

Cotswold Way Association

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

Year Ended 31st March 2018



Structure and Governance

The Cotswold Way Association (CWA) was established on 13th May 2016 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a Constitution based on the "Association Model" provided by the Charity Commission. It was registered by the Charity Commission on 16th May 2016.

Charity number - 1167094.

Registered Office - The Barn, Woodlands Farm, Watery Lane, Doynton, Bristol. BS30 5TB

The Initial Trustees were selected on the basis of their volunteer work for the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens and the Ramblers and their dedication to the Cotswold Way National Trail. The Trustees have remained unchanged since the CWA was established and at 31st March 2018 are :-

Mr John Alfred BARTRAM (Chair)
Prof Alan James HOOPER (Secretary)
Mr Cecil Philip COATES
Mr John Colin HUNT
Mr Simon Garfoot MALLATRATT
Mrs Mavis REAR
Prof Margaret Elspeth REID
Prof. Keith Francis SISSON

It is the intention of the Initial Trustees that the management of the CWA should be continually refreshed by the appointment of new trustees in order to ensure a continual regeneration and openness to new ideas and inputs. In pursuit of this objective, one-third of the charity trustees shall, by rotation, retire from office at each AGM. A retiring trustee is eligible for reappointment but may not be reappointed for a third consecutive term if they have served for two consecutive terms. It is hoped that new trustees will be recruited from CWA members at the AGM and other events.

During the period under review the Trustees have held three meetings. In addition the first AGM of the charity was held on 4th August 2017 and attended by 12 members.

Objectives and Public Benefit

The objectives of the CWA, as stated in the Constitution are... *"To promote the conservation and protection of the Cotswold Way National Trail and the surrounding environment of the Cotswold Way National Trail and its habitats (including the Cotswold Way Circular Walks, linking and access routes and other named trails in the area) for the public benefit."*

The CWA's objectives for the continual improvement of the Cotswold Way and other trails will bring the following benefits to the community :-

- *Conservation of a particular geographical area:* The Cotswold Way follows the scarp of the Cotswolds for over 100 miles. It passes through a significant amount of the remaining unimproved limestone grassland of the UK, and much ancient woodland. The CWA hopes that supporting habitat recovery, maintenance and monitoring projects close to easily accessible routes will not only be directly beneficial but increase the public awareness and understanding of such work.
- *Economic or community development/ Employment:* Walking the Cotswold Way and the other routes in the area is a significant tourist attraction to visitors from both the UK and abroad. These longer routes require overnight stops, increasing the economic gain for the area.
- *Advancing health :* The health benefits of walking are very well known and promoting walking has been an active NHS policy for many years. By providing well-maintained and well-signed routes, the increased health benefit of longer walks can be made available to people who are unsure of their navigational skills and/or unused to the public footpath system.
- *Promotion of volunteering :* The Cotswold Way is entirely cared for by volunteer wardens. 25 area wardens routinely patrol and do minor works 4-5 miles each, and volunteer co-ordinators arrange for work parties for larger tasks. It is expected that the area wardens will be the most common initiators of requests for funding. Access to CWA funding will give encouragement to volunteers in their efforts.
- *Community recreation/ Leisure facilities:* The long routes of the Cotswolds are in frequent use for charity walks, school outings, running events, cycling challenges (on the bridleway sections) and Duke of Edinburgh award challenges.

As required by the Constitution, at the 2017 AGM the following trails (or parts of the trails which pass through the Cotswolds) were endorsed as being supported by the CWA:-

Wychavon Way, Winchcombe Way, Wardens Way, Monarchs Way, Macmillan Way, Heart of England Way, Gloucestershire Way and Diamond Way. It was also agreed that the inclusion of the *Wysis Way* will be considered at the 2018 AGM.

CWA Activities

During the year under review the CWA carried out the following activities :-

- Regular updates to the CWA website and Facebook page on projects completed and topics of interest to members.
- Production of two editions of the CWA e-newsletter, the Cotswold WayMarker, and email distribution to members.
- Publicity of the CWA by the production of “business cards” to hand out to those interested in finding out more about the charity, and display posters for events.
- Recruitment of new members.
- Identification of projects to improve sections of the Cotswold Way and other trails of the Cotswolds which can be supported by grants from the CWA

Achievements and Performance

The achievements made by the CWA in the year under review are as follows :-

1. Funding of the following improvement projects on the Cotswold Way :-
 - Installation of a handrail on the hill out of Weston, near Bath.
 - Installation of steps at Wistley Grove, near Seven Springs.
 - Installation of a handrail at Bunkers Bank, near Painswick.

- Reconstruction of the circular seat at Dyrham.
2. Contribution to the funding of two gates on the Winchcombe Way in partnership with Winchcombe Walkers are Welcome.
 3. Increase in available funds of £102.39 despite funding of the above projects at a total cost of £1,608.35
 4. Successfully registered with Gift Aid and received a refund of £580.94 in respect to memberships.
 5. Introduction and promotion of CWA Business Membership led to 4 businesses signing up in the first month.
 6. Preparation of a submission to the “A417 Missing Link” Consultation.
 7. Membership at 31st March 2018 stood at ...
 - Life Members – Single 13
 - Life Members – Joint 16
 - Annual Members - Single 13
 - Annual Members – Joint 8
 - Honorary members 9
 - Business Members 4
 - Affiliate Organisations 1

Financial Review

At the end of the 2017-18 Financial Year the CWA a cash balance of **£3,046.26**

Income of **£2,178.44** was derived as follows :-

Donations	£ 160.00
Memberships	£1,405.00
Gift Aid from memberships and donations	£ 613.44

Expenditure of **£2,076.05** was incurred on the following :-

Trail improvement projects	£1,608.35
Advertising (website & printing)	£ 343.13
Administration	£ 124.57

The CWA hopes to reclaim Gift Aid amounting to £190 in relation to donations and membership applications made during the period 1st June 2017 to 1st June 2018.

The CWA has no outstanding debts at 31st March 2018

The Income and Expenditure Report and Balance Sheet for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 are attached.

Future Plans

1. To identify more improvement projects on the CWA's nominated trails.
2. To work closely with representatives of the CWA's named trails to identify suitable improvement projects.
3. To increase membership to the CWA and to keep members fully informed of its activities.
4. To encourage businesses along the Cotswold Way to join as Business Members of the CWA.

5. To encourage the public and members to give donations to the CWA to expand its programme of funding trail improvements.
6. To increase publicity so that more people are aware of the CWA and its objectives and work.
7. To encourage volunteers to assist in the CWA's administration and operation.
8. To develop ideas for a "Cotswold Way Challenge" fundraising event to take place in 2019.

John Bartram
Chairman – Cotswold Way Association

Cotswold Way Association				
Income & Expenditure Report - 1st April 2017 to 31 March 2018				
INCOME			2017-18	2016-17
Donations	Donations	£160.00		
	Legacies	£0.00	£160.00	£1,287.38
Membership	Annual memberships x 18	£205.00		
	Life Memberships x 6	£750.00		
	Business members x 4	£400.00		
	Affiliate organisations x 1	£50.00	£1,405.00	£1,925.00
Grants			£0.00	£700.00
Sundries	Gift Aid refund	£580.94		
	Gift Aid from MyDonate	£32.50	£613.44	£1.27
TOTAL INCOME			£2,178.44	£3,913.65
EXPENDITURE				
Administration	Hire of Hall for AGM	£8.75		
	PayPal fees	£24.37		
	MemberMojo fees	£30.00		
	MyDonate fees	£1.45		
	Bank charges	£60.00	£124.57	£46.33
Advertising	CWA website	£159.32		
	Printing (posters, cards & Swift Tag)	£183.81	£343.13	£811.00
Projects	Winchcombe Gate project	£313.71		
	Weston Handrail project	£336.56		
	Wistley Grove project	£480.44		
	Dyrham Seat Project	£123.15		
	Bunkers Bank Handrail Project	£354.49	£1,608.35	£112.45
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			£2,076.05	£969.78
NET INCOME / EXPENDITURE			£102.39	£2,943.87
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Funds at beginning of reporting period			£2,943.87	£0.00
Funds at end of reporting period			£3,046.26	£2,943.87

Cotswold Way Association				
Balance Sheet - 1st April 2017 to 31 March 2018				
			2017-18	2016-17
Fixed Assets		£0.00	£0.00	0
Current assets	CAF Bank Account	£1,121.96		
	Paypal	£1,924.30		
	Just Text Giving	£0.00	£3,046.26	2943.87
Debtors		£0.00	£0.00	
TOTAL ASSETS			£3,046.26	£2,943.87
Liabilities		£0.00		
TOTAL LIABILITIES			£0.00	£0.00
NET ASSETS			£3,046.26	£2,943.87
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY				
Restricted funds			£0.00	£0.00
Unrestricted funds			£3,046.26	£2,943.87
TOTAL			£3,046.26	£2,943.87