

# Cotswold Way Association

## Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020



### Structure and Governance

The Cotswold Way Association (CWA) was established on 13<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

As outlined in the CWA Constitution, it was 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.

In accordance with the above process at the AGM held on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019 the following changes took place :-

- Colin Hunt retired as Trustee.
- Alan Hooper and Simon Mallatratt resigned by rotation but were re-elected as Trustees
- Malcolm Higgins was elected as a new Trustee

Alan Hooper, CWA Secretary and Trustee sadly passed away on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March after bravely battling a long illness. The Trustees recorded their appreciation of Alan’s work for both the CWA and the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens. He will be greatly missed.

The Trustees at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 are therefore :-

John Alfred BARTRAM (Chair)  
Cecil Philip COATES  
Malcolm HIGGINS  
Martin Brian LOVEGROVE  
Simon Garfoot MALLATRATT  
Mavis REAR  
Keith Francis SISSON  
John Edward TENNANT

During the period under review the Trustees have held four meetings. The 2019 AGM of the charity was held on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and attended by 15 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 2019 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, Diamond Way and Wysis Way.*

### **CWA Activities**

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

- Regular updates to the CWA website, Facebook page and newly established Twitter account on projects and topics of interest to members.
- Production of four editions of the “Cotswold WayMarker” newsletter, and email distribution to all members.
- Recruitment of new members, including Business Members and Affiliate Organisations.
- Identification of improvement projects on the Cotswold Way and other trails of the Cotswolds which can be supported by grants from the CWA.

- Various fundraising initiatives to increase the donations received by the charity.

### Achievements and Performance

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

1. The charity has worked closely with the Cotswold Conservation Board on fundraising and events to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cotswold Way in May 2020. This included a joint Virgin Money Giving campaign page. Covid-19 has unfortunately resulted in this being postponed to 2021.
2. The charity developed a list of the “50 Things to See and Do on the Cotswold Way for its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary” which will be used in the promotion of the trail.
3. Increase in funds of 43% to £6,347.
4. Review of improvement projects on the Cotswold Way and named trails to identify suitable funding opportunities.
5. Agreement to contribute to the funding of information boards on the Cotswold Way at Selsley Common to be installed in the near future.
6. Income / expenditure increased from £1,374 to £1,926
7. Gift Aid refund of £223 received in respect to memberships from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
8. Donations increased to £1,266 due in part to donations from Waitrose Bath and Cirencester.
9. Installation of a memorial stone to a Cotswold Voluntary Warden using funds donated at a memorial service.
10. Membership at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 stood at ...
 

• Life Members – Single	17
• Life Members – Joint	16
• Annual Members - Single	19
• Annual Members – Joint	10
• Honorary members	10
• Business Members	5
• Affiliate Organisations	5
Total	82

### Financial Review

At the end of the 2018-19 Financial Year the CWA held a cash balance of **£6,347.32**

Income of **£2,584.66** was derived as follows :-

Donations	£ 1,266.60
Memberships	£ 1,095.00
Gift Aid from memberships and donations	£ 223.06

Expenditure of **£658.10** was incurred on the following :-

Projects	£ 331.10
Advertising (website & printing)	£ 197.40
Administration	£ 129.60

The CWA has no outstanding debts at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

The Income and Expenditure Report and Balance Sheet for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 are attached.

### **Future Plans**

1. To identify more improvement projects on the Cotswold Way which can be supported by the charity.
2. To work closely with representatives of the CWA's named trails to identify suitable improvement projects.
3. To utilise crowdfunding to raise funds for large budget projects on the trails and raise the profile of the charity among the local communities.
4. To continue to work closely with the Cotswold Conservation Board and Cotswold Way Trails officer in joint fundraising campaigns and events to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the Cotswold Way in May 2021.
5. To increase membership of the CWA and to keep members fully informed of its activities.
6. To encourage more businesses along the Cotswold Way to join as Business Members of the CWA.
7. To encourage the public and members to give donations to the CWA to expand its programme of funding trail improvements.
8. To increase publicity so that more people are aware of the CWA and its objectives and work.
9. To encourage volunteers to assist in the CWA's administration and operation.

John Bartram  
*Chairman – Cotswold Way Association*

<b>Cotswold Way Association</b>				
<b>Income &amp; Expenditure Report - 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020</b>				
			<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
Donations	General donations	£597.50		
	Memorial collection	£267.10		
	Waitrose Bath & Cirencester	£402.00	£1,266.60	£998.50
Membership	Annual memberships	£295.00		
	Life Memberships	£150.00		
	Business members	£400.00		
	Affiliate organisations	£250.00		
	Gift Aid from memberships	£223.06	£1,318.06	£1,280.15
Grants			£0.00	£621.24
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<b>£2,584.66</b>	<b>£2,899.89</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Administration	Hire of Hall for AGM	£15.00		
	PayPal fees	£18.30		
	MemberMojo fees	£30.00		
	Virgin MoneyGiving fees	£6.30		
	Bank charges	£60.00	£129.60	£121.52
Advertising	CWA website	£197.40		
	Printing (posters, cards & Swift Tag)	£0.00	£197.40	£186.50
Projects	Sign for Nympesfield gate	£64.00		
	Derek Heap memorial stone	£267.10	£331.10	£1,217.37
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>			<b>£658.10</b>	<b>£1,525.39</b>
<b>NET INCOME / EXPENDITURE</b>			<b>£1,926.56</b>	<b>£1,374.50</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>				
<b>Funds at start of reporting period</b>			<b>£4,420.76</b>	<b>£3,046.26</b>
<b>Funds at end of reporting period</b>			<b>£6,347.32</b>	<b>£4,420.76</b>

<b>Cotswold Way Association</b>				
<b>Balance Sheet - 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020</b>				
			<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
Current assets	CAF Bank Account	£4,151.19		
	Paypal	£2,196.13		
	Just Text Giving	£0.00	£6,347.32	£4,420.76
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>			<b>£6,347.32</b>	<b>£4,420.76</b>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>			<b>£6,347.32</b>	<b>£4,420.76</b>