



Alderney
Wildlife Trust

Chairman's Report

AWT Members Meeting 2023

The Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT) is the only Wildlife Trust in the Channel Islands. We benefit from being part of the wider family of Wildlife Trusts which cover much of the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man.

The Board has continued to strengthen governance structures to ensure that AWT exceeds the minimum standards required by legislation. Much of this work is poles apart from the reasons that Board members joined AWT in the first place but is essential, and I am grateful for the expertise and time spent by my fellow Board Members.

The operational side of our activities has been well covered by Roland Gauvain in his CEO's report, but I would like to comment on the Inter Island Environmental Management meeting hosted by the AWT last year. The event was a great success, with a strong attendance from the other Channel Islands, the Isle of Wight and Isle of Man. More than one of our guests said to me that AWT delivers far more than would be expected for such a small place and that Alderney is fortunate to have such a professional and highly skilled team advocating for wildlife and the environment.

It is not the first time I have heard comments like these, and I believe that they reflect the views of the majority of Islanders and informed observers. However, all too often AWT also seems to be the subject of misinformation and adverse comment locally. As an organisation we aim to be transparent and open. Details of our organisational structures, plans and finances are freely available through our website, and it is disappointing that some commentators have not referred to these or spoken to our staff team to establish the facts.

The work we perform for the States of Alderney is provided through a Service Level Agreement. This is not a full cost recovery contract, or an "unrestricted" grant. The sum £16,000 p.a. has not increased for many years and represents a welcome contribution to the full costs of providing evidence based environmental services to the SoA. Similarly, AWT provides the secretariat for Alderney's Ramsar commitments and is reimbursed directly for any costs incurred, not including staffing, as are other Ramsar stakeholders. The substantial added value from the AWT's expertise is provided free of charge in both areas of work and more widely when requested by elected members or officers of the SoA. The vast majority of our income comes from other sources and is detailed in the accounts. A more detailed description of our funding is found here on our website: [Statement on AWT income from and services delivered to States of Alderney UPDATE 10102022.pdf](https://alderneywildlife.org/Statement%20on%20AWT%20income%20from%20and%20services%20delivered%20to%20States%20of%20Alderney%20UPDATE%2010102022.pdf) (alderneywildlife.org)

Looking forward, the 2023 Business Plan, again published on the website, details a varied, extensive and costed programme of work for this calendar year: [AWT Business Plan and Budget 2023 MEMBERS COPY.pdf](https://alderneywildlife.org/AWT%20Business%20Plan%20and%20Budget%202023%20MEMBERS%20COPY.pdf) (alderneywildlife.org) and I commend it to you

Each year AWT recruits a number of well qualified volunteer staff to assist our permanent staff and local volunteer team; together they help to safeguard Alderney's wildlife and the environment they need to thrive. Alderney is fortunate to have such a dedicated and committed workforce and I thank them all for their contribution.

Finally, I thank all our members. We have a large membership made up of residents and those from further afield who value Alderney's wildlife and environment. The Alderney resident members make up a substantial proportion of the Island's population approaching 20%. I thank all our members; your support, subscriptions and donations, are invaluable to our Trust. Simply by becoming and remaining a member you are showing your belief in our mission.

Brian Heath MBE
Chair Alderney Wildlife Trust
26th May 2023