

Glamorgan Bird Club, Trustees Report April 2023 – April 23rd 2024

Trustees

We have continued to meet using Zoom this year, finding this convenient, and carbon friendly.

We have been fortunate that Ceri Jones has continued in the role of Treasurer this year, dealing with the bank, independent examiner, insurers and managing the HLF grant for the Cardiff Bay Swift Tower, as well as the day to day running of the Club accounts. While we still don't have a Club Secretary, we have shared the tasks between us. Alan Rosney is Membership Secretary and with the support of John Wilson, has been instrumental in the club joining 'Membermojo', a company which deals with member subscriptions and communications, hopefully making them more efficient to manage. This will be assessed after the first year of use.

John Wilson is our webmaster, and looks after our social media channels on Facebook and X.

Daniel Jenkins-Jones, taking over from Wayne Morris, also began to attend our meetings as a representative of the BTO and WOS.

Congratulations to John Wilson who has received a Welsh Ornithological Society Lifetime Achievement Award for his decades of contributions to birding, notably his editorship of the East Glamorgan Bird Report for 24 years.

There have been no safeguarding issues to address this year.

Charity Commission Public Benefit Statement.

GBC Trustees are aware of, and have regard to, the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance whenever we exercise our powers to make decisions on aspects of GBC activity to which the guidance is relevant.

This applies to all GBC conservation projects, production of the annual East Glamorgan Bird Report and quarterly newsletter, field trips, KNNR walks, Birding Walks for Women, indoor and Zoom meetings, donations made, grants awarded, and sponsorship given.

East Glamorgan Bird Report – EGBR

Ceri Jones took on the task of producing the 2022 Bird Report, taking over the editorial role from John Wilson. This will be an electronic version only, and have a slightly different format, it will be more environmentally friendly and save on printing and postage costs and will provide opportunities for a more varied content.

Tate Lloyd one of our younger members, again took on the important task of photo editor. Our search for more species summarisers has continued.

Newsletter.

Alan Rosney continued to produce our much-enjoyed quarterly newsletter. All copies this year have been digital.

Many thanks to Alan.

Policies and Procedures.

These have been updated according to our schedule, many thanks to all Trustees involved.

Kenfig National Nature Reserve.

We continued to have a good relationship with Chris Jones, the warden. Chris with his few volunteers - including some club members - once again cut back the reeds in front of the hide, affording folk more opportunities for good views of the birds.

Looking forward, Chris is holding a Sand Dunes Day on 29th June, in which we plan to take part; volunteers are to be canvased to help with this.

Conservation Projects.

*Cardiff Bay Swift Tower. Completion and Evaluation Reports have been submitted to the satisfaction of the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The dialogue with Cardiff Bay Harbour Authority continues regarding Tower inspections and any maintenance. It was last inspected in March 2024, and found to be safe, with evidence that other birds had nested in some of the boxes.

*Other Swift Projects.

Porthcawl Swifts

Mary Gallagher spearheaded this project with great enthusiasm, persuading the Town Council to declare Porthcawl a 'Swift Friendly Town'. Bilingual leaflets designed by Swift champion Josella Hunt were distributed throughout the streets where swifts are known to breed and via community outlets. Several residents accepted the offer of nest boxes and installation, all paid for by Bridgend County Council's 'Local Places for Nature' funding.

Pyle & Kenfig Hill Swifts

Strinda Davies has been working with Pyle Community Council which, like Porthcawl, has declared the communities of Pyle & Kenfig Hill 'Swift friendly'. Once again, local

leaflets were designed and distributed to community outlets such as the library and as a result 8 residents have had nest boxes installed.

Bridgend Swifts

Strinda and Mary have advised a Bridgend resident on how to safeguard some of the Swifts breeding along Quarella Road, with input from Bridgend County Council's Biodiversity Policy Manager.

Across East Glamorgan

As well as being involved with the Swift Tower project and Cardiff Swifts in general, Alan Rosney has worked with housing developers in Barry and Merthyr, installing several boxes there. With practical help from Howard Driver he also supports projects in the Vale of Glamorgan.

*Farm Partnerships.

Our Farm Surveys continued at Cefn Colstyn, Ty Draw and Ty Tanglwyst, where we have installed and monitor nest boxes .

*Green Sandpiper Survey in the Vale of Glamorgan.

We have supported this Fledgemore project led by Dan Jenkins-Jones, with a group of volunteers and also involving Alan Rosney. This has been completed for this year, with a maximum of 16 being found. Due to the UK importance of these numbers, Dan has submitted a paper for the annual scientific journal of the Welsh Ornithological Society 'Milvus', and we are hoping that it will be published this year.

*Nest Boxes.

Many nest boxes were made and erected for various projects. Club members Howard Driver, Adam Rees and also Lyn Evans of Pencoed Collage once again produced many of different types, and we have had some donated by RCT and Merthyr Tydfil Local Nature Partnership. We secured funding from Bridgend LNP, 'Local Places For Nature', for the Swift box scheme benefitting Porthcawl, Pyle, Kenfig Hill, Bridgend Town and North Cornelly.

*Rookery Survey.

This was completed, and we are waiting for the outcome.

*Local Nature Partnerships

These groups are associated with the various local authorities in our area and have regular meetings covering many aspects of concern and development. Many thanks to our volunteers who attend these each of on our behalf and contributed to the production of Nature Recovery Action Plans.

Donations and Sponsorship.

The Donations and Sponsorship sub- group met regularly.

This year we donated to the BTO Youth, Chaffinch and Spotted Flycatcher appeals, nest boxes for Cefn Colstyn Ringing Group, Reed Bunting feeding at Kenfig NNR, joined the Flat Holm Society, and supported David Hibler, one of our Trustees to attend the WOS AGM at Aberystwyth on our behalf.

Full details and an application form for the Small Grants Scheme can be found on the website.

Publicity, Promotions and Branding.

Our social media platforms, managed by John Wilson and Alan Rosney, have again proved popular and useful for giving information and promoting our activities, attracting a lot of wider public interest.

Facebook page followers are approximately 1308, with monthly views of 2,500. Our X (formerly Twitter) stream has attracted 1801 followers, and GBC follows 143 users. John Wilson is also our Webmaster. The website is pretty active, with currently an average of weekly total of 534 visitors with 1,500 views. Various items featuring the Club logo are available to order from myself, as GBC Chair: badges, car stickers, hats, caps, polo shirts and fleeces.

Venue

A combination of face to face and Zoom indoor talks this year have both been popular. Pencoed Rugby Club is a convenient location, but we are willing to use other venues. One of our talks took place at Kenfig NNR.

We plan to continue using the mixed formats of in-person and Zoom meetings.

Walks, Field Trips and Indoor Talks

Led by Dave Carrington, myself, and occasionally John Western, our excellent much enjoyed Kenfig Public Walks went ahead as usual, with only one cancelled due to bad weather.

The Portland Observatory weekend proved as popular as ever.

Various locations near and far were enjoyed on our other bi-monthly field trips, led by John Wilson and Alan Rosney.

Members have enjoyed our Zoom presentations and in-person talks, organised by Paul Denning, throughout the year. Our Review of The Year was once again presented and illustrated by Tate Lloyd.

Full programmes of Field Trips, Walks and Talks for next year have been planned. A new initiative, prompted by us realising that these are offered by other clubs, led by Strinda Davies and myself, is our program of Birding Walks for Women. We plan to lead at least one of these each season, choosing areas not often covered in our main walks program, having fairly even paths, taking a leisurely pace, and hopefully with a cafe! Three have been held so far, - Park Slip NR, Cosmeston CP, and Bryngarw CP, and have been much enjoyed. We are planning that our next one will be in May.

Membership.

Membership fees for 2023/24 were once again frozen in light of the cost-of-living crisis. We have 291 Memberships this year, eight fewer than last year, making a total of 351 members when considering couples and family memberships.

We encourage young people to join the club, continuing to offer free membership to under 24's, and offer sponsorships for attending Bird Camps.

Sadly one of our members, Gareth Pryce, passed away this year. We also received the sad news that John Everett, a former member and indeed our treasurer for a few years, passed away in February. John's wife Pat was our secretary for the same period and we announced her passing in the 2023 AGM. Our thoughts are with all their families and anyone else who has lost a loved one.

Birding highlights during the year have included – Long Eared Owl at Nottage, a Snow Bunting at Nash Point, Bittern at various locations, Green Sandpiper numbers at Peterston-super-Ely, Long Tailed Duck in Cardiff Bay. Finally, as always, I'd like to thank all the Trustees and Volunteers for their hard work throughout the year, all the projects, walks, talks, and meetings depend on their input.

Jean Haslam, Chair, on behalf of the Glamorgan Bird Club Trustees

Glamorgan Bird Club CIO - Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Member Subscriptions	-	4,243	4,243	-	4,125	4,125
Gift Aid	-	2,452	2,452	-	-	-
Donations	-	610	610	-	582	582
Carbon Offset	-	349	349	-	388	388
Book/Bird Report Sales	-	35	35	-	135	135
Merchandise Sales	-	8	8	-	8	8
Nest Box Sales	-	179	179	-	252	252
Contribution to Swift Projects	-	1,136	1,136	-	-	-
Interest Received	-	633	633	-	150	150
Total	-	9,645	9,645	-	5,640	5,640
Expenditure						
Annual Bird Report	-	-	-	-	1,145	1,145
Newsletter	-	-	-	-	50	50
Postage	-	66	66	-	548	548
Nest Box materials	-	43	43	-	105	105
Admin/Stationery	-	64	64	-	129	129
Indoor/Zoom meetings	-	394	394	-	394	394
Cardiff Bay swift project	-	-	-	4,428	-	4,428
GBC website	-	240	240	-	133	133
Atlas website hosting	-	50	50	-	50	50
Pull-up banner	-	-	-	-	89	89
Gifts	-	22	22	-	4	4
Donation re Carbon Offset	-	280	280	-	418	418
Other donations	-	1,100	1,100	-	810	810
Affiliate memberships	-	80	80	-	115	115
Insurance	-	362	362	-	315	315
Bank charges	-	94	94	-	96	96
Travel expenses	-	335	335	-	102	102
Swift Project costs	-	272	272	-	-	-
Membermojo fee	-	95	95	-	-	-
Total	0	3,497	3,497	4,428	4,503	8,931
						-
Surplus/(Deficit)	0	6,148	6,148	-4,428	1,137	3,291

Glamorgan Bird Club CIO - Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	31/03/24	31/03/24	31/03/23	31/03/23
	£	£	£	£
Debtors - Membership Secretary	26		64	
Prepayments	<u>348</u>		<u>362</u>	
		374		426
Cash at Bank - Current Account	39		373	
Cash at Bank - Deposit Accounts	<u>42,600</u>		<u>36,066</u>	
		<u>42,639</u>		<u>36,439</u>
		<u>43,013</u>		<u>36,865</u>
Represented by:				
Unrestricted Funds:				
Members' Fund brought forward	17,371		16,234	
Surplus for the year	<u>6,148</u>		<u>1,137</u>	
Members' Fund carried forward		23,519		17,371
Restricted Funds:				
Swift Fund brought forward	19,494		23,922	
(Deficit) for the year	<u>-</u>		<u>4,428</u>	
Swift Fund carried forward		<u>19,494</u>		<u>19,494</u>
Total Funds carried forward		<u>43,013</u>		<u>36,865</u>