



Cymru News

Issue One - October 2017

Welcome to the first GWCT Cymru newsletter. GWCT Cymru launched at this year's Royal Welsh Show where new chairman Nick Williams stressed the need to raise awareness of conservation and game management across the country.

Talking at the CLA pavilion, Williams – a Cardiganshire boy whose father was in farming – got involved in shooting when he was in the steel business in Cardiff. He understands the vital link with conservation needed to produce a flourishing countryside in Wales that makes economic sense too.

He said: "When it comes to robust conservation research and policy, Wales is not having the influence it could or should have in UK terms. We need to get it better known and understood."

Sue Evans is GWCT Cymru director and who is at the forefront of engaging and reconnecting with the Trust members. She has worked on Welsh policy since Wales started to get devolved powers over the past 20 years ago. She is working on Welsh policy and providing written submissions into a variety of different consultations that affect membership such as the Natural Resources review on the Use of shooting on land managed by NRW and also Taking Wales Forward. Please look up: www.gwct.org.uk/wales

She comments: "When it comes to understanding conservation we believe that it's the farmers, gamekeepers and others working on the ground who can deliver the best outcomes for conservation."

"We need get people out on shoot walks to see for themselves the great work that is already been done by so many in producing fantastic conservation results. We also need to get these people trained up on all relevant courses to demonstrate best practice."



Sue Evans addresses the audience at the GWCT Cymru launch.

GWCT chief executive, Teresa Dent said: "At a time when the countryside, conservation, country sports, rural policy and practice are facing big changes, in the light of Brexit, it is vital that we work more closely with our members and partner organisations."

GWCT work in Wales includes satellite tagging woodcock as well as previously joining forces with both the CLA Cymru and FWAG Cymru on the Nature Fund which worked with two large scale moorland restoration projects. This scheme has now been used to shape the Sustainable Management Scheme under the Rural Development Programme attracting more moorland into action.

Lifting GWCT Cymru profile

There is a huge amount of conservation work already being done throughout Wales which needs recognising and highlighting.



Community engagement

In August U3A Hay came out to see for themselves the blooming heather on Ireland moor which is part of the Powys Moorland Partnership; now funded by the Welsh Sustainable Management Scheme under its Rural Development Programme. Gamekeepers and graziers walked & talked with the group and showed the restoration work carried out to produce thriving landscapes and how birds such as the lapwing, curlew all appear under the careful management of a grouse moor. During this week 100s of bee hives came to Ireland Moor where heather honey was successfully harvested.



Showcasing moorland management

Various Welsh Government officials have visited Ireland moor to understand what Welsh Landscapes are capable of producing to the benefit of everyone for future generations to enjoy. Following in the framework of the Nature Fund, the aim of the landscape scale collaboration projects is an opportunity to demonstrate what can be achieved in boosting biodiversity through species recovery as well as deliver some key outcomes to safeguard other ecosystem services such as water quality improvement, carbon sequestration, and reducing the risk of flooding. The overall ambition is to work collaboratively with all interested stakeholders to produce much greater results than would be possible by working alone. Using a team of experienced technical advisors working in co-production, the aim is to create a 'Cluster' of upland areas.



Welsh Minister visits Powys moorland

Kirsty Williams - Cabinet Secretary for Education – has been out onto the Powys Moorland partnership area to see what the vision is for the landscapes in Wales under the new initiative and to see how it can involve school children getting out to see for themselves the opportunities that can be tapped into. Getting children and volunteers in data capture will also be encouraged and hopefully inspire them to take up relevant jobs that involve natural history in the future.

Chris Davies MP for Brecon and Radnorshire has also been out on the moorland talking to the graziers and gamekeepers to see what challenges lie ahead and what actions can be put in place through the three year scheme that might present new opportunities post Brexit.



Silver Lapwing awards in Wales

Keri and Julie Davies were one of the seven Silver Lapwing finalists - again in Brecknockshire.

Over 100 people attended the prestigious FWAG award ceremony in September – now in its 40th year - which was held at last year's winner's Richard and Helen Roderick's farm near Brecon. Helen Barnes from FWAG Cymru commented on the success of the finalists again being in Wales: "It is lovely to see a traditional family farm embracing the future so wholeheartedly and receiving recognition for this from such experienced judges. Although the Silver Lapwing award did not stay in Wales this year we are very pleased that Keri and Julie were able to fly the flag for Welsh farms in the competition."

Sponsored by Waitrose, the award is for farmers who have demonstrated a real commitment to species and habitat conservation showing how they can integrate their environmental management with their overall farm business.

GWCT events in Wales



Sir Gareth Edwards speaks at the North Wales Dinner

Welsh rugby legend Sir Gareth Edwards will headline the dinner on 29 November in Llandudno. The North Wales dinner and auction will be held at St George's Hotel, on the Promenade at Llandudno, Conwy on Wednesday 29 November. Tickets are fast selling out please contact chairman of the GWCT North Wales committee Will Richards at northwales@gwct.org.uk or visit www.gwct.org.uk/wales

Shoot walk

The South East Wales committee clay shoot at Cefn Tilla Court on Friday 29 September by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Rob Evans was a huge success. Twenty three teams of four enjoyed some varied shooting laid out by Rob on nine different stands ending with a four man flush. Before a two course meal at the end of the day Roger Thomas auctioned some very generously donated lots helping to make a fantastic £12,000 for GWCT Wales

Congratulations go to:

The top team - Denval 2.

The top ladies team - Wild Things

High gun - Ray Webb

High gun ladies - Sian Thomas and Amy Thomas

CLA Cymru visits the Powys Moorland Partnership

CLA Cymru, GWCT Cymru and FWAG Cymru worked together on a joint initiative – the Nature Fund – back in 2013 to engage with moorland owners across Wales to regenerate moorland by reintroducing traditional methods of management. The aims were to improve the natural habitat for ground nesting birds and the grazing on the moorland but this time by using a new adaptive approach and working closely in collaboration with communities & other stakeholders.

This event will give an opportunity to see the work that has taken place on Ireland Moor, Painscastle, which is one of the

three moors involved in the Powys Moorland Partnership where the benefits for both the habitat and graziers can be seen with more gamekeepers now on the ground. Sponsored by GWCT Cymru the visit will be followed by a lunch. Waterproofs and wellies advised!

www.cla.org.uk/community/your-area/wales/cla-cymru-events/powys-moorland-partnership-visit

Celebration Day – 17 October

Landscape partnership in Shropshire and the Welsh Marches. Results of 14 projects, looking at various aspects of landscapes as well as looking at the challenges of the curlew population.

Please book your place to hear and see more. www.stiperstonsandcondon.co.uk/event/celebration/

CPRW Brecon & Radnor Event: The Future Of Our Hills - 21 October

A one-day seminar with expert speakers, open to all, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Knighton Hotel, Knighton, LD7 1BL. For further information and to book telephone 01497 821668.

Mary Colwell takes about curlews in Wales - 24 January

Where have they all gone and why? For more information and to book your place please see www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/welsh-curlew-workshop-tickets-36251733912

Workshops – 19 October

Painscastle community hall 10.30 – 3.30pm. Heather Trust will talk about heather and why it is getting rarer and why it is worth saving. PONT – 'Grazing is Amazing' initiative - will look at grazing by sheep, cattle and horses and why a bit of everything is best. How can it be achieved?

Job opportunities with GWCT Cymru

Two recruitment officers needed part-time, one in North and one in South Wales. To discuss these or other vacancies contact Alastair King, Head of Administration and Personnel, on 01425 651064 or email the human resources department at admin@gwct.org.uk.

Get involved

If you have any spare time and would like to support us you may wish to consider volunteering. Anyone interested in joining the GWCT Cymru committees please contact Sue Evans on sevans@gwct.org.uk

Stay informed

In order for us to keep you informed please make sure we have your e-mail address by sending it to wales@gwct.org.uk

Help us inform the Government

Can you tell us what your shoot is contributing to the local economy?

We are continually asked for evidence of the benefits that shooting provides. We are currently working to persuade NRW to continue to allow shooting on publicly owned land. In order to do this we could do with some evidence on how much these shoots contribute not only in environmental terms but also in economical and societal terms. If you are able to provide some figures and information please contact Sue on sevans@gwct.org.uk. If you are happy to help with future calls for information please get in touch and we will be delighted to hear from you.



Make sure you never miss the latest news and events by joining the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust

As a member of the Trust you will not only be helping to fund the scientific research, you'll be the first to hear about it

What you receive when you become a member

- ✓ Exclusive access to dozens of unique courses and events taking place throughout the year.
- ✓ Free copies of *Gamewise*, our feature-packed magazine produced three times a year.
- ✓ Your own free personal copy of our annual *Review*.
- ✓ Participation in the exclusive members' prize draw raffles.
- ✓ An invitation to the GWCT's Scottish Game Fair at Scone Palace.
- ✓ Regular email updates containing all our latest news and research findings.
- ✓ Membership of your local county group and invitations to events in your area.
- ✓ Pleasure from the knowledge that you're helping the British countryside thrive both now and in the future.



What our members say

"Belonging to an organisation that is so dedicated to preserving the countryside makes me proud to be doing my bit. The perks that come with it are just the icing on the cake."

"My GWCT membership is worth every penny. The Trust benefit from my contribution and I get to attend some fantastic events."

Three easy ways to join today

Phone 01425 652381
Online www.gwct.org.uk/join
Post GWCT, Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, SP6 1EF

