a full list of the people and organisations who support our work for wildlife go to www.devonwildlifetrust.org/what-we-do/about-us/our-supporters



Devon
Wildlife Trust

Your Support

Winter 2019-20

What a year! Westminster may have been in utter chaos, but in the much saner world of Devon Wildlife Trust it's been an unforgettable 12 months for much better reasons. In this issue of Your Support you can read about some of the highlights.

We've fought a long, tough battle to secure a new Environment Act. At the centre of our call to government has been a focus on putting nature back. Much of what we have argued for has found its way into draft legislation, but sadly little progress has been made over the last nine months due to the turmoil in Parliament. Our supporters have been fantastic and have written more letters to MPs than any other county.

We launched the Wilder Future campaign with Devon hosting the first local showing of our Wind in the Willows film trailer. With over two million viewings, this helped raise awareness of the threats to our natural environment and how depleted in wildlife Britain now is. But it ends in a message of hope. We followed up the film's success with the biggest mass lobby event in Westminster's history.

After a marathon negotiation, we took on the management of the six Valley Parks in Exeter. With their annual footfall of around 500,000, this was a huge milestone for us and our work engaging people in urban areas. Watch our plans for these stunning sites unfold in the coming year.

As the River Otter Beaver Trial entered its fifth year, we set out to the then Secretary of State Michael Gove how we believe these amazing animals should be managed once the trial comes to an end. Who knows when the government will decide on their future, but in the meantime donations for the project have continued to pour in.

As always you, our supporters, have been extraordinary. And I'm delighted to say that your numbers have swelled to more than 35,000, our highest for a decade. That's great news, because in these troubled times we need as many voices as possible to speak out. Thank you all.



Harry Barton

Harry Barton
Chief Executive, Devon Wildlife Trust

Your support really is making a world of difference to Devon's wildlife. Thank you.

Goldfinches and teasel. Photo: Mark Hamblin

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Devon Wildlife Trust: our recent highlights

This is what your support has allowed us to achieve for local wildlife



Horsey Island, near Braunton in North Devon, became our latest nature reserve. Its **80** hectare mix of mudflat, sandbank and saltmarsh on the edge of the Taw Estuary is one of the South West's premier birdwatching spots. Look out for more on **Horsey Island** in the next edition of your Wild Devon magazine.



Our **River Otter Beaver Trial** continued to reach an impressively large audience. The team of two part-time staff deliver **90** public events during the year, bringing the total to more than **350** with a combined audience of **16,000** people since the Trial began in **2015**.

A new wildlife watching hide constructed by local volunteers rises on the banks of the River Torridge taking pride of place at our **Halsdon nature reserve**. Board walks at Emsworthy Mire and a sand martin nesting wall at Meeth Quarry are just two of the other new features to appear at our nature reserves.

After strong campaigning from us and you, **nine** new Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) around Devon's two coastlines were announced. This takes the county's total to **14** MCZs. They include Morte Platform, close to the North Devon coast and the Devon estuaries of the Erme, Avon, Dart, Otter and Axe.



We continued to work to influence Devon's built development for the benefit of wildlife. In the past year, we scrutinised **19** major planning applications, commenting on **16**, and submitting objections to **seven** of these.

The Wildlife Trusts' new short film, using the familiar faces of **'Wind in the Willows'** characters was seen in cinemas in Devon and across the UK. Narrated by Sir David Attenborough, Alison Steadman and Stephen Fry, the film showcases our **Wilder Future** campaign.



Our **Sow and Share** project started work with pupils in Exeter to create **20** new wildflower areas in schools across the city. The planting brings colour to school communities and much-needed nectar sources to pollinating insects.



Three key projects - Exeter Wildlife Champions, Marine Champions and South Devon Wildlife Champions - enabled us to take our experience and messages to more than **60** schools, reaching **12,000** students.

45,000 people now see our daily news updates on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. **12,000** people also keep up to date with our local work via regular e-newsletters. If you don't receive these then turning your inbox wild is easy at www.devonwildlifetrust.org



England's last remaining colonies of narrow-headed ants at our Chudleigh Knighton Heath nature reserve became the focus of a project, **Back from the Brink**. Supported by The National Heritage Lottery Fund and working with partners at Buglife, work began, not only to secure the ant's future on the reserve, but to 'translocate' some nests, establishing new colonies at other Devon Wildlife Trust sites nearby.



In June we joined **15,000** people from other Wildlife Trusts and conservation groups at Westminster to take part in a mass lobby of MPs titled **'The Time is Now'**. Our Nora the Beaver attracted lots of attention as we pushed home messages about the need for urgent action from Government to address the climate crisis and other issues facing wildlife.

Our most successful **social media post** of the year, a film which explained the positive impact beavers can have in mitigating against the worst effects of flooding, was seen by **70,000** people around the world.



728 people conduct bat surveys in Devon as part of our **Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project**. The data they produce is combined with **184** landowner visits and **32** landowner workshops conducted by project staff to help ensure that a further **1,510** hectares of land is brought into good management for bats and wider wildlife.

Our Working Wetlands project helped Devon farmers secure **£3 million** of funding targeted at wildlife-friendly land management, with special focus on improving the health of local rivers.

In May we took on the management of **six** beautiful urban green spaces. The **Exeter Valley Parks** include stunning riverside, woodland and wildflower meadows. Together they attract more than **half a million** visitors each year.



Two of Devon Wildlife Trust's volunteer groups won accolades for their wildlife gardens in the annual **Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom awards**. Gardeners from Exmouth Local Group and Cricklepit Mill (DWT's Exeter headquarters) both secured 'Outstanding' in the 'It's your Neighbourhood Award' category.

The work of Active Neighbourhoods in **five** of Plymouth's most deprived neighbourhoods comes to an end after **three** years of engagement with local communities and Plymouth City Council. A resounding **84%** of people surveyed in those communities said they were now getting out and about more in **local green spaces** targeted by the project.

Wembury Marine Centre celebrated its **25th birthday** with another successful summer. In October Wembury's 'Bioblitz' - a **24** hour race to record as many species as possible attracted national TV coverage from **BBC Countryfile**. **1,310** species were discovered, including 610 never recorded before at Wembury.



333 people regularly gave their time and skills to volunteer for us. From Christmas card packing and answering wildlife helpdesk queries, to building boardwalks on nature reserves and undertaking bat surveys, **our volunteers make a huge impact on our work**.



Our Action for Insects campaign (a joint initiative with 19 other Wildlife Trusts) goes global after its launch in London in November. The campaign's messages around the drastic declines in insect populations are picked up by CNN, the World Economic Forum and Hollywood A-lister, Leonardo DiCaprio, who shared the campaign with his **38 million** social media followers!



2,500 school children visited our **Seaton Jurassic visitor attraction** - an increase of **61%** on the previous year. They were joined by more than **33,000** other visitors. Helping them enjoy their exploration of the Jurassic Coast's unique history are **50** regular volunteers who contributed nearly **2,700** hours of their time for free.

Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (hosted by DWT) trained more than **70** people, including many conservation professionals, helping them improve their plant ID skills. DBRC increased its own inventory of the county's natural heritage to **4.6 million** individual species records during the year.