

Financial Statements  
for the year ended  
31 March 2009  
for  
Shropshire Wildlife Trust



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for the Year Ended 31 March 2009

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**TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS**

All members of the Council of trustees  
are directors of the company

**SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM:**

Director  
Development Manager  
Conservation Manager  
People and Wildlife Manager  
Finance Manager

Colin Preston  
John Hughes  
Jan Mckelvey  
Sara Bellis  
Helen Gilmour

**REGISTERED OFFICE:**

193 Abbey Foregate  
Shrewsbury  
SY2 6AH

**REGISTERED NUMBER:**

729746

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER:**

212744

**AUDITORS:**

Nicklin LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Registered Auditors  
Church Court  
Stourbridge Road  
Halesowen  
West Midlands  
B63 3TT

**BANKERS:**

HSBC  
33 High Street  
Shrewsbury  
SY1 1SL

**SOLICITORS:**

Turnbull & Garrard  
24 The Crescent  
Town Walls  
Shrewsbury  
SY1 1TJ

Shropshire Wildlife Trust  
(a Company limited by guarantee)

Report of the Board of Directors  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2009

The directors and trustees have pleasure in presenting their Report together with the audited accounts of the company for the year Ended 31 March 2009. Shropshire Wildlife Trust is a registered charity number 212744 and is a company limited by guarantee. The company number is 729746 and it is registered in England.

**THE TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

Company and charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees have:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- stated whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the statements; and
- prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis.

The trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has appropriate systems of controls, financial and otherwise. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**GOVERNING DOCUMENT**

The company is governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association, and was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1962.

**PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND BUSINESS REVIEW**

The principal activity of the company in the year under review was that of a wildlife charity. The major objects of the company are:

For the public benefit to promote the conservation of nature and nature resources and the advancement of knowledge in natural sciences, in particular by:

1. Research and advice
2. The establishment and management of conservation areas
3. Education

The key aim of Shropshire Wildlife Trust is to work towards and promote a Shropshire richer in wildlife. It seeks a progressive approach to nature conservation, acceptance of its aims by the public and integration into all community life. Shropshire Wildlife Trust seeks to achieve this by the following activities:

- Protects wildlife where you live
- Cares for 37 nature reserves
- Welcomes people on to its nature reserves
- Campaigns for wildlife and the environment
- Encourages people to enjoy nature
- Involves volunteers in practical nature conservation

Our OBJECTIVES are:

- To stand up for wildlife and the environment
- To create and enhance wildlife havens
- To inspire people about the natural world
- To foster sustainable living

Underpinned by operational objectives:-

- To be widely recognised and respected for our role and work
- To grow our resources for action and advocacy
- To cooperate effectively throughout the Wildlife Trust movement.

## OVERVIEW

The past year has seen significant developments but has also been a period of consolidation. The economic pressures which have affected society as a whole have had an impact on the Trust with some income sources being reduced and membership growth slowing.

The work of the Trust continues to be influenced by the most intense development pressure ever faced in the county. With population growth predicted to rise by around 25% in Shropshire by 2026, huge challenges to wildlife are pending. How the Trust reacts and reshapes its business is an important consideration for the next few years.

### Living landscapes

The Trust has continued to focus its efforts on the following areas: Meres and Mosses, Stiperstones, River Severn Corridor, Telford and the Wrekin. All are very different reflecting Shropshire's rich wildlife.

In the Meres and Mosses, the Trust continues to work productively with Tudor Griffiths Group at Wood Lane nature reserve near Ellesmere, providing an education base for north Shropshire schools. Linked to this has been the joint work with Shropshire Community Recycling Limited in creating a 'Secrets of Waste' programme for schools visiting the site. Linking lifestyle and the day-to-day actions of individuals to the impact on the wider environment and wildlife is critically important.

Some 200 people attended an event at The Hollies in August to celebrate the purchase of this ancient grove of trees and the 90 acres of heath and grassland around it. Adjacent to Brook Vessons nature reserve and the national nature reserve, the Hollies is a highly valued area and its purchase represents a significant contribution to the Stiperstones *Back to purple* vision. Interpretation has been installed, including an illustrative woodcut by a local artist, Bob Guy.

The final completion of the purchase of Holly Banks within the confluence of the Rivers Severn and Vyrnwy was a major achievement. Holly Banks brings us interesting new challenges, both in terms of wetland management and in addressing some of the difficult social and economic issues associated with flood management.

As Telford faces ever-increasing growth pressures we aim to ensure the survival of wildlife in its urban areas. An expanding population also brings extra recreational pressures on the surrounding countryside. This and many other issues are addressed in the Wrekin Forest conservation plan, drawn up by the Trust and agreed by a multitude of local organisations including Telford & Wrekin Council. Taking over four years to develop this has been a large piece of work. Equally impressive has been the voluntary effort that has gone into producing it and also into practical activity as the plan starts to be implemented. This has included restoration work on the hill fort at the top of the Wrekin and woodland and community projects throughout the Wrekin Forest. Landowner support, so essential to success, has been freely given.

The warm relationship forged with the Friends of Whitcliffe Common in Ludlow and the Plymouth Settled Estate over many years has culminated in the Trust taking on a lease of the Common and responsibilities for its management. This beautiful place is much appreciated by local people and visitors; its views among the most loved in Shropshire.

New opportunities have also been explored; in particular the potential for the Trust to become involved directly in the future management of the former Allscott sugar beet factory near Telford and the potential acquisition of 500 acres at Catherton Common under the Clee Hill. This latter site is possibly the richest botanical site in Shropshire.

### Standing up for wildlife

Continued efforts have been made to work with the many Wildlife Site (non-statutory sites of local wildlife importance) owners. While this is an ongoing task covering around 550 individual sites, the Trust estimates that around 70% are in favourable condition. Working closely with local authorities and Natural England is essential. The Trust strives to lead by example and of its own nature reserves an increasing number are in favourable condition.

Influencing local, regional and national conservation policy continues to be of great importance and the Trust manages regional policy work on behalf of all the West Midlands Wildlife Trusts. A review as to how this is implemented is underway. Within Shropshire all local MPs have been in close dialogue with the Trust over issues as diverse as the proposed badger cull opposed by the Wildlife Trusts, the flood management issues in the head waters above Shrewsbury and the formal opening of The Hollies on the Stiperstones.

Report of the Board of Directors (continued)  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2009

### Inspiring people

From school children to corporate supporters the Trust continues to encourage fascination for the natural world. We have worked with 25% of the schools in the county with 3,791 children.

The 200-year anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin was marked with the Darwin's Worms projects. Over 80 nursery schools received wormeries and discovered the world of compost with help from the Shropshire Master Composters. Treflach Farm, near Oswestry brought the first joint project between Trust and farmer in building education facilities on the farm for use by local school children but managed directly by the farmer.

An award from the Caterpillar Foundation has been used to increase the level of involvement in wildlife activities amongst families and young people in Shrewsbury. The Viva Veolia Youth Ranger project enabled young people to work at the Ercall nature reserve. The Carillion Natural Habitats Fund supported improvements to valuable bat habitat at DSDC Donnington and at Muxton Marsh.

The incredible effort of Trust Members and Branches cannot be under estimated. They are very much the eyes and ears of the Trust and local wildlife issues rarely go unnoticed.

### Membership

Membership remains very much the life blood of the Trust giving rise to financial stability and a supporter base which is essential for lobby and volunteering purposes. Trust membership recruiters worked at numerous venues across the county and in addition a significant number of new members were encouraged to join through the efforts of existing volunteers, Branches and staff.

### Organisation and Development

The internal workings of the Trust often go unnoticed but the efficient and cheerful manner in which general administration, finance and membership is managed is hugely appreciated. At our headquarters several improvements have been carried out including the addition of a sun pipe to the gallery, bringing natural light to a previously rather gloomy space. Meanwhile a small kitchen area has been installed in The Old Infirmary and new mats laid upstairs, enhancing its value as a conference venue.

### Finance

Incoming resources are £1,059,474 and resources expended were £919,784. This gave us net income for the year of £139,690. We received legacies from Mr HG Bebb, Mrs ME Cairns, Miss PS Davidson, Mrs E Higson, Mrs J Jackson, Miss BA Jones, Mrs VMW Ryle, Mr CJ Washington and Mr AAR Wilkes.

### Thanks

We wish to thank the many individuals and groups that have supported the work of the Trust over the past year in so many different ways. The various roles of staff, members and volunteers all contribute to the success of the organisation. We would also be quite unable to achieve our aims without the generous support of a host of companies, trusts and funding bodies that have provided both cash and help in kind over the past year.

Thanks are due to the following donors: Caradoc & Severn Valley Field Club, A & N Daniell Trust, Millichope Foundation, Whitley Animal Protection Trust, Woodpeckers Trust.

The following assisted with help in kind: Campaign to Protect Rural England, Raby Estate, Ricoh UK Products Ltd, Shropshire Master Composters, Treflach Farm, Tudor Griffiths Group and Veolia Environmental Services.

The following local authorities have supported us: Bridgnorth District Council, North Shropshire District Council, Oswestry Borough Council, Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council, Shropshire County Council, South Shropshire District Council, Telford & Wrekin Council.

We could not survive without the support of: Advantage West Midlands, Butterfly Conservation, Carillion, Caterpillar Foundation, Defra, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Heritage Lottery Fund, Natural England, Natural History Museum, Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, Shropshire Community Recycling Limited, Shropshire Regenerating Communities Action Plan, Shropshire Waste Partnership, The Tubney Charitable Trust, Tudor Griffiths Environmental Fund, V the youth volunteering charity, Veolia Environmental Trust, The Waterloo Foundation, West Midlands Regional Assembly.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust  
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Report of the Board of Directors (continued)  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2009

The Directors consider that the state of the company's affairs is satisfactory. There have been no important events affecting the business of the company since the year end, and the Directors do not expect any significant changes in the type of volume of business to be carried out in the future.

### **RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS**

The results of operations for the year to 31 March 2009 are as set out in the Statement of Financial Activities. The company is limited by guarantee and does not pay dividends.

### **SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES**

The company has one wholly-owned subsidiary company, Shropshire Wildlife Trading Company Ltd, a retailing company which started trading on 1 February 1991 but which has been dormant throughout the current and previous years and has no net assets.

### **FIXED ASSETS**

Acquisitions and disposals of fixed assets during the year are recorded in the Notes to the Accounts.

### **DIRECTORS**

All members of the Council of Trustees of the trust are directors of the company. No director has any beneficial interest in the trust, and none receives any remuneration for their services. During the year the following persons were directors of the company.

Chris Bayliss  
Paul Bell  
John Box  
John Brown  
Veronica Cossons  
David Currant  
Peter Deans  
David Green  
John Harrison  
Ann Hartley (resigned 20<sup>th</sup> September 2008)  
Brian Hogbin  
Robin Jagoe (resigned 20<sup>th</sup> September 2008)  
Malcolm Monie  
Jacqui Seymour  
John Sudd  
Ian Trueman

### **ORGANISATION**

The members appoint the Council of Trustees at the Annual General Meeting, and the Council then appoints President, Treasurer and Secretary at its first meeting. The Council may delegate any of their powers to committees consisting of such member or members of council as they think fit.

Council sets strategy through the Development Plan and it delegates implementation to the Director, staff and subsidiary committees. There are currently three subsidiary committees;

Members' Forum  
Finance Committee  
Personnel Committee

### **FINANCIAL RESERVES POLICY**

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the charity, at a level which equates to a minimum of six months' unrestricted expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to cover management and administration and support costs. This is considered adequate in view of the close link between direct charitable expenditure and incoming resources. Unrestricted funds are above this figure as we received an unexpected legacy.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

## **METHODS FOR APPOINTMENT OF NEW TRUSTEES**

The Trust has implemented a skills audit identifying the key qualities required with regards to its governance and regularly reviews this in relation to Trustees in post. The Trust actively seeks new Trustees where they would bring additional expertise that would be of benefit. A third of all Trustees stand down each year at the Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election by the Membership along with new candidates. All new Trustees are provided with literature guiding them as to their duties and appropriate introductory meetings are held.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

A rolling five year Development Plan is updated annually and includes strategic objectives, five year aspirations and detailed annual work programmes and budgets. Management accounts are considered monthly by the Senior Management Team and on a quarterly basis by the Finance Committee. The work programme is reviewed fully twice yearly against set targets by the Council of Trustees. They also consider detailed areas of performance at quarterly meetings, at a Members' Forum involving wider voluntary involvement and on field visits as necessary. Detailed measures of success achieved are disclosed in the paragraphs above describing different areas of work.

## **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

The following five year targets are defined in the Development Plan and are influenced by partnership working with other Wildlife Trusts working at the regional and UK levels.

Living landscapes - to create large areas of high quality habitat accessible to wildlife and people

- Improve public awareness and understanding of the environmental importance of the Meres and Mosses

- Develop Wood Lane as a centre of excellence for formal education and life long learning

- Encourage promotion and understanding of the Stiperstones area as a unified landscape

- Expand the restoration of habitat beyond *Back to purple* to encompass the Long Mynd and Earl's Hill

- Link work in the Severn/Vyrnwy confluence to similar initiatives up and downstream

- Influence decision makers to manage floodplains to favour biodiversity

- Establish a new community structure for the care of Telford's green infrastructure

- Conserve and expand existing high quality habitat in the Clee Hills and Teme Valley

- Identify opportunities for nature conservation and public engagement in Oswestry Hills, Tern Valley and Clun Forest

Standing up for wildlife - to influence land use and management policy encouraging integration of social, economic and environmental benefits to Shropshire

- Provide data gathering and management systems linked to the Shropshire Biodiversity Action Plan

- Be represented on a range of county and regional advisory groups and committees

- Improve the quality and integrity of our nature reserves, ensuring they are in favourable condition

Inspiring people - to inspire people about the natural world

- Raise awareness and understanding of the benefits of a wildlife-rich environment for everyone

- Develop a relevant and sustainable suite of products for schools

- Increase the range of quality opportunities for people of all ages to enjoy and learn about nature

- Help branches to contribute to an integrated programme of public events

- Improve public interpretation and education at the Trust headquarters

- Increase our capacity to work with volunteers and increase the knowledge and skills of volunteers

Foster sustainable living

- Understand and minimise the carbon footprint of the Trust

Recognition and respect - to be widely recognised and respected for our role and work

- Develop a coherent brand and develop a communication strategy that recognises our broad range of audiences

- Play a part in regional and national Wildlife Trust communications including new media and types of communication

Resources - to increase our resources for action and advocacy

- Increase individual and corporate membership, volunteering and sponsorship opportunities

- Improve membership retention through targeted events

- Put in place an annual appeal programme and develop legacy and major donor campaigns

- Recruit a Development Officer to help maximise income from funding opportunities

- Increase HQ visitor numbers and spend, increase occupancy rates for conference room hire

- Explore opportunities for relocating the reserves management function to another site



Shropshire Wildlife Trust  
(a Company limited by guarantee)

Report of the Board of Directors (continued)  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2009

**Organisation and Governance**

Ensure we have appropriate internal policies and pursue best practice in all our work  
Ensure that our governance and staffing best meets our organisational needs  
Ensure that we comply with all legal duties, are cost effective and that we focus on our strategic aims.

**INVESTMENT POLICY**

In accordance with the Trustees' custodianship objectives the financial assets are largely invested in secure bank deposits so as to achieve the best rate of return compatible with that security.

**STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS**

So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by section 234ZA of the Companies Act 1985) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

**AUDITORS**

A resolution for the Re-appointment of Nicklin LLP as auditors to the company will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Brian Hogbin – Director

Date :

Handwritten signature of Brian Hogbin and the date 21/07/09.

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of  
Shropshire Wildlife Trust  
(a Company limited by guarantee)

We have audited the financial statements of Shropshire Wildlife Trust for the year Ended 31 March 2009 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein and the requirements of the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2007).

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors**

The trustees' (who are also the directors of Shropshire Wildlife Trust for the purposes of company law) responsibilities for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) are set out in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you whether in our opinion the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the charity has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding trustees' remuneration and transactions is not disclosed.

We read the Trustees' Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

#### **Basis of audit opinion**

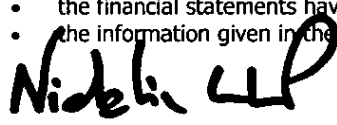
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

#### **Opinion**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2009, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, in the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985; and
- the information given in the Trustees' Annual report is consistent with the financial statements.

  
NICKLIN LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors  
Church Court  
Stourbridge Road  
Halesowen  
West Midlands  
B63 3TT

Date: 30th July 2009

Shropshire Wildlife Trust  
(a Company limited by guarantee)

Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2009

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds 2009 £	Total funds 2008 £
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	3	358,212	37,690	395,902	444,059
Activities for generating funds	4	40,996	-	40,996	35,788
Investment income	5	20,064	-	20,064	29,171
Incoming resources from charitable activities	6	176,550	425,962	602,512	685,747
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b><u>595,822</u></b>	<b><u>463,652</u></b>	<b><u>1,059,474</u></b>	<b><u>1,194,765</u></b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Costs of generating funds					
Costs of generating voluntary income	7	157,163	-	157,163	140,843
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs	8	8,505	-	8,505	7,622
Charitable activities	9	302,339	384,542	686,881	660,765
Governance costs	10	<u>67,235</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>67,235</u>	<u>60,147</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b><u>535,242</u></b>	<b><u>384,542</u></b>	<b><u>919,784</u></b>	<b><u>869,377</u></b>
<b>Net income for the year</b>		<b><u>60,580</u></b>	<b><u>79,110</u></b>	<b><u>139,690</u></b>	<b><u>325,388</u></b>
Net movement in funds		60,580	79,110	139,690	325,388
<b>Balances brought forward At 1 April 2008</b>		<b><u>410,238</u></b>	<b><u>1,515,120</u></b>	<b><u>1,925,358</u></b>	<b><u>1,599,970</u></b>
<b>Balances carried forward At 31 March 2009</b>		<b><u>470,818</u></b>	<b><u>1,594,230</u></b>	<b><u>2,065,048</u></b>	<b><u>1,925,358</u></b>

The notes form part of these Financial Statements

Shropshire Wildlife Trust  
(a Company limited by guarantee)

Balance Sheet  
31 March 2009

		2009		2008	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS:</b>					
Tangible assets	12		1,468,232		1,293,617
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>					
Stock		9,747		10,511	
Debtors	13	160,309		297,014	
Branch net assets		8,481		7,141	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>647,998</u>		<u>714,307</u>	
		826,535		1,028,973	
<b>CREDITORS:</b> Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>229,719</u>		<u>397,232</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS:</b>			596,816		631,741
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>			<u>2,065,048</u>		<u>1,925,358</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted funds	15		470,818		410,238
Restricted funds	15		<u>1,594,230</u>		<u>1,515,120</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>			<u>2,065,048</u>		<u>1,925,358</u>

These Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2007).

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:**

 21/07/09.

Approved by the Board on 14 July 2009

The notes form part of these Financial Statements

1. **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

(a) **Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2005), the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2007) and the Companies Act 1985.

The statement of financial activities (SOFA) and balance sheet represent the results and financial position of the parent company. The subsidiary undertaking, Shropshire Wildlife Trading Company Limited, has not been included since, as indicated in the trustees' report, that company has now no net income or net assets. It is therefore considered not material to the group and has been excluded as permitted by paragraph 383 of the SORP.

The charity has availed itself of Paragraph 3 (3) of Schedule 4 of the Companies Act and adapted the Companies Act formats to reflect the special nature of the charity's activities.

(b) **Company status**

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the trustees named on page 5. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the company.

(c) **Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The specific aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Assets are transferred from restricted to unrestricted funds if there is a surplus when the conditions attached to the original income have been met and the donor does not require a repayment.

Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity, principally investments. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges and legal advice relating to the fund are charged against the fund.

(d) **Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA gross and when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Subscriptions are included on a receipts basis.

Legacies are included when received or when receipt is considered certain and the values can be reliably measured.

Gifts in kind are included at trustees' estimate of market value and recognised as income when they are received. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

(e) **Resources expended**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

1. **ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

(f) **Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives at the following annual rates:

Land and buildings	Not depreciated
Freehold improvements	25% on cost
Computer equipment	33% on cost
Other plant and equipment	25% on cost
Motor vehicles	25% on cost

(g) **Stock**

Stock is included at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(h) **Pensions**

The Trust contributes to defined contribution pension schemes on behalf of its employees. Contributions are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities as they are paid. The assets of the schemes are held separately from the Trust in independently administered funds.

2. **OPERATING SURPLUS**

The operating profit is stated after charging:

	2009 £	2008 £
Depreciation - owned assets	17,184	19,202
Auditors' remuneration	<u>4,109</u>	<u>3,265</u>
Directors' emoluments and other benefits etc	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

3. **VOLUNTARY INCOME**

	2009 £	2008 £
Members' subscriptions	261,193	244,123
Donations	73,466	75,394
Legacies	55,847	120,974
Income from branches	<u>5,396</u>	<u>3,568</u>
	<u>395,902</u>	<u>444,059</u>

4. **ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS**

	2009 £	2008 £
Retail sales – fundraising sales	13,935	12,617
Room hire and other	<u>27,061</u>	<u>23,171</u>
	<u>40,996</u>	<u>35,788</u>

5. **INVESTMENT INCOME**

	2009 £	2008 £
Bank interest	<u>20,064</u>	<u>29,171</u>
	<u>20,064</u>	<u>29,171</u>

**6. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	2009 £	2008 £
Capital grants received	127,152	249,100
Conservation land management	70,826	91,983
Standing up for wildlife	227,078	137,796
People and wildlife	122,024	159,266
HQ Reception	1,918	3,736
Marketing & development	16,124	8,526
Organisation	7,776	8,864
Income from branches	-	(337)
Retail sales – charitable sales	29,614	26,813
	<u>602,512</u>	<u>685,747</u>

**7. COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME**

	2009 £	2008 £
Membership recruiting	48,464	39,794
Services to members including newsletter costs	46,417	37,337
Marketing and development costs	58,226	59,810
Branch activity	4,056	3,902
	<u>157,163</u>	<u>140,843</u>

**8. FUNDRAISING TRADING: COST OF GOODS SOLD AND OTHER COSTS**

	2009 £	2008 £
Retail costs – fundraising sales	8,505	7,622
	<u>8,505</u>	<u>7,622</u>

**9. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	2009 £	2008 £
<b>Direct charitable activities</b>		
Conservation land management	130,017	121,854
Standing up for wildlife	235,755	194,838
People and wildlife	130,661	159,181
Branch expenditure	-	15,741
Retail costs – charitable sales	18,073	16,198
	<u>514,506</u>	<u>507,812</u>

**Support Costs**

	2009 £	2008 £
HQ Reception	61,741	53,133
Support services	110,634	99,820
	<u>172,375</u>	<u>152,953</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>686,881</u>	<u>660,765</u>

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10. **GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	2009 £	2008 £
Staff costs	21,426	19,836
Legal and professional costs (including Audit)	5,265	3,522
Office costs	40,544	36,789
Depreciation of equipment	182	-
	<u>67,235</u>	<u>60,147</u>

11. **TOTAL STAFF COSTS**

	2009 £	2008 £
Wages and salaries	427,038	397,971
Social security costs	36,756	34,455
Pension costs	20,974	15,861
	<u>484,768</u>	<u>448,287</u>

The average monthly numbers of employees during the year is as follows:	2009	2008
Charitable activities	25	24
Management and administration	4	4
	<u>29</u>	<u>28</u>

Many of above work part-time, the full time equivalents was 19 (2008: 19). No employee earned over £60,000. The numbers shown above do not include members of the Board of Directors, none of whom receive any remuneration or expenses.

12. **TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Land and buildings	Fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles	Totals
	£	£	£	£
<b>COST:</b>				
At 1 April 2008	1,276,762	28,216	43,701	1,348,679
Additions	177,152	14,647	-	191,799
Disposals	-	(12,658)	-	(12,658)
At 31 March 2009	<u>1,453,914</u>	<u>30,205</u>	<u>43,701</u>	<u>1,527,820</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION:</b>				
At 1 April 2008	-	19,888	35,174	55,062
Charge for year	-	8,657	8,527	17,184
Disposals	-	(12,658)	-	(12,658)
At 31 March 2009	-	<u>15,887</u>	<u>43,701</u>	<u>59,588</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE:</b>				
At 31 March 2009	<u>1,453,914</u>	<u>14,318</u>	-	<u>1,468,232</u>
At 31 March 2008	<u>1,276,762</u>	<u>8,328</u>	<u>8,527</u>	<u>1,293,617</u>



**13. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2009 £	2008 £
Trade debtors	35,376	48,655
Other debtors	86,546	226,770
Prepayments	<u>38,387</u>	<u>21,589</u>
	<u>160,309</u>	<u>297,014</u>

**14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2009 £	2008 £
Trade creditors	57,573	241,966
Other creditors and deferred income	123,756	119,105
Tax and social security	16,761	11,931
Accrued expenses	<u>31,629</u>	<u>24,230</u>
	<u>229,719</u>	<u>397,232</u>

The movement in Other creditors and deferred income represents:

	£	
Balance at 31 March 2008	119,105	118,782
Less: Released in the year	(186,391)	(184,883)
Add: Income deferred in year	<u>191,042</u>	<u>185,206</u>
Balance at 31 March 2009	<u>123,756</u>	<u>119,105</u>

15. **STATEMENT OF FUNDS**

	1 April 2008 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	31 March 2009 £
Endowment fund : Capital reserve	1,295,330	127,152	8,691	10,253	1,424,044
Restricted income funds:					
Reserves appeal fund	20,300	-	-	(10,253)	10,047
Conservation Land Management: Back to purple Appeal including Nipstone	60,177	-	-	-	60,177
Conservation Land Management: Lower Short Ditch Turbary/Rhos Fiddle reserves	1,944	-	81	-	1,863
Conservation Land Management: Earls Hill	13,745	703	1,625	-	12,823
Conservation Land Management: Bwlytai Woods	5,278	-	197	-	5,081
Conservation Land Management: Oswestry projects funded by a Charitable Trust	3,402	3,300	2,452	-	4,250
Conservation Land Management: Wern Moss	-	4,307	4,307	-	-
Conservation Land Management: Wild Skills in the Oswestry Hills	-	6,535	6,535	-	-
Conservation Land Management: Nature Reserves Appeal	14,016	5	166	-	13,855
Conservation Land Management: The Hollies Appeal	50,062	14,893	21,022	-	43,933
Conservation Land Management: Wetlands for Water Birds	-	19,493	43,755	24,262	-
Standing up for Wildlife: Lapwing Appeal	27,239	-	2,977	(24,262)	-
Standing up for Wildlife : Regional Initiative	-	54,052	54,052	-	-
Standing up for Wildlife: WM Biodiversity Partnership Projects	-	23,811	23,811	-	-
Standing up for Wildlife: Wrekin Appeal, Wrekin Conservation Plan & Wrekin Forest	23,305	58,675	63,823	-	18,157
Standing up for Wildlife: Telford Green Network	-	17,434	17,434	-	-
Standing up for Wildlife: Source to the Sea	-	15,200	15,200	-	-
Standing up for Wildlife: OPAL project	-	1,866	1,866	-	-
Standing up for Wildlife: Water bat project	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
People & Wildlife: Wood Lane	-	27,124	27,124	-	-
People & Wildlife: Secrets of Waste	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
People & Wildlife: Darwin's Worms	-	4,167	4,167	-	-
People & Wildlife: Wrekin's Worms	-	4,276	4,276	-	-
People & Wildlife: Treflach Farm	-	10,036	10,036	-	-
People & Wildlife: Making More of the Meres & Mosses	-	28,080	28,080	-	-
People & Wildlife : Wood Lane Development	-	13,685	13,685	-	-
People & Wildlife : Viva Veolia Youth Rangers	-	18,858	18,858	-	-
Ellesmere Branch : Birch Road Pond	332	-	332	-	-
Whitchurch Branch : Water Voles Project	(9)	-	(9)	-	-
	<u>1,515,120</u>	<u>463,652</u>	<u>384,542</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,594,230</u>
Designated funds	13,195	1,125	2,277	-	12,043
General reserve	220,000	-	-	-	220,000
Revenue surplus	177,043	594,697	532,965	-	238,775
Total unrestricted funds	<u>410,238</u>	<u>595,822</u>	<u>535,242</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>470,818</u>
Total funds	<u>1,925,358</u>	<u>1,059,474</u>	<u>919,784</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,065,048</u>

**15. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)**

**Restricted Funds:**

The Capital Reserve Fund is the total of grants received for capital items and purchase of land. The CAT Foundation paid for £2,000 of improvements to the visitor centre in Shrewsbury. A grant of £125,000 from the Waterloo Foundation financed the purchase of Holly Banks, funds were transferred from the Reserves Appeal Fund to make up the shortfall in monies raised through the Lapwing and Wetland for Water Bird appeal. The expenditure on the fund is amortisation of grants given for fixed assets.

**Conservation Land Management:**

An appeal was made for funds to allow the purchase of Ossmere as a Trust reserve, the purchase failed as the vendor accepted a higher offer, the balance of £5,000 was placed in a Reserves Appeal Fund to allow a more rapid response to such an opportunity in the future. £40,000 was received from the winding up of Shropshire Conservation Development Trust and £24,700 was used to partly finance the acquisition of Rhos Fiddle in 2001. £10,253 was transferred to the Capital Reserve Fund as described above.

Funds for the Back to purple Appeal were first received in 1999 and Brook Vessons was purchased in 2001, a public appeal was made in order to purchase Nipstone Rock in 2006. A grant from the Tubney Fund was awarded to acquire and manage the site. Further works are underway to restore the sites and to progress the Back to purple initiative.

Lower Short Ditch Turbary was acquired in 2006 and is managed as a unit with nearby Rhos Fiddle reserve. The balance of funds is for future management of the two sites.

A public appeal was run to acquire and manage an extension to the Earls Hill reserve, grants were received from the Countryside Agency and Heritage Lottery Fund. The balance on the fund is for future management.

In 2006 Mrs Gledhill donated Bwlytai Woods and in 2007 she made a donation of £5,000 earmarked for future management, the Friends of Bwlytai Woods made a further donation, this is being drawn down as work carried out.

A donation was received from a Charitable Trust to manage the reserves in the Oswestry Hills and to run volunteer training courses. Additional funds were received to work towards the designation of a Local Nature Reserve in the town.

Funds were received from Defra to remove scrub from Wern Moss.

Volunteer skills were enhanced and capital works undertaken in the Oswestry Hills and South Shropshire reserves thanks to grants received from SCC Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund and Shropshire Regenerating Communities Action Plan.

An appeal to raise money for projects on the Nature Reserves took place in 2007, pond work at Melverley Farm has been carried out. The tree felling at Hope Valley has been deferred until the price of timber improves.

A public appeal raised money for the purchase and future management of The Hollies, part of the Stiperstones, funds were also received from Tubney Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund to manage the site and to run events on it.

The Wetlands for Water Birds appeal was to raise money towards the purchase of Holly Banks, a management plan was drawn up by contractors and the land was cultivated for the season considering the farmland birds. Surplus funds from the Lapwing appeal were transferred into this fund.

**Standing up for Wildlife**

There was an appeal for funds for Lapwing conservation work in 2002 and additional grants were received from the Environment Agency to finance farm visits and practical measures to improve the breeding success of lapwing and other farmland birds. A further appeal was made in 2005 to fund ongoing works and grant aid was received from Natural England in 2007. £2,977 was used to continue the project and surplus transferred to Wetlands for Water Birds Appeal.

The Regional Initiative is managed on behalf of the six Wildlife Trusts in the West Midlands Government region. Funding was received from Natural England and other partners to manage projects on behalf of the West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership.

A section of The Wrekin came on the market in 2004 and a public appeal was run to raise funds for its purchase, the acquisition did not happen but additional monies were received from Shropshire Horticultural Society and the Aggregates

**15. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)**

Levy Sustainability Fund to purchase and restore Forest Glen. A visitor survey to inform the wider Wrekin Forest Conservation Plan was carried out in 2005/06 and Forest Glen was landscaped and interpretation put in place. The Wrekin Forest project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Shropshire Hills AONB, and public appeal worked with landowners to create a Conservation Plan. Additional funds to support the project and finance capital works in the Wrekin Forest were received from the Borough of Telford & Wrekin and the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund. Further activity is being generated as a result of the Conservation Plan and the community driven proposals it contains.

A grant was received from Heritage Lottery Fund for a project involving the community in the Telford Green Network.

A grant was received from the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts Sustainable Development Fund to run a collaborative project with other Wildlife Trusts along the course of the River Severn and Wye as an example of a Living Landscape.

The Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) grant was received from the Natural History Museum to work with Sheffield Wildlife Trust and other, local, wildlife groups to undertake research into why people get involved in natural history groups.

A grant was received from the Carillion Natural Habitats Fund to improve the habitat on Defence Estates land at DSDC Donnington and on Muxton Marsh for Daubenton's Bat. Interpretation panels were created and volunteers did practical work and took part in events.

**People & Wildlife**

The Wood Lane project is funded by Landfill Tax credits received from the Tudor Griffiths Group in Ellesmere, school groups and individuals visit the former sand and gravel workings where there are teaching and public hides.

Shropshire Community Recycling Ltd awarded a grant of £5,000 to develop a teaching resource at Wood Lane called the Secrets of Waste. Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council awarded a grant from the Darwin 200 Fund to develop a Teachers' Pack to accompany free wormeries for nursery schools in the district, the Master Composters assisted with this. Funds have been received from the Borough of Telford & Wrekin Telford Culture Zone to extend this work and include art activities.

A grant was received from SCC Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund to renovate a redundant farm building, set up a classroom and compost toilet and run a Forest School at Treflach Farm in the Oswestry Hills.

A grant was received from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund to work at Wood Lane and the SCC nature reserve at Colemere. Funds were received from the Heritage Lottery Fund to plan the development of Wood Lane nature reserve.

Funds were received from V and the Veolia Environmental Fund for the Viva Veolia Youth Ranger project at The Ercall.

**Branch activities**

The movement on the restricted income funds was simply the transfer of funds to /from the branch bank account.

**Unrestricted funds:**

**Designated funds:**

A wildlife projects fund was set up in memory of Clive Tate who died in 2006. He was the Trust's first employee and later worked as a volunteer winning us many supporters. The Hilda Murrell and Reg Harrison summer forum and Leighton Fund are also designated funds, it was agreed by Council to combine these three funds into one. The fund is used to support specialist wildlife groups in the county by providing small grants to finance their volunteer-led conservation activity. To date, £3,845 has been grant aided and a further £1,850 committed.

**General reserve:**

A general reserve has been created, whereby it is hoped to build up financial reserves for unforeseen possibilities amounting to approximately six month's core running costs.

**Revenue surplus:**

Legacies totalling £55,847 were received in the course of the year.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust  
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16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Total £
Restricted funds	1,468,232	125,998	1,594,230
Designated funds	-	12,043	12,043
Other unrestricted funds	-	458,775	458,775
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,468,232</b>	<b>596,816</b>	<b>2,065,048</b>

17. PENSION COSTS

Pension contributions paid by the Trust on behalf of its employees amounted to £20,974 (2008: £15,861).