



Welcome to our winter 2021 newsletter and the new look Shared Earth Trust!

It has been a few years since our last printed newsletter, and we hope that this will be an interesting update for all our supporters and friends.

The coronavirus crisis arrived at a time when the Shared Earth Trust (SET) was going through a period of change internally. In recent years, the Charity Commission has established a new form of charity called a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), which is designed to be a stronger legal entity able to trade up to a limited turnover. SET was established over 30 years ago as a charity governed by a trust deed,

and could not undertake operations such as letting accommodation in the Eco Lodge – indeed, a separate trading company had to be set up with any surplus fed back into the charity. Following external advice from the voluntary sector, SET has now changed to become a CIO, which will enable the Eco Lodge to be owned and operated by the charity.

Establishing the CIO has taken considerable time and the current health crisis has delayed things further. Having one organisation instead of two will now help with overhead costs and simplify the management structure. Externally,

people will not notice any difference – the charity is still called the Shared Earth Trust, although it has a new charity number. We hope to emerge from the current crisis in our new form and we hope that nature and biodiversity might benefit from any long-term changes that result from the reduced human activity.

Read on to discover all our developments and plans.

With many thanks for your ongoing support for our project.

Glenn Strachan

Chair of the Trustees





Keeping nature in mind

WHAT A YEAR!!

Our fantastic project **Cadw natur mewn cof/Keeping Nature in Mind** has been running since August 2019. This two-year project has only been made possible by the *Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme*. This funding has enabled us to achieve so much here at Denmark Farm. Here is a taste...

VOLUNTEER DAYS

There are various ways that the local community can become involved. Our enthusiastic team of volunteers is continuously growing! They carry out a variety of tasks, including trail maintenance, meadow and wetland management, willow coppicing, biodiversity projects for barn owls and reptile/amphibians, and carrying out wildlife surveys of the different habitats.

times a year which is great experience for them and, of course, we benefit too!

Volunteers benefit in a number of ways including being involved in a local community project, fresh air, physical activity, learning new skills, meeting like-minded people and contributing to a very worthwhile project. We have get-togethers to thank them and to celebrate all their hard work and achievements.



These are all essential for managing the reserve for conservation and to encourage the biodiversity to thrive. Some volunteers also provide support in the office and two have become Trustees of the Shared Earth Trust, Aberystwyth

Conservation Volunteers are university students who join us a couple of





WILDLIFE ACTIVITIES

Our public events provide other opportunities for local people to get involved: bat walks, investigating owl pellets, moth, bird and frogspawn surveys, Young Rangers and community group visits. The various surveys contribute to our records of species found on the reserve and are also sent to the West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre.

The Highland cattle continue to graze the meadows, improving them for the wildflowers, invertebrates etc. New fencing has ensured that the fields are stockproof for the cattle.

HOW COVID-19 AND LOCKDOWN HAVE AFFECTED US

The current pandemic has meant some changes to how we do things here, including exploring different ways of engaging local schools and community groups using worksheets linking Denmark Farm to the curriculum and fun activities.

We have some exciting plans for 2021, including an Open Day. Visiting our nature reserve helps people in these difficult times, being somewhere to relax and enjoy the natural world. If you would like to find out more about how to be involved, please contact us, we would love to meet you!



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Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme



CONTACT US

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Be part of our Story

STAY

What better way to discover and enjoy this special forty-acre nature reserve than by taking a short break or family holiday with us?

Choose from the comfort of our self-catering Eco Lodge, the rustic charm of the bunkhouse or the serenity of the Eco Campsite, all of which provide sustainable accommodation to support our core environmental tasks.

www.denmarkfarm.org.uk/eco-lodge/



LEARN

Whatever your learning needs, we can offer a course or workshop to suit you, ranging from practical conservation skills, ecology and species identification to gardening, sustainable living and natural crafts. If you don't see something of interest, we can also arrange bespoke events for small groups.

www.denmarkfarm.org.uk/events/

DONATE

As a small independent conservation charity, we always welcome donations to help further our work.

Any donation you can make, large or small, will help us achieve our vision of a more diverse countryside for generations to come.

Please consider setting up a regular monthly donation to help us weather the storm. You can do this in a few clicks on our Localgiving page or, if you prefer to pay by standing order, please contact us to request our bank details. <https://localgiving.org/charity/shared-earth-trust/>

JOIN US

Membership of The Shared Earth Trust is your opportunity to be part of the solution towards enabling financial sustainability for our charity. Regular income from our members allows us to build upon the ecological restoration work which we

have been carrying out for more than thirty years. Membership also provides other benefits in the form of discounts on our events and exclusive opportunities. www.denmarkfarm.org.uk/membership/

SHOP



The Little Green Shop at Denmark Farm offers unique and beautiful

locally made gifts, crafts and cards, plus T-shirts and mugs, wildlife identification guides and equipment. Please call in to have a browse during normal office hours. If you ever do any online shopping, we have two ways that you can generate donations for our charity without it costing you a single penny. Sign up to support The Shared Earth Trust at GiveAsYouLive (if you can use this link: <https://bit.ly/2K4SQvb> we will receive an extra £5) and on Amazon Smile.