

Wildlife Gardening Forum

Trustees Report for Financial Year 2011-2012

The Wildlife Gardening Forum charity was set up in October 2010, with the twin objects:

To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of gardens and their biological diversity.

To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment and biodiversity of gardens and the consequent human health benefits.

Trustees for the past year were Helen Bostock, Pete Frost, Becky Groves, Jan Miller, Sarah Pitt, Andrew Salisbury, Ken Thompson and Caroline Ware. David Tatham served as Trustee for part of the year. Laura Brook attended meetings. Steve Head has acted as Coordinator and Secretariat.

Membership of the Forum has grown to 450 individuals (an increase of 17% on year) with representation from 225 organisations (8% increase). 36% of these are Wildlife Trusts and NGOs, 23% are commercial firms, 12% local and national government organisations. 9% are educational bodies, while 14% are community organisations, and 6% media bodies.

The charity's accounts this year end run 17 months from its foundation to its first formal year end at 5th April 2012. Income (including grants from Countryside Council for Wales and Natural England) exceeded expenditure leaving reserves of £3,812.72 in Unrestricted Funds.

Within the period we have held two successful conferences, in June 2011 at the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall, including the national launch of Jenny Owen's important new book "Wildlife of a garden: a thirty year study" and in November 2011 at the Mayville Community Centre. Members have received detailed summaries of the conference talks and newsletters sent out when sufficient material is accumulated. Several Forum members contributed to an important three-part television series "Bees, butterflies and blooms"¹ with Forum Patron Sarah Raven, on ways to help pollinating insects. The Forum also supported the RHS and Wildlife Trusts in the design and judging of the government sponsored "Big Wildlife Garden Competition"

Within the period, the Forum contributed to the Government's consultation on the Planning Policy Framework, with the positive result that measures protecting private gardens against development have been re-instated. We were a partner contributor and sponsor to "Planning for a Healthy Environment: good practice guidance for green infrastructure and biodiversity"², in which the importance of gardens as the most biodiverse part of urban green infrastructure is clearly made.

The Board has identified the principal development achievements needed to increase the reach, impact and financial sustainability of the Forum, and a Development Plan approved, which will be presented at the November conference. Funding to support the development project has been applied for from a private charity. We continue to seek to develop the Forum as a primarily coordinating and information sharing body, developing research and other projects through partnership action by its members.

The greatest priority for next year is to secure funding and implement the development plan. This will create a substantial website, and start to increase Forum Member involvement in the management and projects of the organisation.

SMH 21/12/2012

¹ www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b013pw23

² www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/Green-Infrastructure-Guide-TCPA-TheWildlifeTrusts.pdf

Wildlife Gardening Forum

Summary of Accounts to April 5th 2012

Representing 17 months transactions from creation of the Charity on 22nd October 2010
to first Year End on 5th April 2012

For presentation to AGM 28th November 2012

Income		Subtotals	Totals
Grants			
Natural England	£	1,500.00	
CCW	£	2,000.00	£ 3,500.00
Conference Income			
November 2010	£	1,750.00	
June 2010	£	1,775.00	
November 2011	£	1,090.00	£ 4,615.00
Total Income			£ 8,115.00

Expenditure

Conference costs			
November 2010	£	433.58	
June 2010	£	1,445.50	
November 2011	£	790.00	£ 2,669.08
Travel costs reimbursed	£	373.20	£ 373.20
Publication costs	£	200.00	£ 200.00
Administration consultancy	£	760.00	£ 760.00
Fundraising	£	300.00	£ 300.00
Total Expenditure			£ 4,302.28

Excess of Income over Expenditure **£ 3,812.72**

Bank Balance at Year End 13th April 2012
which constitute unrestricted reserves **£ 3,812.72**