

TEAZLE WOOD TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1160532

Details

Other names TWT

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2015-02-17

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Rowhurst Forge
Oxshott Road
Leatherhead
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Email lucy@fireandiron.co.uk

Website <http://www.teazlewood.org.uk/>

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS: TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE CONSERVATION PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF WOODLAND KNOWN AS TEAZLE WOOD IN LEATHERHEAD, SURREY.

Activities: The object of the Teazle Wood Trust CIO is to promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of woodland known as Teazle Wood in Leatherhead, Surrey.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Animals, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Armed Forces/emergency Service Efficiency, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LOCAL
- Surrey

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-05	£2,814	£0	-	-
2024-08-05	£6,796	£0	-	-
2023-08-05	£515	£0	-	-
2022-08-05	£1,266	£479	-	-
2021-08-05	£307	£40,000	-	-
2020-08-05	£17,180	£0	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
LUCY ELIZABETH QUINNELL	Chair	2015-02-15
HILARY FRANCES LIVESEY		2018-02-15
PHILIP JOHN WESSELL		2019-02-15

TEAZLE WOOD TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1160532

Accounts

Trustees' Report for period 6.8.2024-5.8.2025

Teazle Wood Trust, Registered Charity no. 1160532

The object of the Teazle Wood Trust CIO is:

To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of woodland known as Teazle Wood in Leatherhead, Surrey.

August 2024 – August 2025 was another busy year with good progress made by the regular conservation volunteers.

The new footbridge was completed and professionally installed – a really substantial improvement and an achievement of which everyone is immensely proud.

In early autumn 2024 Helen Middlemas confirmed the presence of Brown Hairstreak butterflies (*Thecla betulae*).

The serious impact of planning issues on various sites adjoining the wood remained a major area of focus.

Lucy Quinnell attended a report of raw sewage leaking into the Rye Brook close to the main Teazle Wood entrance on the south-eastern corner. She had been contacted by staff from the Leatherhead Motor Company who had seen this issue – the network built up since the community took on the stewardship of Teazle Wood is extremely valuable and this is a perfect example of why it is important. Lucy then reported it to Thames Water and the Environment Agency.

Autumn saw a spectacular 'hatching' from what looked like big off-white bird eggs of the remarkable fungus *Clathrus ruber*. It is bright scarlet and looks like loose-knitted cages or baskets. We learned that it is bioluminescent, so a volunteer came to see it at night with specialist equipment to illustrate the bioluminescence and enable good photographs for our records. Two local primary school groups were able to visit and see this inspiring ecological event.

Our Ukrainian opera-singing duo returned to sing again for Teazle Wood at our Heritage Open Days event in September 2024.

The conservation volunteers located a single mature horse chestnut tree in Teazle Wood, on the top western end of the ridge. This is to the best of our knowledge the only one, but we are planning a new tree survey to check for any others. This was identified as the volunteers created a new discreet path to enable ecological survey access. In the same area a volunteer found the strikingly and incongruously turquoise fungi *Chlorociboria aeruginascens*.

It is notable that we have not found any evidence of Oak Processionary Moth in this time period, despite it being reported in the wider local area. We have recorded large numbers of Blue and Great tits, which have emerged as OPM predators.

Litter has been manageable, although there is a tangible increase in Macdonald's litter since the new Macdonald's restaurant opened in Leatherhead town centre.

An anomalous spike in local fox deaths beginning in December 2024 became a major cause for concern, especially as our local authority advised members of the public to dispose of fox carcasses in countryside (including woodland). We took this on as a project: establishing the cause; forming partnerships with all who do or should be involved; collecting fox carcasses ourselves; and lobbying for clearer communication and a better-informed and better-advised general public. Responses were generally very disappointing, but our MP (Helen Maguire - Epsom & Ewell) visited and we had excellent help from Natural England's Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS). WIIS collected fox carcasses for sophisticated tissue sample testing, and confirmed that rodenticide was present and that its potential misuse or abuse formed part of their investigations into why so many foxes were dying in similar circumstances. This is an ongoing investigation and no final conclusions have yet been drawn.

The volunteers did a day of hazel coppicing in the winter, to keep up our routine of getting some of the hazel back into rotation. They routinely now top up the brash barrier at our vehicular entrance at Tesco – it has worked perfectly at deterring fly-tippers and litterers since we first built it, so it a great success story of simple intervention that *works*. It's a nice, satisfying task for volunteers, too, and they can see that their efforts are worthwhile.

There were further sewage leaks from the same place on the Rye Brook, so we repeated the reporting process and Thames Water raised the manhole edges with cement. We are keeping a close eye on whether this latest measure works.

Several spent helium balloons were removed from the woodland – all of them this year were the very large letters and numerals that are currently popular.

Ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) remains a huge feature of the Teazle Wood landscape, and it is of course changing the landscape very dramatically. It makes monitoring and managing the woodland's public footpath very important, and we carry out weekly visual checks and safety tree surgery as required. We have introduced detailed warning signage at the entrances. We regularly seek advice from experts and review our policies, and we visit other local sites to observe their approaches to the problem. We cancel conservation activity on windy days, in line with our risk assessment. We have noted the Forestry England's list of 30 tree species most adaptable to future climate changes and most resistant to pests and diseases; we already have a third of these and are prioritising them in our volunteer activity. Summer 2025 was exceptionally hot, and we provided a clean water source for wildlife and observed signs of stress in trees.

Teazle Wood Trust

Registered Charity no. 1160532

Financial Statement for the year ending 5 August 2025

Cash balance at start of year 06/08/2024

Lloyds TSB Treasurers Account £21,589.65

L&DCPS £ 2,924.96*

A grant of £5,000 from the **Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society has been made to Friends of Teazle Wood, with conditions regarding expenditure (the money can only be spent on goods and services associated with the constitutional objects of the L&DCPS - ecological and archaeological surveys, tree work, signage, projects concerned with litter clearance, etc.). These funds will be held by the L&DCPS for use as required, and the balance shown here.*

Income

Donations £ 2,813.86

Expenditure

Nil £ 0,000.00

Cash balance at 05/08/2025 £24,403.51

Lloyds TSB Treasurers Account

L&DCPS £ 2,924.96*

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Signed by the Treasurer John Adam Boydell:

John Adam Boydell

Signed by the Chair of the Trustees Lucy Elizabeth Quinnell:

Lucy Quinnell

TEAZLE WOOD TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1160532

Accounts

Trustees' Report for period 6.8.2023-5.8.2024

Teazle Wood Trust, Registered Charity no. 1160532

The object of the Teazle Wood Trust CIO is:

To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of woodland known as Teazle Wood in Leatherhead, Surrey.

August 2023 – August 2024 was a full and highly satisfying year with a growing band of regular conservation volunteers and plenty of positive progress.

On 6 August 2023 community members gathered at Teazle Wood to participate in the Big Butterfly Count. For our official hour of spotting it rained and we recorded just one Holly Blue, but then the sun came out and we noted Peacock, Red Admiral, Gatekeeper, Green-veined White, Small White, Purple Hairstreak and Speckled Wood butterflies (and a Ruddy Darter dragonfly). We have sensed greater numbers of butterflies now that light has been let into so much of the woodland and we have more flora.

Our youngest volunteer found a modern stainless steel teaspoon on the ridge, which led to an interesting group discussion about an Trefid spoon stamped A N E that was also found in Teazle Wood and is possibly Elizabethan or thereabouts. Ann and Nicholas Elliot have a connection to Teazle Wood, so perhaps this was their spoon?

We are pleased to be one part of what is now a growing network of groups focused on river health, and this year we benefitted from access to the local testing results from the new charity River Mole River Watch. The Rye (along the bottom edge of Teazle Wood) flows into the Mole, and its improved health has long been our aim and the focus of much of our conservation work. We are glad to have allies.

The Teazle Wood volunteers continued to do a superb job and achieved: the establishing and re-establishing of pathways and old cart tracks, another group of coppiced hazel; surveying of flora and fauna; expansion of the history archive; and major improvements in the litter situation (both through clearing and education). There has been a significant reduction in litter at the back of the Tesco store (achieved by continuous liaison with managers and the staff on the ground). The staff are tending to be much more aware and interested in the ecology, and were thrilled to find a Great crested newt in the store! We recognise that this work is ongoing and that we need to keep reaching out and reinforcing the messages to keep the good practice active.

It was wonderful to see a growing number of very young volunteers attending with their families this year.

In September, Teazle Wood participated in Heritage Open Days and two young Ukrainian opera singers and refugees Oleksii Zasiadko and Daria Moskaliuk asked to do a fundraising concert for Teazle Wood, performing on the edge of the woodland itself with musical friends made here in Surrey and London. This was a magical moment in the Teazle Wood story of community and networks.

Winter enabled us to remove a great deal of brash that had been a fire-risk concern in the hot summer months. We need to continue this work every winter. We also built some new habitat piles in areas of Teazle Wood's Ancient Woodland where we have not done this before, and we have positioned and designed these carefully so that they are not a fire hazard.

A volunteer identified a single Spindle tree (*Euonymus europaeus*) in the north part of the wood – and this species has not previously been recorded in our tree surveys.

By February 2024 Teazle Wood was particularly waterlogged. We were joined by volunteers from the Lower Mole Partnership to get some substantial path-clearing tasks achieved and we were grateful to have their help.

Spring saw two adjacent planning proposals to the north-west and to the east of Teazle Wood. The former Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People buildings at Dorincourt are to be replaced by a distribution centre, and 48 homes are proposed on the land east of Teazle Wood and immediately north of Tesco (this is the Green Belt land which suffered from scraping, unlawful clear-felling, unpermitted tarmacking and the illegal importation and burning of waste). We have major concerns

regarding both of these projects, and Trustees Hilary Livesey and Lucy Quinnell worked very hard to liaise with developers, study proposals and applications and write responses. We consider this detailed work to be definitely worthwhile in terms of protecting the woodland and raising the quality of any neighbouring activity when development is permitted. Of particular concern are missing reports and erroneous reports which would clearly cause harm to Teazle Wood if left unchallenged. A good example is an official newt report now attached to both sites which show *no ponds at all* in the whole of Teazle Wood – there are well over 20 major ponds in Teazle Wood. A required Archaeological Impact Assessment was not provided with the Dorincourt application. This is unacceptable. Teazle Wood was badly affected by breaches of planning control on its western edge, and we are committed to ensuring to the best of our ability that further damage is limited.

Oak Processionary Moth infestations have been absent this year (we have not sprayed but have recorded large numbers of Blue tits which have emerged as a key predator of OPM, and we also have Wrens, Great tits and Nuthatches which we understand are also proving to be predators).

Ash dieback (*hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) is a major concern and we continue to regularly monitor the situation and to seek advice.

We monitored our growing copse of Wild Service trees, which is doing well, and planted some local yellow flag irises in one of the ponds on the advice of one of our expert ecologists.

In July 2024, Lucy Quinnell's story 'Acorns – The Fairytale' was announced as one of 'The First Ten Stories' chosen by the National Trust to celebrate 30 years of Heritage Open Days. This story describes the moving arrival of the Ukrainian refugees in the Teazle Wood landscape and their efforts to support the woodland. Lucy was invited to Stationers' Hall in London to hear the announcement of the story as a winner.

Trustee Phil Wessell launched the new website he had designed, featuring all of the Teazle Wood Newsletters from the beginning of the community stewardship.

In July and August 2024 the focus of the volunteers was the ambitious building of a new bridge at the entrance to Teazle Wood. This was built off-site over several weeks ready for installation in the autumn.

Teazle Wood Trust

Registered Charity no. 1160532

Financial Statement for the year ending 5 August 2024

Cash balance at start of year 06/08/2023

Lloyds TSB Treasurers Account £14,793.15

L&DCPS £ 2,924.96*

A grant of £5,000 from the **Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society has been made to Friends of Teazle Wood, with conditions regarding expenditure (the money can only be spent on goods and services associated with the constitutional objects of the L&DCPS - ecological and archaeological surveys, tree work, signage, projects concerned with litter clearance, etc.). These funds will be held by the L&DCPS for use as required, and the balance shown here.*

Income

Donations £ 6,796.50

Expenditure

Nil £ 0000.00

Cash balance at 05/08/2024

Lloyds TSB Treasurers Account £21,589.65

L&DCPS £ 2,924.96*

A grant of £5,000 from the **Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society has been made to Friends of Teazle Wood, with conditions regarding expenditure (the money can only be spent on goods and services associated with the constitutional objects of the L&DCPS - ecological and archaeological surveys, tree work, signage, projects concerned with litter clearance, etc.). These funds will be held by the L&DCPS for use as required. Nothing was spent in the financial year 2023-2024.*

Signed by the Treasurer John Adam Boydell:

John Adam Boydell

Signed by the Chair of the Trustees Lucy Elizabeth Quinnell:

Lucy Quinnell

TEAZLE WOOD TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1160532

Accounts

Trustees' Report for period 6.8.2022-5.8.2023

Teazle Wood Trust, Registered Charity no. 1160532

The object of the Teazle Wood Trust CIO is:

To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of woodland known as Teazle Wood in Leatherhead, Surrey.

August 2022 – August 2023 was another smooth year in which the volunteer routine continued very robustly with good attendance and a real sense of seasonal chores becoming a rhythmic pattern.

The year started with a very dry woodland in August 2022 – the Rye bed was completely dry in places. The only positive was the chance to retrieve yet more rubbish from the Rye and from some of the ponds while there was so little water around.

The footpath finger post was removed along with other signage so frequently that we retrieved the latest one (which had been thrown in the river) and put it into temporary storage in the hope that those removing it will lose interest.

New volunteers joined us at the December 2022 session where we improved the Bluebell Path. We welcomed a volunteer from New Zealand who had recently moved to the UK.

Lucy Quinnell led a winter walk for members of the community.

Helen Middlemas confirmed the presence of Grey wagtails in January 2023.

In the February session we completely cleared a fallen tree that had blocked access along the Rowhurst Hill footpath.

Caroline Cardew-Smith exhibited her textile piece inspired by Teazle Wood and explored the themes publicly on social media, including re-visiting the 'Poor Murdered Woman' story. We further researched the incredible history of the Woodbridge Brickfield / Rowhurst Brickworks within Teazle Wood, and found a new postcard of the site which is now B&Q and which appears to show stacked bricks waiting to be transported.

We cut hazel whips to protect the Small teasle (*Dipsacus pilosus*) plants by the River Mole in Leatherhead town centre.

We assisted staff from a consortium of M25 management service providers with the flooding issues at M25 Junction 9, and shared the process with the community for educational purposes. We are offering ongoing assistance.

Stag beetles and Red kites were confirmed again this summer, and in June the very unusual sight of an Egyptian Geese family with young goslings. Butterfly surveys confirmed the presence of Silver-washed Fritillaries, Painted Ladies, a confirmed sighting of one Purple Emperor, Red Admirals, Marbled Whites and a Purple Hairstreak.

Volunteer staff from AVIVA joined us in July for a major session with Powerpoint presentations and conservation tasks including litter clearance, footpath maintenance and Himalayan Balsam pulling.

The Leatherhead & District Countryside Protection Society was successful in an application for £12,000 from the Levelling Up fund, for its 'Running Places' project, and a small part of this allowed for repairs at the edges of the Leatherhead Common Walk before it passes through Teazle Wood, and meetings concerning helping the L&DCPS to deliver the Running Places tasks took place in order to progress the work later in 2023.

Litter remains a problem but attention to this formed part of every volunteer session and we feel on top of the situation. Tesco occupying our vehicular entrance to the wood was quickly resolved.

Trustee Phil Wessell worked on the new website, and Lucy Quinnell registered to take JustGiving donations.

Teazle Wood Trust

Registered Charity no. 1160532

Financial Statement for the year ending 5 August 2023

Cash balance at start of year 06/08/2022

Lloyds TSB Treasurers Account £14,278.08

L&DCPS £ 2,924.96*

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Income

Donations £ 515.07

Expenditure

Nil £ 0000.00

Cash balance at 05/08/2023

Lloyds TSB Treasurers Account £14,793.15

L&DCPS £ 2,924.96*

A grant of £5,000 from the **Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society has been made to Friends of Teazle Wood, with conditions regarding expenditure (the money can only be spent on goods and services associated with the constitutional objects of the L&DCPS - ecological and archaeological surveys, tree work, signage, projects concerned with litter clearance, etc.). These funds will be held by the L&DCPS for use as required. Nothing was spent in the financial year 2022-2023.*

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England & Wales - Charity number 1160532

Accounts

Trustees' Report for period 6.8.2021-5.8.2022

Teazle Wood Trust, Registered Charity no. 1160532

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August 2021 – August 2022 was a generally very positive and straightforward year, with a real sense of returning to a more normal routine after the disruption of the pandemic.

A good variety and number of butterflies were reported in and close to Teazle Wood in summer 2021. Posting 'finds' on social media is a lovely way for the wider community to learn about what we share our environment with. We have plenty of keen experts willing to share their knowledge and answer questions. A 'Gatekeeper', for example, was spotted on the eastern edge of the wood and its ID confirmed by Keith Lelliott and Helen Middlemas. Helen added:

"It is usually found near hedges, and along field and woodland edges. The Gatekeeper will lay its eggs on various grasses, and these will hatch most likely in August and September. It will over-winter as a caterpillar, and then pupate next June/July into the next generation of adults. This is one example of why leaving some long grass helps the insects to continue their life-cycle."

Our regular litter picks continued, with litter disappointingly building up badly at all countryside sites and including Teazle Wood. It shows that countryside is well-used, but we clearly must re-engage with the whole issue as a nation.

The items found on litter picks continue to surprise. "There's always something!". Summer and autumn 2021 saw all kinds of strange finds, including a Spider-Man mask and a second pierced-heart bucket to go with the first one we found a few years ago. We re-use what we can – Caroline Cardew-Smith uses her heart bucket as a bean-gathering trug; the first one is used educationally in the Teazle Wood litter archive (showing people the variety of stuff that gets discarded in countryside).

The roe deer who early in 2021 had two fawns is doing well – she sticks mainly to the eastern edge of Teazle Wood where she and her young are relatively safe.

This year we noticed a local increase in cases of Lyme Disease, and we also became aware of some severe skin reactions in North Leatherhead to an unknown insect bite/sting. Oak Processionary Moth (which can cause very unpleasant skin reactions in people and animals) is in the area, and has been seen on trees at the Dorincourt site in Oaklawn Road and close to local schools. We have not yet seen it during regular surveys in Teazle Wood, but we obviously expect to find it in the near future. We are in an endemic area for Lyme, but we are concerned about the lack of awareness of this in the local community and in local GP practices. We hope we can liaise with both to become a sensible and 'aware' population.

We worked again with our friends nearby – Wildlife Aid – to assist a distressed female fox. Expert assessment revealed an unusual injury – she had lost a lot of fur on her abdomen and had injuries perhaps caused by barbed wire or brambles that had caused a severe inflammatory reaction.

Storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin hit in quick succession in mid-February 2022 and took their toll on Teazle Wood, with a few big trees down.

The regular volunteer sessions expanded and proved very popular this year, with lively activity including litter picking, re-building of brash vehicle barriers, the surveying of the Wild Service trees, testing of water in the Rye Brook, butterfly surveys, volunteer photographic recording, local history / arts projects and footpath clearance. The unusually hot and dry summer of 2022 caused concern re. potential fire risk from anti-social behaviour, so extra monitoring sessions were introduced to address this, and great care was taken to remove broken glass when litter picking. Advantage was taken of the low water levels in the Rye to pull out old litter normally inaccessible in the river channel. A water source was provided at the top of the Teazle Wood ridge to ensure that local wildlife could access water (this was well-used). Another dig by Surrey Archaeological Society in 2022 progressed their understanding of this area.

Teazle Wood Trust

Registered Charity no. 1160532

Financial Statement for the year ending 5 August 2022

Cash balance at start of year 06/08/2021

Lloyds TSB Treasurers Account £13,491.08

L&DCPS £ 2,924.96*

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Income

Donations £ 1,266.00

Expenditure

Payment to Surrey County Council for Lower Mole Partnership Woodland Management at Teazle Wood (Cheque no. 000006) £ 479.00

Cash balance at 05/08/2022

Lloyds TSB Treasurers Account £14,278.08

L&DCPS £ 2,924.96*

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Signed by the Treasurer John Adam Boydell:

John Adam Boydell

Signed by the Chair of the Trustees Lucy Elizabeth Quinnell:

Lucy Quinnell

TEAZLE WOOD TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1160532

Accounts

Trustees' Report for period 6.8.2020-5.8.2021

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August 2020 – August 2021 was another year of positives and challenges.

The large increase in public use of Teazle Wood seen as the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic took hold in spring and early summer 2020 continued, and we were proud to be able to keep the woodland accessible throughout and manage the negatives such as the increase in litter and anti-social behaviour.

In mid-August 2020, volunteer Tony Marshall carried out another moth survey. The photographs and results were shared and enjoyed on social media – people loved to hear about the less-well-known moths such as 'Rosy Footman', 'Tree-lichen Beauty' and 'Maiden's Blush'.

We carried out 'Trustees only' litter picks for Health & Safety reasons to keep litter at bay, and Lucy Quinnell and Caroline Cardew-Smith provided a new illustration and designed an anti-litter banner, and then joined forces with the Leatherhead & District Countryside Protection Society, Friends of River Mole Leatherhead and the Fetcham Residents' Association to get these printed and installed at key problematical locations. Having solved the problem of omnipresent blue plastic petrol station gloves in previous years, the new scourge was used face masks.

Following the popularity of the Helen Macdonald BBC programme featuring Teazle Wood, we saw a new increase in people taking an interest in the fungi. Our resident Woodland Trust volunteer photographer Emile de Sousa took stunning photos of the fungi in the autumn.

Teazle Wood became the surprise star of a film in the Crystal Palace Festival 2020, when a video clip of the wood at night as the world emerged from lockdown and the M25 went back to normal was used by the band 'Fireflies' for their track 'Get Out of Town'.

In October 2020, we were finally able to resume volunteer activity, with new risk assessments and safer 'no contact at all' methods of working. We began with our experienced volunteers only, to test the water, and it worked until the new restrictions came into force. We will retain the new approach of each volunteer keeping his or her own tool set between events and bringing individual refreshments. It's actually an ideal activity – outside with substantial space between participants.

Throughout, we stayed in touch with the wider community on social media. The Facebook group works particularly well, and enables Friends of Teazle Wood to debate all kinds of relevant topics, from trees to insects to forest fires to online ecology talks, etc.

In a brief window of restrictions being lifted, we carried out coppicing work with volunteers and with a new group leader Jeremy Breeveld, who was working at the nearby Juniper Hall Field Studies Centre. We were able to coppice a group of hazels and ensure that 2020 had achieved coppicing another set of trees as part of our plan to get back to a healthy rotation.

Back in Tier 4 restrictions, we returned to the monitoring of the wood for any anti-social issues and kept an eye on the flora and fauna. Grey wagtails were recorded, the volunteers growing Wild Service trees from Teazle Wood seeds reported their progress online. Emile de Sousa took another set of photos in spring, and we recorded the roe deer giving birth to young and our first pair of nesting Red Kites.

In January 2021 we were delighted to be able to purchase a major beneficial share from one of the lenders who had made the original purchase possible. Buying this £40,000 share represents a major step in the plan to achieve community ownership of the whole wood; something remarkable for the community to celebrate.

Spring 2021 saw more litter picks by our stalwart volunteers, including help from Allan Scott to clear river channel blockages on the Rye Brook with Lucy Quinnell. Our butterfly and newt surveyor Helen Middlemas encouraged visitors to report butterflies, and some great images were shared.

In June 2021, as part of wider efforts to improve the area at the edges of the wood, including a roundabout by very busy superstores, the Lower Mole Partnership installed new public footpath fingerposts at the entrance as well as on the pavement at the roundabout.

The Teazle Wood Trust joined the Mole Valley Community Lottery, for fundraising and awareness. We need to replenish funds after the successful purchase of the £40,000 share.

Oak Processionary Moth and *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* did not seem as problematical in summer 2021 as they had been the year before, but we are monitoring the situation carefully. Lyme Disease cropped up for several local individuals (associated with the general area), and this is something we will be keeping a very close eye on.

Teazle Wood Trust

Registered Charity no. 1160532

Financial Statement for the year ending 5 August 2021

Cash balance at start of year 06/08/2020

Lloyds TSB Treasurers Account £53,184.08

L&DCPS £ 2,924.96*

A grant of £5,000 from the **Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society has been made to Friends of Teazle Wood, with conditions regarding expenditure (the money can only be spent on goods and services associated with the constitutional objects of the L&DCPS - ecological and archaeological surveys, tree work, signage, projects concerned with litter clearance, etc.). These funds will be held by the L&DCPS for use as required, and the balance shown here.*

Income

Donations £ 307.00

Expenditure

Purchase of beneficial share £40,000.00

Cash balance at 05/08/2021

Lloyds TSB Treasurers Account £13,491.08

L&DCPS £ 2,924.96*

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Signed by the Treasurer John Adam Boydell:

John Adam Boydell

Signed by the Chair of the Trustees Lucy Elizabeth Quinnell:

Lucy Quinnell

TEAZLE WOOD TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1160532

Accounts

Trustees' Report for period 6.8.2019-5.8.2020

Teazle Wood Trust, Registered Charity no. 1160532

The object of the Teazle Wood Trust CIO is:

To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of woodland known as Teazle Wood in Leatherhead, Surrey.

An extraordinary year for the world and for Teazle Wood.

We focused on individual tree types in autumn 2019, such as blackthorn and hazel, promoting them one by one as an educational project to the local community. Two of Teazle Wood's 'Friends' Hugh & Janet Baker celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 2019, and their family decided to sponsor a tree variety in Teazle Wood in celebration. We suggested the rare Wild Service tree, as we have a parent tree and lots of younger trees that need our gentle input in order to thrive. Hugh & Janet are keen educators, so we ran a social media campaign to share the fascinating information about this tree – lots of local people (including us!) now know much more about Wild Service trees; we also now know where all the young saplings are; some careful tree surgery has been carried out on the branches of an adjacent oak that had grown against the parent tree; and volunteers are propagating new trees using a variety of methods (we harvested some berries, extracted the seeds and subjected them to 'cold stratification'. We also transplanted some tiny saplings that were growing right on the public footpath where they would be destroyed underfoot, and these are doing well).

The Wild Service tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) is a hermaphrodite, from the Rosaceae family, and is native. Sometimes called 'Chequers' because its distinctive bark is 'cracked' into square plates, it is an Ancient Woodland indicator.

Teazle Wood had an autumn visit from Rare TV and the writer/naturalist/presenter Helen Macdonald, who were making a programme for BBC4 about special hidden places close to motorways. Our fungi expert Professor David Hawksworth kindly came along to show the team some of Teazle Wood's fascinating fungi, thriving quietly so close to the M25.

Building on the success of its first spring dig, Surrey Archaeological Society's autumn dig on the 'Rowhurst Teazle Wood' site was another great event. Despite torrential rain, which made the London Clay even more challenging than usual, the archaeologists (led by Nigel Bond) excavated a trench that rewarded them with plenty of interest including a posthole, Roman amphora and numerous sherds from a large Late Saxon pot. This last item is very significant, as it is the first Saxon find recorded on the RTW (Rowhurst Teazle Wood) site, and of course is interesting in the light of the theory that King Alfred the Great's missing Royal settlement and church may lie in this northern part of Leatherhead.

Braving the downpours, a delightful group of students from West Hill School (Special Educational Needs) in Leatherhead joined the archaeologists and were thrilled to find plenty of modern live worms along with plenty of finds, including a very large animal tooth – probably from a cow.

Lucy Quinnell spoke at the Medieval Studies Forum in Guildford, and Surrey Archaeological Society planned to hold a forum on site in April 2020 to discuss all the evidence in order to decide the best strategy before digging was due to re-start in May 2020.

The developer responsible for the unauthorised demolition of the Royal Oak pub, which had strong historical links to Teazle Wood, did appeal against the MVDC decision to refuse the retrospective application to demolish and build 24 flats, and won. The Planning Inspector agreed with the Councillors and community, but in the absence of a Local Plan showing where MVDC will provide residential development, applied a 'tilted balance' in favour of housing.

Our Forestry Commission Management Plan was approved. Thank you to Chartered Ecologist and Woodland Consultant Petra Billings for her skill and sensitivity in helping us with this – she understood the emphasis on gentle handling of the woodland and community involvement, and created a plan with just the right balance. We commissioned our latest professional tree survey to assess the safety of the ash trees adjacent to the public footpath, which are now quite badly affected by *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (formerly called Chalara dieback of ash). Sadly we have had to reduce and in some cases fell a number of diseased ash trees to ensure users of the public footpath are safe, but we took a ‘minimal intervention’ approach ensuring that trees which remain safe and stand a chance of survival have been left to be regularly assessed in the hope they will make it. The silver lining is that Petra had recommended ‘punching a hole in the canopy’ of the very crowded ash trees close to the ridge in Teazle Wood, and the tree surgery required and carried out in February 2020 has simultaneously achieved that. A surprising number of young elms, hawthorns, field maples, hazels, oaks and hornbeams were extant but failing to thrive under the over-crowded, tall and straggly ash, and these can now grow healthily. All wood has been left in habitat piles, extending earlier habitat piles that have now become a major haven for stag beetles in particular.

Tree surgery is very expensive, and we are indebted to a Friend of Teazle Wood who *incredibly* generously paid for this round of tree work required.

It rained, and rained, and rained... After such dry years, with empty ponds and stressed flora and fauna, it was a relief to see Teazle Wood soaking again, with its ponds full and the streams flowing, although our thoughts were with those adversely affected by flooding down in the town. The winter brown teazle heads sagged in the rain, saturated, and in the mild temperatures the seeds germinated on the heads, which we have never seen before.

On 6 January we held a conservation task day, with the aim of clearing scrub, letting in light and establishing a pathway through dense brambles and blackthorn to an intriguing feature on the LiDAR map of Teazle Wood. We discussed whether this might be connected to a 1292 local records entry for a medieval rabbit warren, built in Pachesham by owner Sir Eustace de Hache who lived just 300m away from our circular feature, as there is also a double-banked mound nearby that looks very like a ‘pillow mound’ rabbit warren. Sir Eustace superintended the building of Caernarfon Castle for Edward I, and Piers Gaveston was later Lord of Pachesham Manor. This discussion caused us to find out more about medieval rabbit warrens, and we came across Thetford Warren Lodge, which looks strikingly like Teazle Wood’s near neighbour Rowhurst. Have we struck gold in understanding this huge terraced ridge in North Leatherhead? Rabbit warrens were sometimes built on old Iron Age hillforts. Only time and more work will tell!

Teazle Wood Trust joined the new Mole Valley Environment Forum as well as a group formed to improve the neglected roundabout at Tesco and B&Q. A kingfisher sculpture is planned to boost the town’s understanding of the superb ecology it has and must nurture.

Litter picks had continued regularly, but the Sunday before the litter pick due to take place on Monday 3 February 2020 saw four volunteers struck down with a severe cough and fever. Lucy Quinnell wrote an email which in hindsight is an interesting document – she described an unusually violent cough and was concerned that it could be devastating for certain vulnerable volunteers to get this. She had decided to be safe and to very unusually cancel the February litter pick. It now seems very likely with hindsight that this was Covid-19. The disease had a huge impact locally, and tragically some of our wonderful supporters died or were extremely ill over the next few weeks and months.

Unaware that Covid-19 was yet in the UK, however, hard work continued on responses to the Mole Valley District Council Draft Local Plan. The impact on the ecology of Teazle Wood of numerous planned housing estates adjacent or nearby would be devastating, and detailed responses were submitted, including an extensive professional report by consultant and Teazle Wood Trustee Hilary Livesey. With the nation locking down and in chaos, and with several of the Friends suffering badly healthwise, the deadline for submissions was 23 March 2020 and we met that, but many members of the public were unable to

comment as they had planned to because of dealing with illness and with sudden shifts in work and domestic arrangements for the pandemic.

As the nation adjusted to a very unfamiliar way of life, and as people started to get used to the idea of daily exercise, Teazle Wood came into its own as a place of sanctuary and uplift at a very difficult time indeed. Coinciding with the glorious spring weather that helped so much, and a very quiet M25, were the woodland's many acres of wild garlic and bluebells in flower. Lucy Quinnell managed the situation with routine monitoring and external advice. Other outdoor nature spots close by had closed because of pressure from visitors (Polesden Lacey, Box Hill, etc.), but by shutting down the usual promotion of Teazle Wood, it was possible to keep it open and enable a distanced flow of families and individuals (mainly from the North Leatherhead community – an Area of Social Deprivation where many people have no garden) to safely take their daily exercise in a special, beautiful and healthy setting. Lucy was very struck by how Teazle Wood was playing such a crucial role that could never have been imagined when the community took the woodland on as a project – the wood looked stunning, healthy and free now from over a hundred tonnes of dangerous junk and litter hauled out by volunteers over the past few years of community ownership. How great that so many people were able to tread gently in a setting that seemed like a paradise in the midst of so much distress and confusion. It was very obvious that people had a new-found appreciation for local countryside and wildlife, and it was good to see so many people discovering nature photography and becoming much more interested in local landscapes. Many people were walking in countryside for the first time.

Cancelled talks about Teazle Wood were gradually replaced by Zoom versions as everyone got used to new ways of doing things.

The Rare TV / Helen Macdonald wonderful documentary – 'The Hidden Wilds of the Motorway' – aired on BBC4 in early July 2020, and we were delighted with the thoughtful section about Teazle Wood.

Oak Processionary Moth emerged as a real new challenge by the summer. OPM nests were identified on adjacent land on two edges of Teazle Wood, and skin reactions in two people occurred (one very serious, requiring hospital assessment and treatment). Warning signs were placed along the public footpath, and oak trees in Teazle Wood monitored for nests – again, no actual tree within Teazle Wood has yet been identified as infested, but it is (as before) inevitable that OPM will affect Teazle Wood if it hasn't already. We are following Forestry Commission guidance carefully and keeping a close eye on the situation.

Fundraising was hit by the pandemic – the usual events did not take place – and the Trustees are addressing how best to replenish funds as we move forward.

Teazle Wood Trust

Registered Charity no. 1160532

Financial Statement for the year ending 5 August 2020

Cash balance at start of year 06/08/2019

Lloyds TSB Treasurers Account £36,004.08

L&DCPS £ 4,100.00*

The grant of £5,000 from the **Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society has been made to Friends of Teazle Wood, with conditions regarding expenditure (the money can only be spent on goods and services associated with the constitutional objects of the L&DCPS - ecological and archaeological surveys, tree work, signage, projects concerned with litter clearance, etc.). These funds will be held by the L&DCPS for use as required.*

Income

Donations £17,180.00

Expenditure

Nil £00,000.00

(Zero expenditure because all services during this year's activities were given gratis on a voluntary basis)

Cash balance at 05/08/2020

Lloyds TSB Treasurers Account £53,184.08

L&DCPS £ 2,924.96*

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Signed by the Treasurer John Adam Boydell:

John Adam Boydell

Signed by the Chair of the Trustees Lucy Elizabeth Quinnell:

Lucy Quinnell