

# Wildlife Gardening Forum

## Trustees Report for Financial Year 2012-2013

The Wildlife Gardening Forum charity was set up in 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. Laura Brook attended meetings. Steve Head has acted as Coordinator and headed the Secretariat.

Membership of the Forum has grown to 500 individuals (an increase of 11% on the previous year) with representation from 279 organisations (25% increase). 32% of these are Wildlife Trusts and NGOs, 22% are commercial firms, 12% local and national government organisations. 10% are educational bodies, while 14% are community organisations, and 10% media bodies.

In the Financial Year 2012-2013, the charity's income was £14,525.00, which included grants of £1,000 from Natural Resources Wales, and £9,690 from the Patsy Wood Trust (see below). Expenditure in the same period was £3,682.06. The excess of income over expenditure was £10,842.94, which is carried through as reserves to the next financial year, giving total accumulated reserves of £14,655.66. The greater part of these reserves is the Patsy Wood Trust grant, little of which was expended at the end of the financial year shortly after it was received. The Charity's Reserves are therefore divided into £9,565.97 Restricted (Development) funds and £5,089.69 Unrestricted Funds

Within the period we have held two successful conferences, in June 2012 at the Natural History Museum, with the theme "Lawns, Biodiversity and People" and in November 2012 at the Mayville Community Centre. The November conference was general in content, but with session themes of green roofs, and garden bird mortality. It is becoming clear that providing a strong theme to part or all of a conference is a considerable advantage. The conference proceedings have been written up and provided to members, together with four substantial newsletters.

The Guidance Document *Planning for a healthy environment: good practice guidance for green infrastructure and biodiversity* was launched on 9<sup>th</sup> July at the House of Commons. The Forum was a substantial contributor and signatory of this important document, which was coordinated by the Town and Country Planning Association and The Wildlife Trusts. Several of the Forum's Working Groups met during the year to develop our policies in specific work areas.

The Development Plan presented at the November 2012 AGM attracted funding totalling £15,012 from the Patsy Wood Trust, which was received towards the end of the Financial Year. The grant (which is being paid in two instalments) covers a number of important developmental tasks for the organisation, in particular creation of a major website, supporting our Working Groups, strengthening our linkages in Britain and abroad, and bringing the Wildlife Gardening Forum to Registered Charity status. The Forum is currently a Small Charity, but will need to register formally with the Charity Commission since its turnover (with the grant) now exceeds £5,000. Before the end of the financial year, the Forum Website's framework structure was created, and the planning of contributions from member organisations underway.

The principal task for the coming year will be the actions of the Development Project, especially the website and seeking new charitable status. The October AGM will include a resolution to allow the Trustees to transfer the assets of the current Small Charity once the Registered Charity is created.

# Wildlife Gardening Forum

## Balance Sheet for Financial Year 2012 - 2013

		SubTotals	Totals
<b>Income</b>			
Grants	Patsy Wood Trust	£9,690.00	
	CCW	£1,000.00	£10,690.00
Donations	Carbon Cutters Abingdon	£50.00	£50.00
Conferences	June 2012	£1,560.00	
	November 2012	£2,225.00	£3,785.00
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>£14,525.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<u>Website</u>			£24.65
WG Travel		£24.65	
<u>Working Groups</u>			£279.65
HH&W Travel		£18.40	
PI&PI Travel		£80.90	
Research Travel		£180.35	
<u>Conferences</u>			£3,124.38
Conference fee refunded		£25.00	
Conference Speakers Travel	June 2012	£275.15	
Conference Venue (November)	November 2012	£920.55	
Conference Catering	June 2012	£1,536.50	
Conference Catering	November 2012	£367.18	
<u>Trustees Board</u>			£144.00
Trustees Meeting Travel		£144.00	
<u>Office Costs</u>			£109.38
Office Consumables		£109.38	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>			<b>£3,682.06</b>
<b>Excess of income over expenditure</b>			<b>£10,842.94</b>
Bank balance at start of financial year			£3,812.72
<b>Fund balance at end of financial year</b>			<b>£14,655.66</b>
Sundry Debtors			£140.00
Sundry Creditors			-£233.23
At bank at 6th April 2013			£14,748.89
Actual fund balance			£14,655.66

The Charity's Reserves are divided into £9,565.97 Restricted (Development) funds and £5,089.69 Unrestricted Funds.