

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 fourth annual report and covers our third season of charcoal production. Demand for charcoal again proved strong with sales of £5804.45 (£4663.50). This represents a 24% increase and our “brand” is becoming known in the local community.

During the year we also ran our first series of chair making courses which proved extremely popular with all four courses fully booked. During the year these courses featured in Ch5’s “Britain by Bike” with Larry & George Lamb after they had joined us for a day’s filming. Thanks go to Perry Bond for his innovative use of our hazel crop which produced an additional income stream of £1977.20.

Our financial aim is to cover our annual overheads from charcoal and other sales. These totaled £8228.47 (£5425.12) during the year against expenditure of £8872.30 (£5735.75). The deficit of £643.83 was because of expenditure on a container and other storage items for which we received a bursary of £1000 from UK National Parks and a grant of £500 from New Forest Trust at the end of our previous financial year and included in that year’s accounts.

In future years, we anticipate that we will easily cover our annual overheads from sales as we have purchased a significant amount of capital equipment since formation but nothing significant is planned for our forthcoming financial year. Overall, our financial position is robust, and our aim now is to build reserves over the next few years to cover the repair/eventual replacement of our charcoal retort.

By the end of February, we had completed the objectives set out in our initial 3-year Woodland Management Plan, including one large coupe that was coppiced entirely by hand by our volunteers who also constructed an excellent staked dead hedge around it to prevent deer browsing. This saved the expense of costly plastic deer fencing.

Our volunteer base continued to hold up well with over 180 (*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 and also gave a presentation from which we subsequently received a good number of enthusiastic new recruits.

Volunteer hours on tasks during the year amounted to 3858 which again, was another increase on the previous year (*3529 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 for their hard work in all weathers - this project could not continue without them.

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

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

Derek Tippetts
Hon. Treasurer & Trustee

October 2018

INCOME & EXPENDITURE - Year ending 31 March 2018

Bank 1.4.17	4649.53	2453.28
Cash	7.45	14.33
	4656.98	2467.61
Income		
Charcoal	5804.45	4663.50
Chair Courses	1977.20	280.00
Donations	330.00	481.62
Give as you Live	100.82	
Other/Grants	16.00	2500.00
	12885.45	10392.73
Expenditure		
Safety	215.39	366.00
Tools	1489.34	343.33
Equipment	677.03	
Storage	1948.25	
Consumables	996.10	559.36
Fencing	111.74	
Insurance	1184.30	1129.27
Packaging	1029.30	
Promotion	549.92	144.18
Food	269.41	385.23
Courses	141.66	
Trees	54.00	447.00
Clothing	131.46	
Website	74.40	
Sycamore Treatment		196.48
Retort Repairs		418.60
Dave Dibden		1746.30
	8872.30	5735.75
Bank 31.3.18	4007.94	4649.53
Cash	5.21	7.45
	12885.45	10392.73