

# Friends of the Quantocks

England & Wales · Charity number 1154378

## Details

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Other names	FRIENDS OF QUANTOCK, FRIENDS OF QUANTOCK (SEE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES), Friends of the Quantocks, Friends of Quantock
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2013-10-29
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Church House  
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Somerset  
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Email [secretary@friendsofthequantocks.org](mailto:secretary@friendsofthequantocks.org)

Website [www.friendsofthequantocks.org](http://www.friendsofthequantocks.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE CONSERVATION PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE LANDSCAPE AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE QUANTOCK HILLS. THE BOUNDARIES OF THE QUANTOCKS FOR THIS PURPOSE SHALL BE THOSE OF THE QUANTOCK HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY TOGETHER WITH SUCH ADJACENT OR NEARBY AREAS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO OR AFFECT THE QUANTOCK LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENT. IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS OBJECT, THE TRUSTEES SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO ACT AS INDEPENDENT GUARDIANS OF THE QUANTOCK HILLS ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC.

**Activities:** Promote for the benefit of the public the conservation protection and improvement of the landscape and natural environment of the Quantock Hills AONB.

## Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Somerset

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£16,462	£48,331	-	-
2023-12-31	£12,901	£31,110	-	-
2022-12-31	£9,968	£17,024	-	-
2021-12-31	£54,469	£15,484	-	-
2020-12-31	£10,430	£6,357	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Robin Stamp</b>	Chair	2021-09-23
Jeremy Scott-Bolton		2023-04-18
Paul Rutter		2026-03-21
Richard Bott		2025-04-05
Trudi Mansfield		2023-04-18
Vernon Hughes		2026-03-21

**Friends of the Quantocks**

England & Wales - Charity number 1154378

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# Accounts

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# Friends of the QUANTOCKS

## 2024 TRUSTEES' REPORT & ANNUAL REVIEW

The Charity was founded in 1949 and thus 2024 has been our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, celebrated with a range of special public events, including talks by wildlife authors Stephen Moss, Charles Foster and Nigel Philips, a guided coastal walk with Nigel Philips and visits to Fairfield House and Stowey farm.

During the year we have also increased our landholdings with the transfer of Bicknoller Quarry to us by Somerset Council and also launched a major and ambitious Elm and Hairstreak butterfly Project, planting disease resistant Elm trees and blackthorn for rare at-risk White-letter and Brown Hairstreak butterflies.

Our land holding now totals just fractionally short of 400 acres and includes Halsway and Thorncombe Hill, Over Stowey Customs Common and now Bicknoller Quarry, all of which form part of the Quantock Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Our Over Stowey Customs Common site includes Dead Woman's Ditch and Sandy Beds car parks. As common land, the "Commoners" have the right to graze sheep, horses and cattle, and the responsibility to carry out ongoing management of the land including a program of bracken and scrub clearance.

We continue to work closely on various projects with the National Landscape team (formerly AONB) and the Lottery-funded Quantocks Landscape Partnership Scheme as well as the commoners, Deer management and conservation group and a raft of local landowners plus organisations such as Natural England, CPRE and Butterfly Conservation.

Our major partnership with the Quantocks landscape Partnership Scheme saw us contributing £20,000 this year towards major car park renovations on the hill and taking over responsibility for their adder survey scheme as the partnership closes in 2025. Over the past 5 years we have now contributed to £40,000 of projects including funding a specialist low level tractor which has already been put to great use on the various projects around the hill.

Other projects continued include our Quantock Wildlife Watch Citizen Science data collection Project, our campaign to protect hedges, and sponsorship of the annual hedge laying training and competition. As reported last year, local wildlife author and photographer Nigel Philips has been working hard to write a new book for us on the "Nature of the Quantocks" and we are excited to report the book is now complete and due for publication in March 2025.

This year we also completed a major upgrade to our website and the process of moving members over to fee collection by direct debit is almost completed. We are so grateful to our membership secretary, Mary ter Braak for undertaking this huge task.

**Our financial position** is reported separately but in brief the charity has continued over the past year to fund a range of significant projects out of capital thus reducing our reserves to just under £125,000 at year end. This figure is likely to fall to around £100,000 in the near future with the cost of publishing our new book falling due in the coming month or two, plus fencing at Bicknoller quarry and our contribution to the

production of a comprehensive deer management plan. However, with expected book income and payment of a grant towards our Elm and Hairstreak project adding to our receipts, this still leaves us in a strong position and able to fund further projects.

## **Our Objectives, Trustees, officers & committee**

Our Objectives are *“To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation protection and improvement of the landscape and natural environment of the Quantock Hills”*. We define The Quantock Hills to include all of the Quantock Hills National Landscape (formerly AONB) as well as the surrounding countryside and hinterland.

The charity is managed on a day-to-day basis by the officers with the active input and support of the trustees (T) and wider committee, who meet quarterly. The team in full includes the Chairman (Robin Stamp T), Treasurer (Richard Bott), Planning Officer (Vernon Hughes), Secretary (Trudi Mansfield T), Vice-chair (Tim Whittingham T), Project officer (Tracey Roberts (SE) and Membership Secretary (Mary ter Braak).

Other committee members include past chairs John Andrews (T) and Alan Hughes (T), plus Nigel Philips, Jeremy Scott-Bolton (T), David Lloyd (T), Stephen Campbell plus representatives from the Quantock Hills National Landscape team (Iain Porter) and the Commoners Association (Ben Bartlett). Lady Gass remains as our president but is sadly currently unable to carry out her duties due to her poor health. The charity has no employees; however, our Project officer Tracey Roberts works for us part time on a self-employed basis.

Tracey Roberts joined us in January 2024 to take on responsibilities for events and our ongoing regular communications with members via email, our website and Facebook page (which now has over 11,000 followers). During the year, our former chairman, John Andrews, resigned his chairman's role but continues as a trustee and active member of the committee. He also continues as our representative on the Quantock Deer Management & Conservation Group. Our Vice Chair, Tim Whittingham continues as our representative on the Joint Advisory Committee to the QHNL and the Board of the Quantocks Landscape Partnership Scheme. Following John's retirement, Robin Stamp, our former treasurer was elected as chairman, whilst Richard Bott has joined the committee as Treasurer. He will also be standing for election as a Trustee at the 2025 AGM.

We thank all our members for your support over the past year we couldn't have done all this without you. Special thanks to all the committee, our volunteer observers and butterfly transect walkers plus so many that helped with our events, John for all his excellent work during his chairmanship and Tracey for all her work on this our anniversary year. We look forward to a full and exciting year to come.

**Robin Stamp**

**Chairman**

5 April 2024

**Trustees and Officers**  
**31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

**President:** Lady Gass DCVO

**Vice President:** Mr Hugh Warmington

**Vice President:** Mrs Jane Warmington

**Chairman:** Mr Robin Stamp

**Vice Chairman:** Mr Tim Whittingham

**Treasurer:** Mr Richard Bott

**Secretary:** Mrs Trudi Mansfield

**Trustees:** Mr John Andrews

Mr Robin Stamp

Mr Tim Whittingham

Mr David Lloyd

Mr Alan Hughes

Mrs Trudi Mansfield

Mr Jeremy Scott-Bolton

**Committee:** The Trustees

Rev Stephen Campbell

Mr Ben Bartlett (Quantock Commoners)

Mr Iain Porter (QHNL service)

Mr Nigel Philips

Mr Vernon Hughes

**Other personnel (not committee members)**

Ms Tracey Roberts, Project Officer

Mrs Mary ter Braak, Membership Secretary

**Bankers:** HSBC, 17 North Street, Taunton  
Somerset, TA1 1NA

## Financial Reserve Policy Background

Over the years the charity has built up an income stream from membership subscriptions sufficient to cover the ongoing standard running costs and obligations for the charity plus a surplus which has generally amounted to around £4,000 p/a. Subscription prices were increased from December 2023 from £18 to £25 for family membership and from £35 to £50 for business members; this increase should start to show in accounts from 2024.

Notwithstanding, as noted below, the charity intends to utilise some of its reserves over the next few years on a series of projects and initiatives.

## Financial Reserve Policy

The trustees and committee treat very seriously the responsibilities they have to manage the charity resources for the longer term in line with the charity's objectives as set out in its governing document. In short, those objectives are as follows:

“To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the landscape and natural environment of the Quantock Hills”.

The charity will use its income and reserves to promote its aims within the wider Quantock Hills National Landscape area, to seek further funding from grant giving authorities and to encourage individuals and local businesses to work with it to fulfil its aims. This policy is expected to see our expenditure continue to exceed income and reserves fall over the current and coming years.

### The charity has a policy of holding reserves of funds to:

- Cover its short-term liabilities.
- Maintain sufficient capital to allow a minimum of 3 years' continuity to its services and employment obligations.
- Provide capital for it to carry out land management and other projects on its land and across the wider QHNL area.
- Maintain a capital fund to allow it to fight planning applications or proposals that are considered potentially harmful to the Quantock Hills.
- Provide grants to individuals or organisations whose aims are in line with that of the charity - in particular where such grants are not generally available through other grant giving organisations or authorities - and to provide sponsorship funding for events planned and run by the QHNL and/or English Nature.
- Build up reserves to allow it to pursue the purchase of further land within the QHNL.

## Receipts and Payments account for year ending 31/12/24

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Receipts (all unrestricted):</b>		
Annual Subscriptions	6,213	5,012
5 yr subscriptions	0	375
Business subscriptions	325	780
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>6,538</b>	<b>6,167</b>
Donations	12	162
Events	988	0
Gift Aid reclaim	1,094	1,370
Other	25	0
Interest	5,334	2,834
<b>Total receipts, excluding investment assets</b>	<b>13,991</b>	<b>10,533</b>
Investment assets: growth	<u>2,471</u>	<u>2,368</u>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>16,462</b>	<b>12,901</b>
 <b>Payments:</b>		
National Landscape/AONB contribution	1,000	1,000
Project Officer	10,243	6,204
Administrator expenses	479	74
Audit costs	240	240
Clerical expenses	945	800
Print, post, stationery & sundry expenses	1,550	1,747
Bank and finance charges	1,279	519
Insurances	685	184
Events	1,234	95
Book	0	1,000
Projects*1	27,437	14,689
legal and planning fees*2	1,405	4,308
Software	950	0
Sundry	634	0
Grants and Sponsorships	<u>250</u>	<u>250</u>
<b>Total payments:</b>	<b><u>48,331</u></b>	<b><u>31,110</u></b>
 <b>Deficit/Surplus for the year:</b>	 <b>£31,869</b>	 <b>£18,209</b>

### Notes on 2024 and 2023 payments

#### Projects\*1:

2024: Butterfly Training (£636), Elm Project (£6,228), Landscape Partnership (£20,000), Land Maintenance (£300), Mire Survey (£273). 2023: QHNL (was AONB) track repair £5,000, QLPS Hedge-bank £5,000, mire survey £4,621, Butterfly transect £67.

#### Legal and planning\*2:

2024: Quarry purchase expenses £1,021, Planning £384.

2023: Legal re Hedge protection £3,444, Planning £864.

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Land owned by the charity	1	0	0
<b>Cash Funds – Instant access:</b>			
HSBC Community Account		11,757	11,592
Paypal: Trading account		<u>0</u>	<u>34</u>
<b>Total instant access</b>		<b>11,757</b>	<b>11,626</b>
<b>Cash Funds: Notice accounts</b>			
Cambridge and Counties 31 Day notice		36,207	0
Cambridge and Counties 45 Day notice		0	53,819
Cambridge and Counties 95 Day notice		23,457	0
Cambridge and Counties 120 Day notice		0	22,342
Unity Trust 120 day notice		<u>53,466</u>	<u>26,636</u>
<b>Total notice accounts</b>		<b>113,130</b>	<b>102,797</b>
<b>Total cash funds</b>		<b>124,887</b>	<b>114,423</b>
<b>Investment Assets: Fidelity International</b>		<u>0</u>	<u>42,333</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b><u>124,887</u></b>	<b><u>156,756</u></b>
<b>Represented by:</b>			
<b>Unrestricted reserves</b>	2	<b><u>124,887</u></b>	<b><u>156,756</u></b>

### Notes:

- 1 The charity owns three parcels of land which were, in essence, gifted to it for negligible consideration. These parcels of land comprise Over Stowey Customs Common, Halsway Hill and Bicknoller Quarry.
- 2 Whilst the Trustees do not formally designate their funds, there are a number of initiatives that will be undertaken going forward for which retained funds will be utilised. These projects, which are for improvement of the landscape and natural environment, include:
  - Elm and Hairstreak project - residual costs of £4,200
  - Deer management plan - £3,900
  - Book: Promotion of the Quantock Hills - £16,320
  - Bicknoller Quarry fencing costs - £1,030

**Friends of the Quantocks**

England & Wales - Charity number 1154378

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# Accounts

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# Friends of the QUANTOCKS

## Trustees and Officers 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

<b>President:</b>	Lady Gass DCVO
<b>Vice President:</b>	Mr Hugh Warmington
<b>Vice President:</b>	Mrs Jane Warmington
<b>Chairman:</b>	Mr John Andrews
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	Mr Tim Whittingham
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mr Robin Stamp
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mrs Trudi Mansfield
<b>Membership secretary</b>	Mrs Mary ter Braak

### **Trustees:**

Mr John Andrews  
Mr Robin Stamp  
Mr Tim Whittingham  
Mr David Lloyd  
Mr Alan Hughes  
Mrs Trudi Mansfield  
Mr Jeremy Scott-Bolton

### **Committee:**

The Trustees  
Rev Stephen Campbell  
Mr Ben Bartlett (Quantock Commoners)  
Mr Iain Porter (QHNL service)  
Mrs Zoe Hicks  
Mr Nigel Philips  
Mr Vernon Hughes

### **Bankers:**

HSBC 17 North Street, Taunton  
Somerset, TA1 1NA

## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR 2023

During the year we lost two long-standing trustees, Ian Kett and my predecessor as Chairman Philip Comer and three new members were elected to the Committee. They were Zoe Hicks and Nigel Phillips, both from Nether Stowey, and Vernon Hughes from Spaxton. All bring considerable energy and experience of value to us as we expand our ambitions and activities.

Tim Whittingham has become our Vice-Chairman and represents us on the Joint Advisory Committee to the AONB and the Board of the Quantocks Landscape Partnership Scheme. Ian Kett's retirement meant that we lost our Observer Co-ordinator and one of the existing Observers, Peter Gotto has taken on that role.

Our Vice-President Hugh Warmington was elected to Chair the AONB's Joint Advisory Committee in succession to Anthony Trollope-Bellow who died in a tragic accident on his estate in the preceding year.

Our Trustees meet quarterly to deal with policy and finance. In this they are advised and aided by Iain Porter who heads the AONB team and Ben Bartlett from the Quantock Commoners. In 2022 we created a management team of the officers plus our one staff member to better co-ordinate ongoing activity and this has worked well, normally meeting bi-monthly, while email communication is almost daily on a wide variety of matters.

In the summer Zoe Hicks, our part-time Project Officer, resigned her post for family reasons though she kindly continued to provide some cover while we looked for a successor. In this we were fortunate; we had a strong field of applications and appointed Tracey Roberts whose background is in managing arts and cultural charities and delivering consultancy across the voluntary and public sectors. Until 2016 she managed ARTlife, West Somerset's arts development service, working to increase the range of cultural activity in the area. She was part of the team that instigated and launched The Coleridge Way walking route. She took up her post with us in January 2024.

Our audited financial position is reported separately. At the time of writing, our available reserves are somewhat in excess of £100,000. We are spending appreciably more on our core purposes than hitherto and we judge it wise to hold our reserves at around this level in case we are faced with a legal battle, for instance, or the AONB's funding is cut and we wish to increase our support. Accordingly, during the year we made the decision to increase the membership fee and move from payment by standing order to direct debit. The new rates are £25 for whole family membership and £50 for businesses; we now also offer Business Champion and Champion Plus with additional promotional benefits.

During the year we appointed a local firm of planning consultants, Stuart Todd Associates, to advise us on responses to applications that affect the Quantocks landscape and the views from the hills such as the Washford Solar Farm, refused at Committee, and proposals for more caravan parks for Hinkley workers. Three of our members check the planning registers, an onerous task, and we liaise with the AONB's planning adviser over cases of particular concern.

In 2022 our attention was drawn to the removal of a hedge on farmland in Spaxton in apparent contravention of the Hedgerow Regulations which require prior consent from the local authority, then Sedgemoor District now Somerset Council. Finding it reluctant to act, we took specialist legal advice but to no avail and, thanks to a Spaxton resident Vernon Hughes, who has steered the whole process, we continue to press for action, with a formal complaint in final draft at the end of the



year and, if necessary, referral to the Ombudsman.

We also continued to press for repair to the road across the hills between Nether Stowey and Crowcombe but against the background of widespread neglect of rural roads across the County and budgetary constraints this may prove to be a long battle.

In the summer we engaged a professional botanist, Dr James McGill, to survey all the 29 mires within the Quantocks SSSI and assess them against Natural England criteria. He found that of the 29 only one, our own fenced Ramscombe mire, is in good condition, 15 are acceptable though they have some problems and 13 are in bad condition for a variety of reasons. We hope to progress measures to restore them in the coming year or two.

The *iNaturalist* project Quantocks Wildlife Watch, run for us by our Treasurer Robin Stamp and with the AONB and QLPS, has received over 10,000 observations of more than 2000 species and involves a growing number of observers. Amongst other things we are using it to map rhododendron, for future removal.

Nigel Philips has continued to work on his book on Quantocks wildlife which he is generously writing at no cost to us and which we hope to publish later in 2024.

Our own landholdings are overall in reasonable condition though bracken and scrub both present problems for commoners despite their efforts as well as for the wildlife of the moorland. There has been localised damage due to offroad "do-nutters" notably at Dead Woman's Ditch where a rave also caused damage to the sward; we hope to prevent recurrences by deploying rocks kindly provided from a disused quarry by the Crowcombe Estate.


Through the year we continued to run a varied programme of events for our members and produced three emailed and website-posted editions of the newsletter as well as the printed spring edition produced for us by Mary Ter-Braak.

Our open Facebook Group now has more than 7000 members and presents a memorably high quality of images of the landscape, livestock and wildlife of the hills.

We have sought to develop further our liaison with others. Close working contact is maintained with the AONB service and the QLPS, the Quantocks Deer Management and Conservation Group and with the Commoners. With the future of farm support in protected landscape still unclear and cuts in funding for DEFRA, to say nothing of Somerset Council's financial plight, we have many serious issues to understand and attempt to influence.

We were founded in 1949 so 2024 is our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary as it is for the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 which among other good things provided for the creation of AONBs of which the Quantocks was the first in 1957. With guidance from an Aisholt resident, Ben Hoare, who has much relevant experience we will be celebrating with a programme of events, indoor and out, from May onwards and we look forward to seeing friends old and new.

Signed by **John Andrews, Chairman** 13/4/24



## Financial Reserve Policy Background

Over the years the charity has built up an income stream from membership subscriptions sufficient to cover the ongoing standard running costs and obligations for the charity plus a surplus which has generally amounted to around £4,000 p/a. Subscription prices were increased from December 2023 from £18 to £25 for family membership and from £35 to £50 for business members, this increase should start to show in accounts from 2024.

### Financial Reserve Policy

The trustees and committee treat very seriously the responsibilities they have to manage the charity resources for the longer term in line with the charities objective as set out in its governing document. In short, those objectives are as follows:

**To promote** for the benefit of the public the conservation **protection** and **improvement** of the landscape and natural environment of the Quantock Hills.

The charity will use its income **and reserves** to promote its aims within the wider Quantock Hills National Landscape area and to seek further funding from grant giving authorities and to encourage individuals and local businesses to work with it to fulfil its aims. **This policy is expected to see our expenditure exceed income and reserves fall over the current and coming years.**

#### The charity has a policy of holding reserves of funds to:

- Cover its short-term liabilities
- Maintain sufficient capital to allow a minimum of 3 years continuity to its services and employment obligations
- Provide capital for it to carry out land management and other projects on its land and across the wider QHNL area
- To maintain a capital fund to allow it to fight planning applications or proposals that are considered potentially harmful to the Quantock Hills
- Provide grants to individuals or organisations whose aims are in line with that of the charity-in particular where such grants are not generally available through other grant giving organisations or authorities and to provide **sponsorship funding for events planned and run by the QHNL (was AONB) and/or English Nature.**
- To build up a capital fund to allow it to pursue the purchase of further land within the QHNL
  - Income that is surplus to the charity's short term needs will be accumulated in this fund, annually where no other specific needs has been identified.



**FRIENDS OF QUANTOCK**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

**TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRIENDS OF QUANTOCK**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Friends of Quantock charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 which are set out on pages 3 and 4.

**Responsibilities of trustees and examiner and basis of report**

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

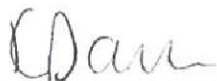
My examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Kelly Davies ACCA  
Thomas Westcott  
7 Castle Street  
Bridgwater  
TA6 3DT

Date 09.04.2024



## Income and expenditure account for year ending 31/12/23

<b>Receipts:</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Annual Subscriptions	£5,012	£4,188
5 yr subscriptions	£375	£750
Business subscriptions	£780	£975
<b>sub-total</b>	<b>£6,167</b>	<b>£5,913</b>
Donations	£162	£162
Sales	£0	£1,600
Gift Aid reclaim	£1,370	£1,370
interest	£2,834	£867
	<b>£10,533</b>	<b>£9,912</b>
Investment growth/loss	£2,368	£12,939
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£12,901</b>	<b>£3,027</b>
<b>Payments:</b>		
AONB contribution	£1,000	£1,000
Project Officer	£6,204	£5,503
Administrator travel	£74	£67
Audit costs	£240	£240
Clerical expenses	£800	£400
Print, post, stationery & sundry expenses	£1,747	£1,828
Bank Charges	£519	£110
Insurances	£184	£182
Events*3	£95	£666
book	£1,000	£0
Projects*1	£14,689	£6,472
legal and planning fees*2	£4,308	£0
Grants and Sponsorships	£250	£500
<b>Total expenditure:</b>	<b>£31,110</b>	<b>£16,968</b>
<b>Deficit/Surplus for the year:</b>	<b>£18,209</b>	<b>£19,995</b>

### Notes on 2023 payments

#### Projects\*1:

QHNL (was AONB) track repair £5,000, QLPS Hedge-bank £5,000, mire survey £4,621, Butterfly transect £67

#### Legal and planning\*2:

Legal re Hedge protection £3,444, Planning £864

#### Events\*3:

This figure is the net cost after the adding back of income received for events



## Financial report to 31/12/2023

### Current Monetary Funds:

HSBC Community Account:	11,592	
Paypal: Trading account	34	
<b>Total instant access</b>		<b>11,626</b>
Cambridge & Counties Bank: 45 day notice:	4.05%	53,819
Cambridge & Counties Bank: 120 day notice	4.50%	22,342
United Trust bank: 120 day notice	5.25%	26,636
<b>Total cash Funds:</b>		<b>£114,423</b>
<b>Investment funds</b>		
Fidelity (£65,000 invested 20/08/21, £12,500 withdrawn 30/6/23)		42,333
<b>Total Funds including investments:</b>		<b>£156,756</b>

Financial obligations:		Date needed
Landscape Partnership car park	20,000	2024/25
Crowcombe Park Gate c/p maintenance	10,000	10 year
Book - at completion of layout	7,660	
Book - at delivery	7,660	
Book-ancillary costs	1,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£46,320</b>	
<b>Reserves</b>		<b>£110,436</b>

### The charity reserves have been allocated to the following agreed priorities

<b>Internal Projects fund</b> including- Rebranding-web update (£5,000) Tree & Scrub clearance (£3,000) Archives (£1,000)	20,000	2024/25
<b>External grants and sponsorship fund</b>	20,000	2024/25
<b>Employment continuity fund</b> (Three years base salaries)	36,000	2024/26
<b>Legal fighting fund/land purchase fund</b>	34,436	long term
<b>Total</b>		<b>£110,436</b>



**Friends of the Quantocks**

England & Wales - Charity number 1154378

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# Accounts

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**FRIENDS OF QUANTOCK**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

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**Responsibilities of trustees and examiner and basis of report**

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

My examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Kelly Davies ACCA  
Thomas Westcott  
7 Castle Street  
Bridgwater  
TA6 3DT

Date .. 20 March 2023



# Friends of the QUANTOCKS

31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

**President:**

Lady Gass DCVO

**Vice President:**

Mr Hugh Warmington

**Vice President:**

Mrs Jane Warmington

**Chairman:**

Mr John Andrews

**Vice Chairman:**

Mr Philip Comer

**Treasurer:**

Mr Robin Stamp

**Secretary:**

Mrs Trudi Mansfield

**Membership secretary**

Mrs Mary ter Braak

**Trustees:**

Mr John Andrews

Mr Robin Stamp

Mr Tim Whittingham

Mr Philip Comer

Mr David Lloyd

Mr Ian Kett

Mr Alan Hughes

**Committee:**

The Trustees

Rev Stephen Campbell

Mr Jeremy Scott-Bolton

Mr Ben Bartlett (Quantock Commoners)

Mr Iain Porter (AONB service)

**Bankers:**

HSBC 17 North Street, Taunton

Somerset, TA1 1NA

**Principal Address:**

Church House, Crowcombe, Taunton,

Somerset TA4 4AA

## **2022 TRUSTEES' REPORT & ANNUAL REVIEW**

We are managed by Trustees elected by the membership. Trustees have the power to appoint others to assist their work. The combined Committee met five times in 2022 and established a management team of the officers and one additional Trustee to handle work within approved policy.

There have been a number of changes in the Committee since the last report. Our long-serving Vice President Laetitia Kelly died unexpectedly at the start of the year. Hugh and Jane Warmington became joint Vice-Presidents. Philip Comer, who had been Chairman since 2018, stepped down and was replaced by John Andrews; Philip became Vice Chairman, replacing Alan Hughes who remains as a Trustee. Mary ter Braak stood down as Committee Secretary but continues as Membership Secretary. Trudi Mansfield took over the Secretary role.

Chris Edwards, the long-serving AONB Manager retired and Iain Porter, his deputy, was appointed in his place. Iain attends our Committee as well liaising with us informally over current matters, while we are represented by Philip Comer on the AONB Board.

Early in the year the Trustees decided to appoint a part-time officer to promote our work to the public, raise membership and funds and develop relationships with other local bodies. We were fortunate to appoint Zoe Hicks, a Quantocks resident with a strong professional background in marketing and public communications. This has enabled us to much increase our activity on the ground, including more events for members, and through social media. We have also commenced a quarterly emailed newsletter to members in addition to this annual publication.

With membership and Charity Commission approval we will be changing our name to Friends of The Quantocks and also our logo. These you will see in 2023 along with a redesigned website.

We continue to work closely with the AONB Service and the Lottery-funded Quantocks Landscape Partnership Scheme and contribute grants towards work like hedge-laying. One small but, to us, very important project was the construction of a ditch beside the Crowcombe - Over Stowey road to prevent parking on our land which was harming the SSSI and the grazing. We have also taken up with County Highways the inadequate maintenance of this road and its passing bays.

The tragic death of Anthony Trollope-Bellew, the Chair of the AONB Board, means that the planned relocation of the Crowcombe Gate car park to another and better site on his land is now on hold at least until probate has been granted by which time the QLPS funding for it may no longer be available. We had committed £30,000 towards the cost and will be considering other options with the AONB though there is no available location of equal suitability.

We were approached in the summer by Nigel Phillips, an established wildlife author and photographer, with the most generous offer that he would write a book about Quantocks wildlife for us if we would cover his expenses. Work is now under way with a likely publication date in 2024. Nigel has also been co-opted onto the Committee and will be chairing a working group looking at biodiversity issues and opportunities on the hills.

Thanks to our Treasurer Robin Stamp's personal interest we have established a Quantocks-wide *i-Naturalist* project that enables anyone with smartphone to record our wildlife; this is adding rapidly to our knowledge of species distribution and fortunes and thus informing good management.

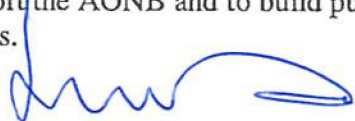
We are also very fortunate to have Tim Burton, a planning consultant with great knowledge of local issues, steering our efforts to scrutinise and respond to planning applications in or close to the AONB that may pose a threat to its natural beauty.

One quite unexpected threat to our hills' natural beauty is the proposal by DEFRA to promote the culling of red deer stags so as to reduce deer numbers and facilitate new tree establishment. We support more tree planting and accept that deer are a problem but all informed parties agree that a reduction in numbers can only be achieved by culling hinds. With advice from Matt Peaster, who runs the annual deer count, and others, we responded strongly to DEFRA as the stags are a really important part of the Quantocks scene.

The Commoners, whose livestock play such a role in shaping the landscape of the hills are represented on our Committee by Ben Bartlett and we are most grateful to him and Mrs Bartlett for hauling away from our Sandy Beds parking area an abandoned caravan which they then stored until we could get it removed entirely. Fortunately, most litter is less problematic though hardly less annoying. Our Observers, who check our landholding and help to keep it tidy, met in summer for a pub lunch and an update on our plans. Their presence on the ground is much valued.

We still await government's final decisions on the recommendations of the Glover Review of National Parks and AONBs, published in 2019, and on the detail of future funding for agriculture which has such a powerful influence on the wildlife and landscape of the Quantocks.

There is little point in speculating about what next year will bring in the way of challenges but what we can do and are doing as Trustees is to seek to develop our activity both to support the AONB and to build public appreciation of its unique qualities of beauty and access.



John Andrews  
Chairman

## **Financial Reserve Policy Background**

Over the years the charity has built up an income stream from membership subscriptions sufficient to cover the ongoing standard running costs and obligations for the charity plus a surplus which has generally amounted to around £4,000 p/a. During the past two years the world has been affected by COVID and many charities have seen income reduce, we are pleased to report that this has not been the case with the FoQ and income from subscriptions has remained stable.

In addition to the above income, the charity also receives ad hoc gifts plus bequests and retiring funeral collections from the estates of former "friends", which bolster reserves further.

## **Financial Reserve Policy**

The trustees and committee treat very seriously the responsibilities they have to manage the charity resources for the longer term in line with the charities objective as set out in its governing document. In short, those objectives are as follows:

**To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation protection and improvement of the landscape and natural environment of the Quantock Hills.**

**The charity will use its reserves to promote its aims within the wider Quantock AONB area and to seek further funding from grant giving authorities and to encourage individuals and local businesses to work with it to fulfil its aims.**

### **The charity has a policy of holding reserves of funds to:**

- Cover its short-term liabilities
- Maintain sufficient capital to allow a minimum of 3 years continuity to its services and employment obligations
- Provide capital for it to carry out land management and other projects on its land and across the wider AONB area
- To maintain a capital fund to allow it to fight planning applications or proposals that are considered potentially harmful to the Quantock Hills
- Provide grants to individuals or organisations whose aims are in line with that of the charity-in particular where such grants are not generally available through other grant giving organisations or authorities and to provide sponsorship funding for events planned and run by the AONB and/or English Nature.
- To build up a capital fund to allow it to pursue the purchase of further land within the AONB
  - Income that is surplus to the charities short term needs will be accumulated in this fund, annually where no other specific needs has been identified.



# Friends of the QUANTOCKS

## Financial Report to 31/12/22

### Current Monetary Funds:

HSBC Community Account:	12,481
Paypal: Trading account	17

### Total instant access **£12,498**

#### Cambridge & Counties Bank:

45 day notice: (2.35%)	62,617
120 day notice (2.60%)	21,839

#### United Trust bank:

120 day notice (3.00%)	25,546
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### Total Monetary Funds: **£122,500**

### Investment funds

Fidelity Investment portfolio (£65,000 invested 20/08/21)	52,465
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### Total Funds including investments: **£174,965**

### Financial obligations:

		Date needed
Landscape Partnership Hedgebank project	5,000	April 2023
Landscape Partnership Crowcombe Park Gate car park	20,000	2024
Crowcombe Park Gate c/p maintenance	10,000	10 year
<b>Total</b>	<b>£35,000</b>	

### Reserves **£139,965**

### The charity reserves have been allocated to the following agreed priorities

<b>Internal Projects fund</b> including-	20,000	2023/25
• Rebranding-web update (£5,000)		
• Tree & Scrub clearance (£3,000)		
• Footpath at Kilve (£2,500)		
• Archives (£1,000)		
• Other projects to be agreed		
<b>External grants and sponsorship fund</b>	20,000	2023/25
• Rights of way repairs (£5,000)		
<b>Employment continuity fund</b> (Three years base salaries)	36,000	2023/25
<b>Legal fighting fund/land purchase fund</b>	63,965	long term
Hedges reinstatement (£2,400)		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£139,965</b>	

## Friends of the Quantocks

### Income and expenditure account for year ending 31/12/22

<b>Receipts:</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Annual Subscriptions	£4,188	£4,013
5 yr subscriptions	£750	£975
Business subscriptions	£975	£1,045
<b>sub-total</b>	<b>£5,913</b>	<b>£6,033</b>
Donations	£162	£140
Legacy	£0	£45,049
Events	£56	£216
Sales	£1,600	£74
Gift Aid reclaim	£1,370	£1,297
interest	£867	£1,255
	<b>£9,968</b>	<b>£54,064</b>
Investment growth/loss	(£12,939)	£404
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>(£2,971)</b>	<b>£54,468</b>
<b>Payments:</b>		
AONB contribution	£1,000	£1,000
Project officer	£5,503	£0
Project officer travel and expenses	£67	£0
Audit costs	£240	£240
Clerical expenses	£400	£400
Print, post, stationery & sundry expenses	£1,828	£1,030
Bank Charges	£110	£28
Insurances	£182	£326
Event costs	£722	£414
Land maintenance costs	£1,472	£1,004
Landscape Partnership	£5,000	£10,542
Grants and Sponsorships	£500	£500
<b>Total expenditure:</b>	<b><u>£17,024</u></b>	<b><u>£15,484</u></b>
<b>Deficit/Surplus for the year:</b>	<b>(£19,995)</b>	<b>£38,984</b>
Balances at end of year	£174,965	£194,960

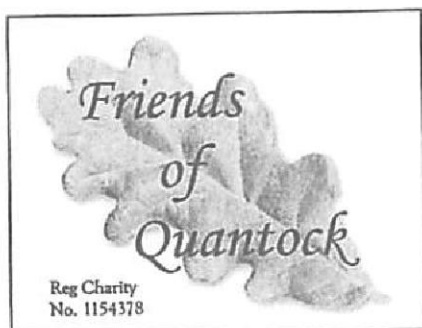
**Friends of the Quantocks**

England & Wales - Charity number 1154378

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# Accounts

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## **FRIENDS OF QUANTOCK**

CIO Registered Charity No: 1154378

**31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

***President:***

Lady Gass DCVO

***Vice President:***

Mrs Laetitia Kelly

***Chairman:***

Mr John Andrews

***Vice Chairman:***

Mr Alan Hughes

***Hon. Treasurer:***

Mr Robin Stamp

***Hon. Secretary:***

Mrs Mary ter Braak

***Trustees:***

Mr Philip Comer

Mr Alan Hughes

Mrs Laetitia Kelly

Mr Ian Kett

Mr David Lloyd

Mrs Mary ter Braak

Mr Tim Whittingham

Mr John Andrews

Mr Robin Stamp

***Committee:***

The Trustees

Rev Stephen Campbell

Mrs Jasmine Lucas

Mr Mike Pitcher

Mr Ben Bartlett (Quantock Commoners)

Mr Chris Edwards (AONB service)

***Bankers:***

HSBC 17 North Street, Taunton

Somerset, TA1 1NA

***Principal Address:***

20 Staple, West Quantoxhead, Taunton,

TA4 4DQ

## Chairman's Annual Report for 2021

Despite some progressive easing of restrictions due to Covid, there were still constraints on what we, the AONB Service and the Lottery project – the Landscape Partnership Scheme – could do in 2021. Nonetheless progress was made on several fronts and as many projects are long-term, this report also brings matters up to date and looks forward to the future.

We are committed to maintaining our own landholding in optimum condition with respect to its landscape value, its varied wildlife and its importance for the Commoners' livestock. We discussed management of its varied habitats with Natural England and the AONB in 2021 and were in broad agreement about priorities.

After an interminable delay we finally got consent this winter to fell a mix of small trees downslope beside the Ramscombe Mire. The Commoners had asked for this to facilitate bracken control which will benefit livestock and wildlife. The work, funded by the AONB, was done very tidily by Matt Peaster and his team. And before that we consented a berry collection exercise by a firm that grows native provenance trees; given the problems with imported tree diseases this is something to foster whenever possible.

Elsewhere on our land we found we had an imported pest of our own – Japanese knotweed. Jeremy Scott-Bolton, who joined the Cttee in 2021, kindly agreed to tackle this notoriously difficult plant and that work is ongoing.

In passing I will mention that we anticipate more tree work, to prevent damage to the Dead Woman's Ditch, a scheduled ancient monument, possibly Bronze Age, by roots or by trees falling.

In the summer, at the request of the AONB, we ran at Ramscombe Mire a training day on plant ID and on how to assess the condition of mires. It was attended by AONB, Natural England and National Trust staff as well as a number of volunteers. The plan is that the condition of all the Quantock mires will be assessed – the main issue is excess grazing and trampling by livestock which prevents the plants from flowering and we hope that, if necessary, measures will be agreed with the Commoners to restore those that need it. The mires are extraordinary places – our patch holds 83 plant species – and a delight to the eye in summer.

The bank and ditch along the roadside from DWD to Crowcombe Gate, for which consent has been long-awaited, was constructed in March 2022 by a local contractor and we hope that it will prevent the casual and unsightly parking on our land that damages the old cultivation ridges as well as the grassland important for the Commoners' beasts and for wildlife. Bill Jenman of the LPS was a great help with arranging this.

Planning consent is still awaited for the new Crowcombe Gate car park but we are hopeful that it will be approved. We are contributing £20,000 towards the cost and have also committed to do necessary maintenance work for a decade.

Now for a look ahead. Thanks to generous legacies we have accumulated significant funds that will enable us to do more in and for the AONB. We have developed a three year rolling strategy in which the four principal proposals are these.

 2/6/22

First to employ a part-time Project Officer to promote membership and fundraising and also to support a number of new projects that we are considering.

Second, to seek somebody to enable us to play an active role in the planning process. Thanks to our Cttee member David Lloyd, we were able to submit a strong objection on landscape grounds to the Washford solar farm proposal and this made us realise that to properly carry our role we need to be much more alive to developments in and around the AONB.

Our third proposal is to seek to develop an educational outreach project around the themes of farming and wildlife in the dozen or so local primary schools. However, that is for 2023 or later, depending on other factors.

Fourth, we are looking at grant-aiding projects to improve the landscape and access provision. Possible ideas include repairs to tracks on the hill, stone-bank repair, hedge-laying training, improving disabled access and a Quantocks walks booklet.

We now have the government's response to the Glover Review on the future role of National Parks and AONBs. While broadly to be welcomed it, typically, leaves a lot to be finally decided. There are important issues about powers, not least in relation to development control, and about future funding. An unresolved challenge is how to maintain and restore biodiversity while encouraging more public access. This is going to bite us here on the hill and it is good that the work in train, not least on the new car park, will help to ease the impact.

The AONB's draft reply to the government is very much in tune with our Committee's view and we have of course submitted our own response. As will be apparent from what is being done, we have a strong and positive working relationship with the AONB and I'm very pleased that both Chris Edwards and Iain Porter are here and will be speaking to us later.

Last but by no means least, I want to briefly mention people and things they do. We are very fortunate in that Philip Comber is continuing as Vice Chairman and as our lead representative on the AONB's Joint Advisory Committee and the Board of the Landscape Partnership Scheme. Equally important is that Alan Hughes, formerly Vice Chair, remains very actively involved - his knowledge of the Quantocks is invaluable to us.

Barbara Shaw, who arranged and led our invariably pleasurable and informative members' walks has retired. Mary ter Braak, for long our Secretary and expert in the detail of our charity rules, is stepping down from the role this spring. Our thanks to them both. However, Mary will remain our Membership Secretary and her husband Kees has kindly agreed to monitor matters connected with Hinkley Point. Trudi Mansfield, a newcomer to the Quantocks, joins us as Secretary and the Committee as a whole brings to bear a breadth of professional experience and opinion that makes them good to work with.

I look forward to an exciting year of progress.



Mr J Andrews

Date 2 June 2022

**FRIENDS OF QUANTOCK**  
**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**  
**TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRIENDS OF QUANTOCK**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Friends of Quantock charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 which are set out on pages 3 and 4.

**Responsibilities of trustees and examiner and basis of report**

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

My examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*KDavi*

Kelly Davies ACCA  
Thomas Westcott  
7 Castle Street  
Bridgwater  
TA6 3DT

Date ..6.June.2022



*Protecting the Quantock hills since 1949*

Mr Robin Stamp, Treasurer,  
20 Staple, West Quantoxhead, Taunton TA4 4DQ  
Tel: 01984 633535: treasurer@friendsofquantock.com

## **Financial Reserve Policy Background**

Over the years the charity has built up an income stream from membership subscriptions sufficient to cover the ongoing standard running costs and obligations for the charity plus a surplus which has generally amounted to around £4,000 p/a. During the past two years the world has been affected by COVID and many charities have seen income reduce, we are pleased to report that this has not been the case with the FoQ and income from subscriptions has remained stable.

In addition to the above income, the charity also receives ad hoc gifts plus bequests and retiring funeral collections from the estates of former "friends", which bolster reserves further.

## **Financial Reserve Policy**

The trustees and committee treat very seriously the responsibilities they have to manage the charity resources for the longer term in line with the charities objective as set out in its governing document. In short, those objectives are as follows:

**To promote** for the benefit of the public the conservation protection and improvement of the landscape and natural environment of the Quantock Hills.

The charity will use its reserves to promote its aims within the wider Quantock AONB area and to seek further funding from grant giving authorities and to encourage individuals and local businesses to work with it to fulfil its aims.

### **The charity has a policy of holding reserves of funds to:**

- Cover its short-term liabilities
- Maintain sufficient capital to allow a minimum of 3 years continuity to its services and employment obligations
- Provide capital for it to carry out land management and other projects on its land and across the wider AONB area
- To maintain a capital fund to allow it to fight planning applications or proposals that are considered potentially harmful to the Quantock Hills
- Provide grants to individuals or organisations whose aims are in line with that of the charity-in particular where such grants are not generally available through other grant giving organisations or authorities and to provide sponsorship funding for events planned and run by the AONB and/or English Nature.
- To build up a capital fund to allow it to pursue the purchase of further land within the AONB
  - Income that is surplus to the charities short term needs will be accumulated in this fund, annually where no other specific needs has been identified.

## Financial report to 31/12/2021

<b>Current Monetary Funds:</b>	
HSBC Community Account:	20,420
Cambridge & Counties Bank:	
Easy access account (0.50%)	21,034
<b>Total Instant access</b>	<b>£41,454</b>
Cambridge & Counties Bank:	
45 day notice: (0.90%)	41,215
120 day notice (1.00%)	21,623
United Trust bank:	
12 month notice (1.16%)	25,263
<b>Total Monetary Funds:</b>	<b>£129,555</b>
<b>Investment funds</b>	
Fidelity Investment portfolio (£65,000 invested 20/08/21)	65,404
<b>Total Funds including investments:</b>	<b>£194,959</b>

<b>Financial obligations:</b>		<b>Date needed</b>
Landscape Partnership Hedgebank project	5,000	April 2022
Landscape Partnership Hedgebank project	5,000	April 2023
Landscape Partnership Crowcombe Park Gate car park	20,000	mid 2022
Crowcombe Park Gate c/p maintenance commitment	10,000	10 year
<b>Total</b>	<b>£40,000</b>	
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>£154,959</b>	

### The charity reserves have been allocated to the following agreed priorities

<b>Internal Projects fund including-</b>	20,000	2022/23
• Tree & Scrub clearance (£3,000)		
• Footpath at Kolve (£2,500)		
• Archives (£1,000)		
• Mire projects		
• Other projects to be agreed		
<b>External grants and sponsorship fund</b>	20,000	2022/25
<b>Employment continuity fund (Three years base salaries)</b>	60,000	2022/25
<b>Legal fighting fund/land purchase fund*</b>	54,959	long term
<b>Total</b>	<b>£154,959</b>	

\*These two funds have been listed as one entry as it is anticipated that calls on them will be few and far between and thus that the combined funds could be utilised for either purpose.

Friends of Quantock is a CIO, Registered in England No. 1154378  
Registered address: 22 Church Lane, Bicknoller, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 4EL

President: Lady Elizabeth Gass DCVO

[www.friendsofquantock.com](http://www.friendsofquantock.com)

**Friends of Quantock**  
**Income and expenditure account for year ending 31/12/21**

	2021	2020
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Annual subscriptions	£ 4,013	£ 4,064
5 year subscriptions	£ 975	£ 1,518
Business subscriptions	£ 1,045	<u>£ 1,090</u>
<b>sub-total</b>	<b>£ 6,033</b>	<b>£ 6,672</b>
Donations	£ 140	£ 100
Legacy	£ 45,049	
Events	£ 216	
Sales	£ 74	
Tax repayment	£ 1,297	£ 1,705
Interest on Investments	£ 1,255	£ 1,953
Investment growth	£ 404	
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b><u>£ 54,469</u></b>	<b><u>£ 10,430</u></b>
<b>Payments:</b>		
AONB contribution	£ 1,000	£ 1,000
AONB bird box contribution		£ 105
Audit costs	£ 240	£ 240
Clerical expenses	£ 400	£ 400
Print, post, stationery & sundry expenses	£ 1,030	£ 1,906
Bank Charges	£ 28	£ 17
Insurances	£ 326	£ 505
Event costs	£ 414	
Land maintenance costs	£ 1,004	£ 2,184
Landscape Partnership	£ 10,542	
Project costs		
Grants and Sponsorships	£ 500	
<b>Total expenditure:</b>	<b><u>£ 15,484</u></b>	<b><u>£ 6,357</u></b>
<b>Surplus for the year:</b>	<b>£ 38,985</b>	<b>£ 4,073</b>
<b>Balances brought forward:</b>	<b>£ 155,975</b>	<b>£ 151,902</b>
<b>Total funds at year end:</b>	<b>£ 194,959</b>	<b>£ 155,975</b>

**Friends of the Quantocks**

England & Wales - Charity number 1154378

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# Accounts

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**FRIENDS OF QUANTOCK**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

**TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRIENDS OF QUANTOCK**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Friends of Quantock charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 which are set out on pages 3 and 4.

**Responsibilities of trustees and examiner and basis of report**

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

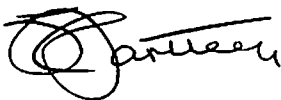
My examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mrs S Cartledge FCA  
Sully & Co  
Chartered Accountants  
18-22 Angel Crescent  
Bridgwater

12<sup>th</sup> April 2021



*Protecting the Quantock hills since 1949*

Mr Robin Stamp, Treasurer,  
Mickleton House, 18 Tower Hill, Williton, Taunton TA4 4NT  
Tel: 01984 633535: info@friendsofquantock.com

**Charity accounts YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

<b>President:</b>	Lady Gass DCVO
<b>Vice President:</b>	Mrs Laetitia Kelly
<b>Chairman:</b>	Mr Philip Comer
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	Mr Alan Hughes
<b>Hon. Treasurer:</b>	Mr Robin Stamp
<b>Hon. Secretary:</b>	Mrs Mary ter Braak
<b>Trustees:</b>	Mr Philip Comer Mr Alan Hughes Mrs Laetitia Kelly Mr Ian Kett Mr David Lloyd Mrs Barbara Shaw Mrs Mary ter Braak Mr Tim Whittingham
<b>Committee:</b>	The Trustees Mr John Andrews Rev Stephen Campbell Mrs Jasmine Lucas Mr Mike Pitcher Mr Ben Bartlett (Quantock Commoners) Mr Chris Edwards (AONB service)
<b>Bankers:</b>	HSBC / 17 North Street / Taunton Somerset TA1 1NA
<b>Principal Address:</b>	Dodhill Firs / Nailbourne / Taunton Somerset TA2 8AT

## **Friends of Quantock**

### **Report of the Trustees and Chairman's Report 2020**

This has been a strange year for Friends of Quantock as it has for all of us. Early in January we became aware of a new infectious disease in China, and watched as cases started to spread around the world, appear in Europe and then the UK. It soon became apparent that Covid 19 was going to impact on all our lives, as cases increased and restrictions on movement and activities came in. This has meant that we were not able to hold our AGM in March and most of our planned activities had to be cancelled. The AGM was eventually held by proxy

When the first lockdown came into effect in March, there was an immediate impact. The roads were suddenly almost empty, people were discouraged from travelling any distance, even for their daily exercise. The AONB service decided to close their car parks on the Quantocks; FoQ followed the example and closed the ones on our land as well (Dead Woman's Ditch and Sandy Beds). For those of us who live close enough to walk up onto the hills they were eerily quiet.

When lockdown was eased, people were eager to get back out into open country and the car parks rapidly became overcrowded. It was good to see people out and enjoying the hills, but one downside was that many were parking on the grass opposite Crowcombe Park Gate and along the road at other locations. We did try to manage this along with the Quantock AONB Rangers, but it was not possible without having people up there most of the time. We had not seen so many people up enjoying the Quantocks before. We took the view that we would have to live with the situation and wait until the new car park at Crowcombe Park Gate had been completed.

The new car park at Crowcombe Park Gate is of course part on the Quantocks Landscape Partnership Scheme which won funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund. Luckily the recruitment process for the manager of the QLPS was able to be completed before lockdown and we were pleased that Bill Jenman, who had managed the bid process, was appointed as manager of the QLPS. Recruitment for the other members of the team was delayed but they were all in place by November 2020. Bill has reported on the Landscape Partnership Scheme elsewhere in the Newsletter.

It was necessary to get approval under the Commons Act for the proposed new car park at Crowcombe Park Gate, and it was expected to get approval within December 2020, but as of January 2021 we still wait to hear. It had been hoped that work could start early in 2021, but with additional delays due to Covid it is now likely to be in the autumn after the busy summer period. The one event we were able to hold this year was the walk in the Cothelstone estate to see the Jupiter Statue and the Grotto in the old Terhill Park, and then Cothelstone Church and St Agnes Well. We had a good group who enjoyed the walk down and a smaller group that carried on and walked back up to Lydeard Hill car park via Cothelstone Hill. Many had not seen either the Jupiter Statue or the Grotto before and the weather was kind. Our thanks to Hugh Warmington for his permission to walk through his estate.

Another achievement this year was the completion of the fence around Ranscombe Mire. This is also reported elsewhere in this Newsletter. The contractors did an excellent job on the fencing and we had positive support from the commoners. Our thanks to John Andrews for organising this. Friends of Quantock continue to be active members of the Joint Advisory Committee, and are members alongside the local authority representatives. In recent years FoQ have provided £1000 of funding to the Quantocks AONB Service; this has now been formalised and we have completed a donation agreement to maintain this level of funding over a 3 year period from April 2020. Both Philip Comer and Alan Hughes represent FoQ on the Board of the Quantocks Landscape Partnership Scheme.

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2020

	2020	2019
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Annual subscriptions	3,986	3,780
5 year subscriptions	1,518	975
Gift membership	78	-
Business subscription	<u>1,090</u>	<u>1,295</u>
<b>sub-total</b>	<b>6,672</b>	<b>6,050</b>
Donations	100	602
Legacy		15,976
Events		-
Sales		22
Tax repayment	1,705	1,245
Interest on Investments	<u>1,953</u>	<u>1,801</u>
<b>Total income:</b>	<b><u>10,430</u></b>	<b><u>25,696</u></b>
<b>Payments:</b>		
AONB contribution	1,000	1,000
AONB bird box contribution	105	125
Independent examiners costs	240	240
Clerical expenses	400	400
Print, post, stationery & sundry expenses	1,906	2,149
Bank Charges	17	
Insurances	505	484
Event costs		412
Land maintenance costs	2,184	4,739
Project costs		<u>240</u>
<b>Total expenditure:</b>	<b><u>6,357</u></b>	<b><u>9,789</u></b>
<b>Surplus for the year:</b>	<b>4,073</b>	<b>15,907</b>
Balances brought forward:	151,902	135,995
<b><u>Total funds at year end:</u></b>	<b><u>155,975</u></b>	<b><u>151,902</u></b>

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES  
YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

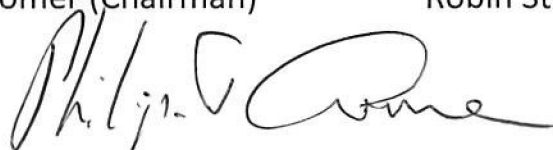
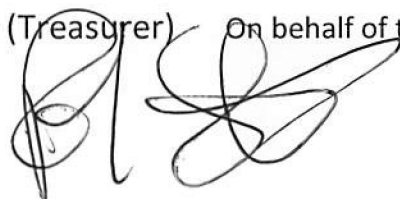
	2020	2019
£	£	
<b>Land on Quantocks:</b>		
Custom Common/Halsway Hill & Thorncombe Hill	2	
	=====	=====
<b>Monetary Funds:</b>		
HSBC Community Account:	24,971	27,728
Paypal account	12	-
Cambridge & Counties Bank:		
45 day notice:	21,007	20,716
120 day notice	21,360	20,996
2 year fixed rate	-	21,160
1 year fixed rate	42,545	-
Shawbrook Bank:		
CAF Instant access (was 1yr fixed rate)	21,080	20,788
CAF 1 year fixed rate	-	40,514
United Trust bank:		
12 month fixed rate	25,000	-
<b>Total Monetary Funds:</b>	<b>£155,975</b>	<b>£151,902</b>
	=====	=====
<b>Allocation of funds:</b>		
Tree & Scrub clearance	3,000	
Footpath at Kilve	2,500	
Archives	1,000	
Crowcombe Park Gate car park	20,000	
Hedgebank project	20,000	
Crowcombe Park Gate car park, 10yr maintenance	10,000	
Legal fighting fund	50,000	
<b>Allocated funds</b>	<b>106,500</b>	
Unallocated funds	49,475	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£155,975</b>	

Philip Comer (Chairman)

Robin Stamp (Treasurer)

On behalf of the Trustees

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**SUMMARY ACCOUNTS FOR 2020**

	2020	2019		2020	2019
	£	£		£	£
<b>INCOME</b>			<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Subscriptions	6,672	6,050	Administration	2,323	2,549
Tax repayment	1,705	1,245	Audit costs	240	240
Events	0	0	Insurance	505	484
Sundry	<u>0</u>	<u>22</u>	Event costs	-	412
			Land maintenance	<u>2,184</u>	<u>4,739</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>8,377</b>	<b>7,317</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b><u>5,252</u></b>	<b><u>8,424</u></b>
<b>Less Expenditure</b>	<b><u>5,252</u></b>	<b><u>8,424</u></b>			
<b>Surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>3,125</b>	<b>(1,107)</b>	<b>FUNDS brought forward</b>	<b>151,902</b>	<b>135,995</b>
Donations & Interest	2,053	2,403	<b>Surplus for year</b>	<b><u>4,073</u></b>	<b><u>15,907</u></b>
Legacy	<u>0</u>	<u>15,976</u>	<b>FUNDS AT YEAR END</b>	<b><u>155,975</u></b>	<b><u>151,902</u></b>
<b>Total available for</b>					
Charitable Purposes	5,178	17,272	Allocation of funds:		
Less: Projects	- 0	240	Tree & Scrub clearance	3,000	
AONB contribution	- 1,000	1,000	Footpath at Kilve	2,500	
AONB bird boxes	- <u>1 05</u>	<u>125</u>	Archives	1,000	
			Crowcombe Park Gate car park	20,000	
<b>Surplus for year</b>	<b><u>4,073</u></b>	<b><u>15,907</u></b>	Crowcombe Park Gate c/p maint	10,000	
			Hedgebank project	20,000	
			Legal fighting fund	50,000	
			Unallocated funds	<u>49,475</u>	
				<b><u>£155,975</u></b>	

*A full copy of the accounts with the examiner's report and notes will be available at the AGM or on request from the Hon. Treasurer.*