

Glamorgan Bird Club CIO

Trustees report April 2020 - 31st Mar 2021

Trustees

The 'Zoom' meetings we had to introduce have proved very successful and convenient for us. We started these in June 2020, and it's likely that when things are 'back to normal', that we'll continue to use this platform some of the time as it removes the need for travel and there will be reduced venue hire and travel expense costs.

After being our Treasurer for more than 10 years, Anne Wilson is stepping down as a trustee. On behalf of the Membership and Trustees, I'd like to thank her for all her hard work, dealing with Auditors, the Bank, Insurance, the transition to a CIO, managing the NHLF grant for the Cardiff Bay Swift Tower, as well as day to day running of the club accounts. Thankfully, Ceri Jones, a previous committee member, has agreed to stand for election and to take on this post. Last May, Rebecca Carrington, our acting secretary, also left the Trustees - many thanks to her. We are still actively searching for her replacement so please apply if you'd like to join us.

Membership

Alan Rosney is our Membership Secretary. As of March 2021, there were 259 memberships. This is 41 less than last year. The Covid-19 pandemic has had an effect on renewals, so the Trustees agreed last year to be more flexible regarding late payment. Our initiative for giving free membership to under 21's will continue.

Venue

In March 2020 we were still able to use the Pyle Life Centre for our committee meetings, and Pencoed Welfare Hall for Club events, but since June 2020 all meetings have been conducted via Zoom.

Eastern Glamorgan Bird Report

John Wilson, with the help of the Eastern Glamorgan Recorder, Phil Bristow, and his team of section writers and proof readers, has produced the excellent 2019 Bird Report, and is now collating more than 100,000 records in preparation for the 2020 edition. Richard Smith, who has been photo editor of the Bird Report for many years, has stepped down this year. Tom Wright, one of our younger members, has taken up the challenge to continue his work. I'd like to formally thank Richard for his hard work and excellent contribution to the EGBR for the last 23 years.

Newsletter

Our informative and entertaining quarterly newsletter has continued to be produced by Alan Rosney, mainly online, due to the impact of the necessary and various lockdown restrictions making it difficult to access the company we use for printing. Thanks are also due to the many contributors.

Policies

These have been updated according to our schedule.

- * Our new Climate Change policy has been written by Rhos Williams, Strinda Davies, Rob Bradshaw and myself. One of the outcomes was that we should request a voluntary payment of £1 per person on our walks and field trips, towards our Carbon Offset yearly contribution, which is stated in the Policy. This is logged, and put into a separate account by the treasurer.

- * The Risk Assessment policy and the Health and Safety policy have been updated by Rhos Williams, Rob Bradshaw and Strinda Davies.

- * The Social Media policy and the Expenses policy have been updated by Strinda Davies.

* A Social Inclusion Statement has been agreed and displayed on the Website.

* A Donations & Sponsorship policy has been developed by Wayne Morris, Anne Wilson, Rob Bradshaw and Strinda Davies.

It is worth noting here that during this eventful period, no safeguarding concerns were reported.

Kenfig National Nature Reserve

Throughout the year the trustees have been very concerned about the future of KNNR and the impact on its birds due to the absence of a Reserve Warden. We have written to the Kenfig Corporation Trust (KCT) and requested a meeting to discuss those concerns and to offer help, advice and support for example with maintaining the Southern Hide. The Chair of the Trust has responded positively to our request for a meeting, but this is yet to be arranged. KCT, with advice from NRW, have recently appointed a Warden and a Reserve Manager. Four of the trustees had met with the new warden last week - this was a positive meeting and the feeling is that things will progress well with our involvement.

Publicity, Publications and Branding

We've found Social Media a good way to contact many of our members and this also attracts a lot of public interest.

Rhos Williams looks after our Twitter feed, with currently 1389 followers. While John Wilson and Alan Rosney post on Facebook, reaching 764 folk.

John Wilson ensures that the website is kept up to date and we are keen for the sightings page to be used more regularly.

Various items featuring our new club logo are available to buy from me, - badges, hats, caps, stickers, polo shirts etc. Details are on the website.

Conservation Projects

* Cardiff Bay Swift Tower. Work still goes ahead with our partners- the RSPB and the Cardiff Bay Harbour Authority, regarding maintenance. The call system has recently needed replacing and we are working to resolve this. Because publicity and education events have been postponed due to the pandemic, plans are being made to produce online education packs. So we are waiting with fingers crossed, hoping that swifts may find a nest site there this year!

* Other Swift Projects. Monitoring of Swift boxes in various locations is going ahead. A very small number of nests has been identified by the Club in an estate in North Cornelly. We have been in touch with the local housing association who have been very interested and agreed to work with us to install swift boxes and we have secured support from the Bridgend Local Nature Partnership to enable this to happen in time for the 2021 breeding season.

* Farm Feeding. The partnership with farmer John Evans at Ty'n-y-Caeau Farm in the Vale of Glamorgan and the Kenfig Ringing Group has continued, with GBC providing seed for winter feeding and for sowing the sacrificial crop.

* Nest Boxes. Production has continued, with boxes for various species being built – e.g. Kestrel, Little Owl, Swift, Dipper, Tits etc.. A special mention must be made about the work of Club member Howard Driver, who during lock down has produced countless numbers of boxes of various kinds.

* Willing For Willow Tits (WOS funded scheme). Wayne Morris has collated the results of the surveys and is at the stage of contacting landowners about conserving breeding habitat and supporting the breeding populations.. Because of the Covid-19 restrictions, this part of the project has been postponed, however Willow Tit boxes and rotted Birch logs are being made/collected. Thanks again to Howard Driver.

* The Club continues its links with the local authorities through the Local Nature Partnerships and provides a free copy of the annual Bird Report to each of the County Ecologists.

30 years anniversary

Rob Bradshaw has written an excellent informative newsletter article on bird related changes in Eastern Glamorgan over the last 30 years, and more work has been done on producing PDF guides for the 30 best birding sites in Eastern Glamorgan project.

Walks, Field Trips, Events

* Sadly as a consequence of the C-19 restrictions we have all faced, we weren't able to have our Big Birding Day.

* Some socially - distanced walks and field trips took place when restrictions were eased last year, and the booking system we had to introduce to manage numbers attending, and enable us to *track & trace*, worked well.

* Paul Denning, Alan Rosney, John Wilson and Wayne Morris, have produced another programme of walks, talks and field trips. The outings and live 'in person' indoor meetings will resume as soon as the relevant restrictions are lifted.

* Folk have enjoyed our popular and inspirational 'Zoom' talks, arranged in lieu of physical indoor meetings, including 'The Re-introduction of Golden and Sea Eagles in Wales' by Sophie-Lee Williams, 'Birding In North Africa' by Paul Bowden, Birding in Thailand by John Wilson, The Lost Peatlands Project by Mike Shewring, and of course Edward Mayer's talk on Swifts, which attracted more than 60 participants. More of these are planned throughout the Spring/Summer.

Birding highlights

The pandemic has had a major impact on all of our lives not least our customary ability to travel wherever we please to watch birds, often alerted to their presence by other birders via social media. For many of us still able to enjoy it, birding in 2020 meant exploring and/or rediscovering our local area, accessible on foot as part of permitted daily exercise. Given these constraining circumstances some of our members' local birding turned up some good birds. The outstanding highlight has to be the male Montagu's Harrier discovered in April at Ogmere by young Club member Tom Wright – the species was last seen in East Glamorgan in 1974. Also seen there was a fly-over Honey Buzzard in September. On the wildfowl front there were singles of Pink-footed and White-fronted Goose, Whooper Swan, Ring-necked Duck and Long-tailed Duck. Rare waders featured Avocet, Red-necked Phalarope and Grey Phalarope, and another amazing sight was 10 Cattle Egrets settling to roost in bushes at Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve in July.

Finally, I'd like to thank the Trustees and Volunteers for their continued commitment to this work throughout this very challenging year which brought with it stresses not experienced by any of us before. Our thoughts go out to all those whose lives have been affected by the very sad loss of family or friends.

We know that birding brings tremendous personal satisfaction and enjoyment and promotes well-being; we look forward to the times when we can once again experience this collectively.

Jean Haslam, Chair, for the Glamorgan Bird Club Trustees.

Glamorgan Bird Club CIO Income and Expenditure 01/04/20 to 31/3/21

	2021 Restricted	2021 Unrestricted	2021 Total	2020 Restricted	2020 Unrestricted	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Subscriptions		3436	3436	0	4075	4075
Willow Tit Grant (WOS)		0	0	0	0	0
Book sales		0	0	0	0	0
Merchandise sales		129	129	0	112	112
Nest Boxes		0	0	0	32	32
Donations and talks		912	912	0	692	692
GOS internet fee share		0	0	0	0	0
EGBR sales		11	11	0	31	31
Charity payments/gift aid		1622	1622	0	23	23
Proceeds - BB day		0	0	0	181	181
Indoor meetings		0	0	0	321	321
Swift Project (WOS)		0	0	0	0	0
Bank interest		21	21	0	47	47
Swift Grant (HLF)		0	0	21920	0	21920
Green Offset		<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	0	6151	6151	21920	5514	27434
Expenditure						
EGBR		1065	1065	0	1478	1478
Admin./Stationery		137	137	0	190	190
Internet		132	132	0	156	156
Postage		521	521	0	824	824
Farmland bird feeding		0	0	0	133	133
Newsletter		458	458	0	788	788
Merchandise		112	112	0	194	194
WOS fee x 2		100	100	0	50	50
Indoor meeting exp. (inc Zoom fee)		156	156	0	276	276
Insurance		0	0	0	303	303
Atlas (+ Analytics)		60	60	0	114	114
Travel expenses		0	0	0	339	339
Other		0	0	0	12	12
Swift Grant (HLF)	309		309	20098		20098
Swift Expenses (GBC)				0	92	92
Willow Tit Project (WOS)		69	69	0	0	0
BBD Expenses		0	0	0	103	103
Donation/Sponsorships		1181	1181	<u>0</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>
Includes Farmland bird feeding						
Stock used		<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>			
	309	4041	4350	20098	5252	25350
(Deficit)/Surplus	<u>(£309)</u>	<u>£2110</u>	<u>£1801</u>	<u>£1822</u>	<u>£262</u>	<u>£2084</u>

Glamorgan Bird Club CIO Balance Sheet 31/03/2021

	2021	2021	2020	2020
	£	£	£	£
Stock	600		650	
Debtors - M'ship Sec	<u>110</u>		<u>3</u>	
		710		653
Cash				
- Current	450		276	
- Deposit	<u>39,434</u>		<u>37,864</u>	
		39,884		38,140
		<u>40,594</u>		<u>38,793</u>
Represented by:				
Unrestricted funds:				
Members' fund brought forward	13,739		0	
Transferred from GBC	0		13,390	
Surplus for year	<u>2,110</u>		<u>349</u>	
Members' fund carried forward		15,849		13,739
Restricted funds:				
Swift fund brought forward	25,054		0	
Transferred from GBC	0		23,324	
(Deficit)/Surplus for year	<u>(309)</u>		<u>1,730</u>	
Swift fund carried forward		24,745		25,054
		<u>40,594</u>		<u>38,793</u>