

# Cotswold Way Association

## Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019



### 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 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018 the following changes took place :-

- Margaret Reid retired as Trustee.
- John Bartram and Philip Coates resigned by rotation but were re-elected as Trustees
- Martin Lovegrove and John Tennant were elected as new Trustees

The Trustees at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 are therefore :-

Mr John Alfred BARTRAM (Chair)  
Prof Alan James HOOPER (Secretary)  
Mr Cecil Philip COATES  
Mr John Colin HUNT  
Martin Brian LOVEGROVE  
Mr Simon Garfoot MALLATRATT  
Mrs Mavis REAR  
Prof. Keith Francis SISSON  
John Edward TENNANT

During the period under review the Trustees have held three meetings. In addition the 2018 AGM of the charity was held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and attended by 16 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 2018 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 *Wysis Way* should be added to this list.

## 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 three editions of the CWA e-newsletter, the Cotswold WayMarker, and email distribution to 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.

## 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 “ecogrid” to improve the drainage inside kissing gates near Broadway and Old Sodbury
2. Contribution to the funding of a bridge and two gates on the Diamond Way near Bledington in partnership with North Cotswold Ramblers.
3. Agreement to contribute to the funding of information boards on the Cotswold Way at Selsley Common to be installed in the near future.
4. Income / expenditure increased from £102 to £1,374 despite funding of the above projects at a total cost of £1,217
5. Gift Aid refund of £190.15 received in respect to memberships.
6. Donations increased from £160 to £986 due to a “donate-a-gate” project and support from Waitrose Cheltenham
7. Preparation of a submission to the “A417 Missing Link” Consultation.
8. Membership at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 stood at ...
  - Life Members – Single 16
  - Life Members – Joint 16
  - Annual Members - Single 18
  - Annual Members – Joint 8
  - Honorary members 9
  - Business Members 4
  - Affiliate Organisations 3

## Financial Review

At the end of the 2018-19 Financial Year the CWA held a cash balance of **£4,420.76**

Income of **£2,899.89** was derived as follows :-

Donations	£ 986.00
Memberships	£1,090.00
Gift Aid from memberships and donations	£ 202.65

Expenditure of **£1,525.39** was incurred on the following :-

Trail improvement projects	£1,217.37
Advertising (website & printing)	£ 186.50
Administration	£ 121.52

The CWA hopes to reclaim Gift Aid amounting to £218.75 in relation to donations and membership applications made during the period 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

The CWA has no outstanding debts at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

The Income and Expenditure Report and Balance Sheet for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 are attached.

**Future Plans**

1. To identify more improvement projects on the Cotswold Way
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 more 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 "Cotswold Way Challenge" fundraising events.

John Bartram  
*Chairman – Cotswold Way Association*

<b>Cotswold Way Association</b>				
<b>Income &amp; Expenditure Report - 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019</b>				
			<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2017-18</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
Donations	General donations	£140.00		
	Donate a gate	£300.00		
	Volunteer Inn Luggage Transfers	£150.00		
	Cotswold Way Walk	£150.00		
	Waitrose Cheltenham	£246.00		
	Gift Aid from donations	£12.50	£998.50	£192.50
Membership	Annual memberships	£240.00		
	Life Memberships	£300.00		
	Business members	£400.00		
	Affiliate organisations	£150.00		
	Gift Aid refund from memberships	£190.15	£1,280.15	£1,985.94
Grants	North Cotswold Walkers	£500.00		
	North Cotswold Ramblers	£121.24	£621.24	£0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<b>£2,899.89</b>	<b>£2,178.44</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Administration	Hire of Hall for AGM	£11.00		
	PayPal fees	£19.87		
	MemberMojo fees	£30.00		
	MyDonate fees	£0.65		
	Bank charges	£60.00	£121.52	£124.57
Advertising	CWA website	£140.00		
	Printing (posters, cards & Swift Tag)	£46.50	£186.50	£343.13
Projects	Bledington	£1,019.35		
	Broadway gate re-surfacing	£78.51		
	Old Sodbury gate re-surfacing	£119.51	£1,217.37	£1,608.35
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>			<b>£1,525.39</b>	<b>£2,076.05</b>
<b>NET INCOME / EXPENDITURE</b>			<b>£1,374.50</b>	<b>£102.39</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>				
<b>Funds at 1st April 2018</b>			<b>£3,046.26</b>	<b>£2,943.87</b>
<b>Funds at 31st March 2019</b>			<b>£4,420.76</b>	<b>£3,046.26</b>

<b>Cotswold Way Association</b>				
<b>Balance Sheet - 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019</b>				
			<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2017-18</b>
Current assets	CAF Bank Account	£3,041.33		
	Paypal	£1,379.43		
	Just Text Giving	£0.00	£4,420.76	£3,046.26
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>			<b>£4,420.76</b>	<b>£3,046.26</b>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>			<b>£4,420.76</b>	<b>£3,046.26</b>