

Mr RGH Lewis
Chairman
The NINEVEH Charitable Trust,
Park Farm, Frittenden Road,
Biddenden,
Kent TN27 8LG.

30th November 2018

Dear Mr Lewis

Thank you for supporting our 'Discovering Our Coasts' project with a contribution of £5,000.

Our seasonal volunteers work with us between March and October each year and now that the latest season has come to an end, I have been able to collate the statistics to show the impact of your donation and the achievements of the project over the last two years. This report is now attached.

We are very keen to continue our work with volunteers and are applying again for new grant funds. If the Trustees of the Nineveh Charitable Trust are happy with the impact that this current donation has had, perhaps they would be prepared to consider a further donation?

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information and if the Trustees would like to visit our project next summer we would be happy to arrange that.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Kessell
Chief Executive Officer
The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales
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**Cardigan Bay Marine
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South and West Wales
De a Gorllewin Cymru

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Nineveh Charitable Trust Funding Report

Our targets for this project were to run 15 interactive events over the year targeting a minimum of 150 people. We aimed to recruit a minimum of 10 new volunteers who would engage with us for at least an 8 week period. The £5000 donation from Nineveh Charitable Trust, received in May 2017, was used to match fund a Volunteering in Wales grant from the Welsh Government, which allowed us to recruit a Volunteer Coordinator. Since the £5000 donation was received part-way through the 2017 season, we monitored activity against these targets between May 2017 and the end of our main activity season in 2018.

Over this time period we recruited a total of 63 new volunteers. The Volunteer Coordinator attended a number of events including the Aberystwyth University Volunteering Fair and a Career Wales Fair to target volunteer recruitment as well as highlighting opportunities via social media and our website. The volunteers recruited included those from disadvantaged areas, the unemployed and students. Over half of the volunteers had never volunteered before.

We also began working with Hyfforddiant Ceredigion Training (preparing people for the work place) to provide weekly volunteer sessions for the young people they work with. Each week 11-15 volunteers engaged with various activities ranging from beach cleans to dolphin watches, contributing four-five volunteer hours per volunteer.

During the summer of 2018 we hosted five school work placements and Welsh Bacc students for a week each.

The total volunteer hours contributed over the time period was 7,660.

Our Living Seas Volunteer Coordinator ran 32 community education and engagement events over this time period such as beach cleans and citizen science surveys to teach people about the local marine environment and to inspire people to help care for it. Over 190 people attended the events and through our outreach events and activities, we reached between 18,000 and 20,000 people in total.

As well as learning about the marine environment, a key success to date is that volunteers recruited as part of the project have gained transferable skills and valuable work experience, thus increasing their employability. Through training sessions and undertaking various tasks project volunteers have gained experience of data collection, marine species identification skills, ICT skills, experience of software such as MS Office and Quatumn GIS, the ability to work as part of a team and independently, customer service skills and much more – all of which are valuable transferable skills. Those young people that are currently thinking about their future career plans have stated how volunteering has helped them to decide on their choice of University course and career path.

Another key success of the project is that volunteers are spending more time outdoors, thus establishing a connection to nature and leading to an increase in their well-being. Having regular access to natural spaces can help to decrease stress, improve concentration and benefit those with mental health issues. Many young people spend most of their time inside with one volunteer remarking “I’ve spent a lot more time outdoors because of volunteering and I now definitely feel more connected to nature. I

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think being close to the sea has been good for my well-being because I used to spend all my time working indoors”.

As part of the events run during the project attendees are able to discover more about their local marine environment through classroom and practical sessions. One event attendee stated that she had “learnt a lot” by coming to the event and that the best part of the day was seeing bottlenose dolphins. Young people are the future of marine conservation and these events have benefited the wider community by inspiring local young people to value the sea and become actively involved in marine conservation through volunteering.

Over the past 7 years our Living Seas staff and volunteers have spent almost 950 hours conducting litter picks on and around New Quay’s beaches. This has equated to over 157,736 pieces of litter collected and documented. The litter collected is analysed and we use the data to engage with the town and county Councils to take action on litter and to contribute data to relevant consultations such as those focusing on the reduction of plastics. During the litter picks we also educate attendees about the impact of marine litter and ways that they can take individual action to protect the marine environment.

Our dolphin watching activities collect vital data on these and other marine megafauna in Cardigan Bay. The data is input to detailed spreadsheets and sent to Natural Resources Wales. The data includes ‘Encounter’ details for each of the encounters including the bottlenose dolphin identification numbers from the CBMWC photo-id catalogue, for those individuals that were identified from photographs taken during the encounter and information on each individual that was photographed and subsequently identified during the encounters. This data is extremely useful not only in understanding how healthy the cetacean populations are but also in feeding data to the Welsh Government for use in monitoring marine protected areas.



Volunteers monitoring cetaceans from New Quay harbour wall....and a guided walk

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Dolphin sculpture using litter collected from New Quay beach, used to raise awareness of marine litter at events.



'Discovering our Coasts' event on New Quay beach



Volunteer data input



One of many beach litter picks



Become a Marine Biologist activity



Training activity – dolphin spotting and I.D.

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