

Pondhead Conservation Trust



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS OF PONDHEAD CONSERVATION TRUST for the period ending 31 March 2017.

The Trustees of Pondhead Conservation Trust (PCT) present their annual report and verified accounts for the period ended 31 March 2017.

PCT is a registered charity No: 1158297.

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

c/o Hawthorns, Romsey Road, Cadnam, Southampton SO40 2NN.

OUR TRUSTEES

Dr. Manuel Hinge Chairman

Derek Tippetts Treasurer

Carol Dibden Secretary

Perry Bond

Nick Dowling

John Stride

Dave Dibden

Trustees are appointed or re-appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting. During the year Suzie Moore stood down as a Trustee due to other commitments. After the year end, Dave Dibden was appointed as a Trustee.

All Trustees give their time voluntary and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

OUR AIMS & OBJECTIVES

PCT is a community woodland project which operates under a constitution adopted on 20 January 2014 and amended 17 July 2014. Our aim is to

restore and manage 76 hectares of woodland in the New Forest known as Pondhead Inclosure to improve its biodiversity and public enjoyment. PCT manages the woodland under a 10-year license from the Forestry Commission dated 10 September 2014.

Our objectives are as follows: -

A. To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment of Pondhead Inclosure, Lyndhurst, Hampshire,

B. To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment of Pondhead Inclosure, Lyndhurst, including school visits and the promotion of volunteering opportunities.

SUMMARY OF MAIN ACTIVITIES

This is our third annual report and covers our second season of charcoal production. Demand again proved strong with sales during the year of £4663.50 (£4276.15). Under the terms of our agreement with our Coppice Manager (Dave Dibden), he received 80% of charcoal sales after the first £2500 of sales, which payment amounted to £1746.30 (£1644.92). These payments will not arise in future years as Dave Dibden has kindly agreed to forego any further payments for the work he undertakes. Consequently, he has joined our board of Trustees

Our financial aim is to cover our annual overheads from charcoal and other sales. These totaled £4943.50 during the year against expenditure of £5735.75. The deficit of £792.25 included the purchase of tree plants at £447 which was covered by a grant from the Marden Trust of £750. In future years, we anticipate that we will easily cover our annual overheads from increased sales and the absence of payments to our Coppice Manager. Overall, our financial position is robust and while we will continue to invest in new tools and equipment, our aim is to build reserves over the next few years to cover the eventual replacement of our charcoal retort.

At the end of the financial year, we received a bursary of £1000 from UK National Parks and a further £750 grant from the New Forest Trust. These amounts were earmarked for a storage project (cost £1750) for which the expenditure did not take place until after the year end.

By the end of February, we had completed the objectives set out in our initial 3-year Woodland Management Plan. We also planted a further 1000 hazel plants to restock areas coppiced during the year. We also continued our conservation work in opening overgrown rides (tracks) and creating of sunny

glades. Our work was showcased on Sunday 15 May 2016 with our first Open Day that was very well attended with many complimentary comments received.

Our volunteer base continued to hold up well with over 160 registered volunteers and a steady flow of new recruits as knowledge of our activity spreads. Once again, we attended the NPA Volunteer Fair in January from which we subsequently received a good number of enthusiastic new recruits.

Volunteer hours on tasks during the year amounted to 3529 which was a significant increase on the previous year (2875 hours). Without the continued support and effort of our volunteers we would not have been able to achieve the results outlined in this report. We remain very grateful to them and it was fitting that their hard work was recognized by receipt of the UK National Parks Volunteer Project of the Year Award for 2016.

In addition, to our own volunteer team we also undertook conservation days with staff from local companies and organisations, including Ordnance Survey, Old Mutual Wealth and the National Park Authority.

During the year, members of the local Scout group constructed an excellent hurdle to fence part of our main work area with materials that they sourced from the woodland. This formed part of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Overall, we continue to meet the targets we set ourselves originally and have exceeded expectations in some areas.

Derek Tippetts
Hon. Treasurer & Trustee

April 2017

ACCOUNTS for year ending 31.3.17.

Bank as at 31.3.16.	2453.28.	409.37
Opening Cash	14.33	18.11
Income		
Charcoal sales	4663.50	4276.15
Other sales	280.00	160.00
Donations	481.62	392.50
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	5425.12	4828.65
Grants & Awards		
National Parks UK	1000.00	0
New Forest Trust	750.00	2500.00
Marden Trust	750.00	0
National Park Authority	0	385.73
TOTAL	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10392.73	8141.86
Expenditure		
Dave Dibden	1746.30	1644.92
Insurance	1129.27	999.00
Equipment	203.56	580.00
Tools	139.77	398.32
Fencing	0	388.96
Retort expenses	559.53	441.70
Tree plants	447.00	288.00
Consumables - various	354.23	202.83
Chainsaw fuel & oil	64.20	202.52
Refreshments for Volunteers	385.23	185.65
Safety	366.00	126.55
Promotion & Packaging	144.18	116.70
Sycamore treatment	196.48	99.04
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Sub Total	5735.75	5674.25
Bank as at 31.3.17.	4649.53	2453.28
Cash on hand	7.45	14.33
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TOTAL	10392.73	8141.86

These accounts were independently verified on 27 October 2017 by R. Travis ACIB (Retired), Meadow Cottage, East Lane, Everton, SO41 0JL

