

BOX COMMUNITY WOOD

England & Wales · Charity number 1169429

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2016-09-30

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

Contact

Address Laburnams
Box
Stroud
Gloucestershire
GL6 9HG

Phone 01453839041

Email rogerogle@compuserve.com

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:1. TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AT BOXWOOD FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT; AND2. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THENATURAL ENVIRONMENT.NOTHING IN THIS CONSTITUTION SHALL AUTHORISE AN APPLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE CIO FOR THE PURPOSESWHICH ARE NOT CHARITABLE.

Activities: To purchase and maintain Box Wood, Gloucestershire on behalf of the community in order to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment at Box Wood for the public benefit and to advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Gloucestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£847	£360	-	-
2023-12-31	£633	£1,200	-	-
2022-12-31	£1,512	£2,945	-	-
2021-12-31	£1,104	£1,532	-	-
2020-12-31	£920	£949	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
BERIS NIGEL HANKS	Chair	2016-09-30
Martin William Smith		2019-07-02
Robert Common		2024-04-23
Roger Anthony Ogle		2020-06-02
THOMAS PENTZEK		2016-09-29

BOX COMMUNITY WOOD

England & Wales - Charity number 1169429

Accounts

Report on activities of Box Community Wood

1st January 2024

to

31st December 2024

Registered charity

number 1169429

BOX COMMUNITY WOOD

Background

Box Wood has traditionally been used by Box residents and visitors for a variety of recreational purposes over many years. Originally thought to have been created by mill workers for pedestrian access to local woollen mills in the Avening and Nailsworth valleys, the numerous footpaths are now used for walking, educational activities for local children, exercising (including dogs), spotting the indigenous wildlife as well as continuing to provide access to neighbouring villages, common land and other locations; benefits that we can all enjoy.

Box Community Wood (BCW) is an independent charitable organisation, established specifically to own Box Wood on behalf of the local community and to protect and manage it as an amenity for the foreseeable future.

BCW raised funds locally and acquired Box Wood on behalf of the community, in order to make it available for the enjoyment of the public in general, to conserve and manage the woodland and its wildlife, and to protect it from any possible future development.

It was recognised that the trustees of BCW would not have the necessary expertise or resources to manage the wood in the longer term, and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) agreed to enter into a 99 year lease as our tenant, to manage and conserve the wood. This includes the development of an ongoing, medium term management plan, obligations to manage its sustainability, and insurance against probable risks.

Between February 2017 and the date of this report, extensive wildlife audits have taken place and a programme of scrub clearance, footpath clearing and general management, including tree safety inspections, have taken place and will continue, organised by GWT and supervised by their land management team but carried out largely by enthusiastic local volunteers.

Box Wood is fully open to the public, with footpaths, fencing, gates, signage and general access having been massively improved. The intense activity and remarkable enthusiasm around the purchase of Box Wood has raised local awareness, and its use by villagers, the local community in general and even those travelling from further afield has greatly increased in the period since its acquisition by BCW.

Charitable Purposes

The charitable organisation **Box Community Wood** was formed with the specific intention of acquiring Box Wood on behalf of the local community, in order to preserve the integrity of the woodland into the future, and to protect Box Wood from future development. Box Wood is itself an area of natural beauty, adjacent to Box Conservation Area, both of which are contained within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Under the ownership of Box Community Wood, Box Wood has been made wholly accessible to all members of the public, attracting local people and those from further afield to the great outdoors so that they can enjoy and appreciate this unique piece of Gloucestershire's natural countryside. Box Wood is carefully managed for the benefit of wildlife, flora, fauna and the general environment.

Box Community Wood, in cooperation with local educational organisations, will maintain and develop opportunities within

Box Wood for educational purposes. One trustee of Box Community Wood is specifically nominated by an educational organisation to ensure that educational opportunities are considered in all aspects of the wood's maintenance and development.

Box Community Wood has a strong interest in working with young people, as well as disadvantaged and hard to reach groups, with a particular interest in the health and wellbeing benefits of being outdoors. Box Wood is available to play a part in educational organisations' outdoor curricula.

Practical Aims of Box Community Wood

Ownership of Box Wood, on behalf of the community

Year-round access to Box Wood for everyone

Protection of Box Wood from future development

Ongoing care and maintenance of the woodland

Footpaths will be kept open and maintained, including public rights of way

Protection and encouragement of indigenous wildlife

Preservation and restoration of ancient woodland

Insurance against probable risks

Public Benefits of BCW's actions

Box Wood is now protected from development

Box Wood is fully open and accessible to the public

Footpaths are open and maintained

Wildlife is protected and encouraged

Box Community Wood has complied with its duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit, as published by The Charities Commission, in exercising its powers and duties.

Practical Conservation Projects Undertaken during 2024

(report by Beris Hanks — chairman of Box Community Wood trustees)

This year saw some changes of personnel. Steve Hemmings resigned from his trusteeship of Box Community Wood and so is no longer our chairperson. Steve was Chair of the Trustees for seven years - and played a hugely important role in preserving the footpath rights, in the acquisition of the wood - and in reaching the agreement with the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) regarding their overall management and conservation work. Steve also kept a close eye on the wood and contributed hugely to the regular volunteer groups which have achieved so much in recent years. We, and the local environment, all owe him a huge debt of gratitude. However, Steve has not bowed

out as he continues as one of the regular volunteers and still keeps a watchful eye on the wood. We very much value his generous support, time and advice.

Beris Hanks took on the role of Chair for the time being – and Bob Common, our new Trustee, organises our volunteer work schedule. Our other trustees continue in their roles: Roger Ogle as our Treasurer/Accountant, Martin Smith as our Secretary and Thomas Pentzek as representative of the Novalis Trust (as well as also being our architect and insurance agent!).

The volunteers are a small but aging group, and Bob's spreadsheets have rekindled our post-Covid enthusiasm, and given us direction and the ability to coordinate with the greater GWT groups, who have a regular commitment to both Box Wood and the Stuart Fawkes Nature Reserve.

There has been further work along the southern boundary with Pensile Road - and more clearance of Cherry Laurel. Flooding of the main footpath has been alleviated through drainage works and there has been some cutting back on the footpaths leading down into the wood from Box. Maintenance work has also been carried out on the kissing gate near the bottom of Scar Hill. See Bob's report for further details of tasks completed and planned.

Another important development is the purchase and installation of 15 new bat boxes along the main wildlife corridor leading along from the entrance off Iron Mills Common to the former lake which has been cleared and managed to benefit

insect feeding bats and birds. The bat boxes were purchased by Daniel Winter of the GWT with the remaining funds given to the wood in memory of Felicity Smith. Dan also installed them for us, as they have to be placed at quite a height. There are also some dormouse boxes which will be placed, when we are advised, on their best location. A lot of hazel has been coppiced both on the edges of Iron Mills Common (National Trust) and within Box Wood. Hazel nuts are the favourite food of dormice, so we are hoping they will colonise the wood from nearby woodlands.

Box Wood has become an important base for education in recent years with The Cotswold Chine School carrying out Forest School activities with small groups of children and Minchinhampton Primary School bringing children to the wood as part of their school trip/ecology programme. Last year I accompanied a visit of Y1/Y2 children and this year of Y5/Y6 children. The children were delightful, learnt a great deal and enjoyed themselves. They were also very respectful of the environment.

In June three of us met with Andrew Mc Laughlin who is the Chief Executive officer of the GWT. We were able to show Andrew significant features and developments within the wood and in the Stuart Fawkes Nature Reserve - as well as having a very useful exchange of information and ideas. Our relationship

with GWT is vital for the wood's proper maintenance and we rely on them for their wildlife expertise, specialist workforce, tree maintenance, and grant-raising skills.

A particular interest of mine is the history of the wood and the changes that have taken place over the years. Some parts of the wood are ancient woodland but there are also areas that were formerly pastureland and plantations. There are records of land use in the woods in medieval times - including by charcoal burners. The most significant development, in creating the wood and features we see today, was when Peter Playne, one of the owners of Longford's Woollen Mill, bought Box House. He brought the current area together, and set about the creation of a woodland park with a skirting track (hedged with laurel, unfortunately), a lake, a series of cascades in the streams coming down from Box. He introduced specimen trees and other significant features that were fashionable in that era. The 'lake area' in Box Woods (now largely an area of wetland) was first created in the early 1800s at the behest of Peter Playne – and it then formed one of the features in his woodland park. However, it did not remain a distinctive feature for long as it is missing on maps of the late 1800s. Presumably it became filled with silt or the retaining bank failed. It was more of a lake again in the late 1900s when earth movements related to timber extraction vehicles, led to greater retention of water. Since that time the 'lake' has largely disappeared. However, this

marshy and more open area is very important for wildlife. As it was becoming rather overgrown with brambles and shrubbery the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Volunteers (GWT) recently started to cut back some of the regrowth to create a more varied mosaic to favour insects and the birds and bats that feed on them.

The Box Wood Volunteers (BWV) have also started on cutting some of the regrowth in the clearing / glade in the middle of the wood. (This area was also a product of the timber extraction mentioned earlier). Open areas in woods are vital in encouraging diversity and attract in species that don't favour dense woodland. Further work is also planned to maintain and widen the 'wildlife corridor' through the wood which links Iron Mills Common (National Trust) and the Stuart Fawkes Reserve (GWT) with the clearing and the lake. This corridor in particular encourages in butterflies and moths from the Iron Mills Common, where they are prolific, and aids bats that feed at the 'lake' prior to overwintering in the Box Stone Mines. Among the many varieties of bat are the rare greater and lesser horseshoe bats, both endangered species, which spend the warmer months at Woodchester Mansion. The bats there have been studied since 1959 by Dr Roger Ransome and this long-term study has contributed immensely to the scientific knowledge of these wonderful creatures. After clearance of the Glade and further work along the 'wildlife corridor' we then moved on to planned maintenance on the wood's paths, steps and

boundaries, as well as coppicing hazel and trying to keep on top of the laurel regrowth.

Also, this year we had the donation of a Tawny Owl box to put in the wood. This was originally provided by Counsellor Cloe Turner for a churchyard location but tawny owls are very particular as to where they nest and a suitable site could not be found. Therefore, Revd Gerald South of Box Church passed it on to us – and we await having it put up by the Wildlife Trust. We certainly have Tawny owls in the wood as their calls can often be heard.

Beris Hanks

Box Wood volunteering activities

The focus of BWV over the past year (October 2024 to September 2025) has continued to be on “care and maintenance” activities.

Depending on the season (for example no cutting during bird nesting between April and end September), the team has worked on keeping pathways clear of regrowth, repairing boundary fences and cutting and repairing steps within the wood.

BWV activities generally complement the regular work parties organised by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust which tend to tackle

more extensive clearance work.

Community involvement in BWV continues at a high level. We have 20 local residents who receive notice of work parties, of which 9 to 10 have turned out for sessions. Average attendance continues around 6 with each session lasting for up to 3 hours. Over the past year, one regular volunteer decided to retire from active involvement. Chris' efforts since acquisition of the Wood have been much appreciated. 5 new volunteers have offered their services during the same period.

Bob Common

Financial Summary 2024

BOX COMMUNITY WOOD - FINANCIAL SUMMARY								
1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024								
	DATE	CASH AT BANK		INCOME			EXPENDITURE	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
		Current Account	Reserve Account	Donations	Misc. Income	Bank Interest	Improvements	Miscell.
Opening Balances	01/01/2024	905.08	10767.99					
Insurance								
Wayleave Payment			61.17		61.17			
Annual Brochure Printing								
Donations (2)		400.00		400.00				
Gift Aid		100.00		100.00				
Improvement work		-360.00					-360.00	
Transfers								
Bank Interest			285.76			285.76		
Misc. expenses								
Closing Balances	31/12/2024	1045.08	11114.92					
				500.00	61.17	285.76	-360.00	0.00
Total Income					846.93			
Total Expenditure					-360.00			
Net Deficit for year (Income less expenditure)					486.93			

Accounting Policies and Reserves

Box Community Wood is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and its annual income is less than £500,000. It has therefore prepared its accounting records on the 'Receipts and Payments' basis. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the ***Charities Act 2011*** and ***Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice*** applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the **Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities** published on 16th July 2014.

BCW trustees have decided that it would be prudent to retain a modest cash reserve against any future management expenses that may be incurred. A proportion of this has been invested in an accessible interest-bearing account in the short term, and the Reserves policy will continue to be monitored at the discretion of the trustees.

BWC Registered Details

Charity number 1169429

Registered address:

c/o Roger Ogle

Laburnams, Box, Stroud, Gloucestershire,
GL6 9HG.

Box Community Wood Trustees

Beris Hanks — Chairman

Martin Smith — Secretary

Roger Ogle — Treasurer

Bob Common

Thomas Pentzek

BOX COMMUNITY WOOD

England & Wales - Charity number 1169429

Accounts

BOX COMMUNITY WOOD

**Report on activities of
Box Community Wood**

1st January 2023

to

31st December 2023

**Registered charity
number 1169429**



Background

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Charitable Purposes

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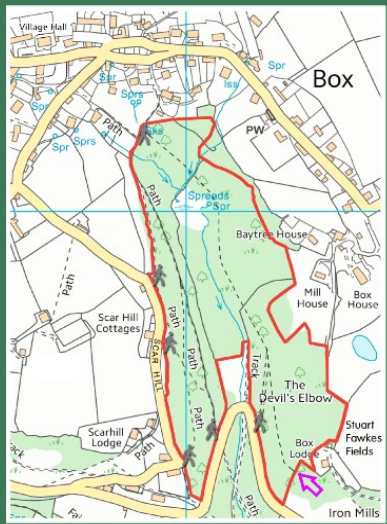
opportunities are considered in all aspects of the wood's maintenance and development.

Box Community Wood has a strong interest in working with young people, as well as disadvantaged and hard to reach groups, with a particular interest in the health and wellbeing benefits of being outdoors. Box Wood is available to play a part in educational organisations' outdoor curricula.

Box Wood

Welcome





This woodland is owned on behalf of the local community by Box Community Wood (registered charity number 1169429) and managed by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

The purchase of this woodland was initiated by Box Village Society with generous donations from local residents and with support and contributions from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, The Langtree Trust, Minchinhampton Parish Council and Novalis Trust.



Protecting Gloucestershire's **Wildlife** for the Future
Find out more at www.gloucestershiREWildlifeTrust.co.uk
Telephone: 01452 383333
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust registered charity number 232580

Practical Aims of Box Community Wood

- Ownership of Box Wood, on behalf of the community
- Year-round access to Box Wood for everyone
- Protection of Box Wood from future development
- Ongoing care and maintenance of the woodland
- Footpaths will be kept open and maintained, including public rights of way
- Protection and encouragement of indigenous wildlife
- Preservation and restoration of ancient woodland
- Insurance against probable risks



Public Benefits of BCW's actions

- Box Wood is now protected from development
- Box Wood is fully open and accessible to the public
- Footpaths are open and maintained
- Wildlife is protected and encouraged

Box Community Wood has complied with its duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit, as published by The Charities Commission, in exercising its powers and duties.

Practical Conservation Projects Undertaken during 2023

(report by Beris Hanks — chairman of Box Community Wood trustees)

The first two months of 2023 saw furious activity in Box Wood and Stuart Fawkes Fields as tree maintenance contractors were brought in by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust to fell dead and diseased ash trees. A second tree maintenance team with trucks and heavy lifting gear worked to thin The Spinney (a small, overcrowded area of Box Wood adjoining Stuart Fawkes Fields), felling several of the densely packed, non-native larch and pine trees that were preventing sunlight reaching the woodland floor. Much of the cost of the tree felling in The Spinney was paid for using “Felicity’s Fund”, a large sum of money given in memory of Felicity Smith, who loved Box Wood.

Large, overhanging trees were felled in the area below the Wilkinson Gate, and several other trees were cut or pollarded in the area just below the pond. Although primarily for safety reasons, the work has created a peaceful, open area next to the stream. Several logs have been cut and left as stools for children (or adults) to sit on, and here, too, we are hoping that wild flowers will soon begin to blossom where previously there was little sunlight.

March is considered to be the last month in which to safely remove or prune trees and shrubs, as birds start nesting. Therefore, Box Wood GWT volunteers then turned their attention to repairing gates, steps and other general maintenance. This included the rapid removal of Himalayan Balsam which was particularly prevalent in the highest part of the wood and around the pond area until two or three years ago, when the GWT volunteers set about clearing them. Bees love the attractive, pink flowers, but the pods disperse seeds over a huge area when they explode in late July to September, and new plants quickly monopolise the banks of the streams at the expense of our native vegetation.

Ever since Box Wood was purchased by the community in 2016, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) has encouraged the volunteers to consider Box Wood, Stuart Fawkes Fields and, to some extent, Iron Mills Common as one large nature reserve. Although the fields are owned by GWT and Iron Mills Common by the National Trust, wildlife has no understanding of property boundaries. There is no doubt that properties surrounding the woods and the fields, many of which have large gardens, also offer a home or feeding grounds to those same creatures

With this in mind, the GWT volunteers then turned some attention to Stuart Fawkes Fields. The volunteers spent several Thursday morning sessions cutting back brambles and bindweed that were starting to smother the new double hedgerow running east to west across the fields, planted to increase the ‘connectivity’ of local wildlife areas. With global warming, and the danger of species declining in isolated ‘islands’, there is an increasing need for additional ‘wildlife corridors’ to enable species movement and migration.

Box Wood links directly not only with the Stuart Fawkes Fields (both managed by GWT) but also with Iron Mills Common, ‘the W’ and Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons, all managed by the National Trust. Also, when particularly considering woodland species, Box Wood has near neighbours in the extensive area of Gatcombe Wood and Hazel Wood. Box Wood therefore plays an important part in this jigsaw of connectivity.

Steve Hemmings retired from his trusteeship of Box Community Wood in April 2024. Steve was Chair of the Trustees for seven years and he also played a hugely important role in preserving the footpath rights, in the acquisition of the wood, and in reaching the agreement with the GWT regarding their overall management and conservation work. Although no longer a trustee Steve continues to volunteer, keep an active eye on the woods and to help out in any way that he can. We all owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

Box Wood Volunteers *(by Bob Common — our new BCW trustee)*

Over the past number of years, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) have organised work parties to tackle the myriad tasks involved in managing the Wood. These sessions have been open to volunteers from across the county and have been regularly attended by a number of Box village residents.

Following the covid pandemic, however, GWT suffered a significant fall in funding whilst the number of reserves for which it was responsible stayed pretty much constant. GWT accordingly reorganised itself with a number of staff reductions and consequent reprioritisation of its remaining resources. The impact felt at Box Wood was that the frequency and timings of volunteer sessions was reduced.

As a way to help GWT maintain its levels of service to Box Wood and other reserves, regular Box Wood volunteers had a number of discussions with GWT with the aim of setting up more “care and maintenance” sessions, under the direction of GWT but with local volunteers providing work planning and coordination and the provision of First Aid cover during sessions.

In September 2023, GWT agreed that we could initiate sessions to run on a fortnightly basis, and they provided the various tools needed to execute tasks. The Box Community Wood trustees invested in a brush cutter for which two volunteers have “tickets” to operate this equipment. The first locally organised session took place on 5th October 2023 and over the final quarter, seven sessions were held.

Tremendous progress has been made in tackling the various tasks to maintain the Wood and this is summarised in the table below:

Task	Progress
Cut back laurel regrowth	Areas cleared include along the main path, in front of the lower (original) entrance on Pensile Road
Clear regrowth away from main paths through the Wood	Regular cutting back to widen paths to and around the waterfall/pond area
Repairs to steps at various points in the Wood	Repairs at Wilkinson Gate and at various points completed
Widen the Ride from the Glade to Iron Mills Common	Completed to allow easy flight paths for bats, butterflies and moths
Keep vehicle entrances free from regrowth	All vehicle entrances are clear

The local volunteer group has continued its work in the Box Wood with an average of six volunteers turning out every fortnight over the year to date. We maintain regular contact with GWT and are pleased that, in addition to the locally organised sessions, GWT continue to organise groups when more manpower or more specialised tools (for example to tackle ash die back) are needed.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2023

BOX COMMUNITY WOOD - FINANCIAL SUMMARY								
1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023								
	DATE	CASH AT BANK		INCOME			EXPENDITURE	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
		Current Account	Reserve Account	Donations	Misc. Income	Bank Interest	Improvements	Miscell.
Opening Balances	01/01/2023	1655.2	10585.05					
Insurance		-420.98						-420.98
Wayleave Payment			61.17		61.17			
Annual Brochure Printing		-47.00						-47.00
Donations (4)		450.00		450.00				
Gift Aid								
Improvement work		-689.00					-689.00	
Transfers								
Bank Interest			121.77			121.77		
Misc. expenses		-43.14						-43.14
Closing Balances	31/12/2023	905.08	10767.99					
				450.00	61.17	121.77	-689.00	-511.12
Total Income					632.94			
Total Expenditure					-1200.12			
Net Deficit for year (Income less expenditure)					-567.18			

ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND RESERVES

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BOX COMMUNITY WOOD TRUSTEES

Beris Hanks — Chairman
 Martin Smith — Secretary
 Roger Ogle — Treasurer
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Charity number 1169429

Registered address:
 c/o Roger Ogle
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BOX COMMUNITY WOOD

England & Wales - Charity number 1169429

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BOX COMMUNITY WOOD

Report on activities

1st January 2022

to

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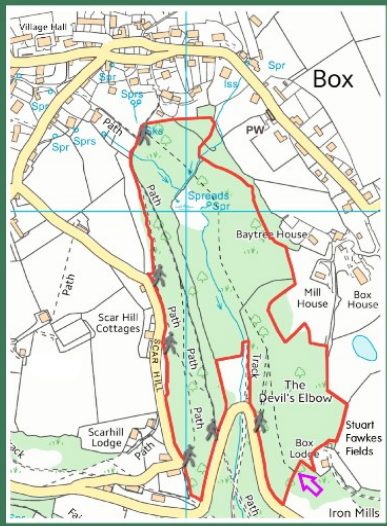
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- Ownership of Box Wood, on behalf of the community
- Year-round access to Box Wood for everyone
- Protection of Box Wood from future development
- Ongoing care and maintenance of the woodland
- Footpaths will be kept open and maintained, including public rights of way
- Protection and encouragement of indigenous wildlife
- Preservation and restoration of ancient woodland
- Insurance against probable risks



Public Benefits of BCW's actions

- Box Wood is now protected from development
- Box Wood is now fully open and accessible to the public
- Footpaths are open and maintained
- Wildlife is protected and encouraged

Box Community Wood has complied with its duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit, as published by The Charities Commission, in exercising its powers and duties.

Practical Conservation Projects Undertaken during 2022

2022 was the fifth anniversary of the purchase in February 2017. The purchase followed three long years of negotiations and fundraising. Since then, there have been many improvements made in the Wood, both for visitors and for wildlife.

Much of the work has been to enhance pedestrian access to the reserve, installing kissing gates and enabling paths to then form circular walks, including through to the adjoining GWT Stuart Fawkes nature reserve via the National Trust owned Iron Mills Common. The 'Clearing' has been significantly widened and, following two generous donations, locally sourced oak benches have been installed so that those walking through could stop and enjoy the tranquility.

Early this year another donation provided a number of new tree plantings in the area below the Wilkinson Gate where several trees have been lost to ash dieback and, before that, Dutch elm disease. Temporary netting has been placed around the new trees, mainly holly and yew, to discourage deer from grazing the young shoots. Some more box shrubs were included in the donation, and they have been planted near the clearing, where box is already growing successfully.

Meanwhile the trustees of Box Wood, who hold the deeds on behalf of the community, have invested in a major project to add a new set of steps alongside an old but awkward stile and which now form part of the main footpath into Box Wood from Pensile Road (Devil's Elbow). The new steps have been fitted with iron railings incorporating a new gate, making an attractive as well as a safer and more cow resistant entrance. Our sincere thanks go to the Novalis Trust, who very kindly provided the design and labour for the construction of the steps, and particularly to Thomas, Saman and Rhys who worked hard to ensure that Box Wood now has a safer and very worthy entrance from Devil's Elbow.

Projects Planned by BCW Trustees for 2023

Felicity Smith, a longtime Box resident who sadly passed away, loved Box Wood. Even when illness prevented her from walking down the paths, she insisted on seeing photographs of how Box Wood was progressing, and made further donations for tree plantings. It was Felicity's wish that a fund be set up after her death, requesting that any donations should go to Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust exclusively for the maintenance and development of Box Wood. A total of £3000 was raised.

Several ideas were put forward as to how best to use the fund, but the trustees have agreed with GWT to invest it in a scheme to create a new clearing in an area of the woodland known as "The Spinney", which is adjacent to Stuart Fawkes Fields. Currently The Spinney is populated largely by dead and dying non-native trees such as Japanese larch and Scots pine, creating a very dark and lifeless woodland floor. The intention is to remove many of the overcrowded and fallen non-native trees, thus bringing life to this tired area and encouraging native wild plants to grow, and to introduce a few more native deciduous trees to encourage wildlife. Work will commence early in 2023.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2022

BOX COMMUNITY WOOD - FINANCIAL SUMMARY								
1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022								
	DATE	CASH AT BANK		INCOME			EXPENDITURE	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
		Current Account	Reserve Account	Donations	Misc. Income	Bank Interest	Improvements	Miscell.
Opening Balances	01/01/2022	1210.05	12462.87					
Insurance		-412.56						-412.56
Wayleave Payment			61.17		61.17			
Annual Brochure Printing		-68.00						-68.00
Donations (3)		120.00	1000.00	1120.00				
Gift Aid		270.27		270.27				
Devils Elbow stile and gate		-2464.56					-2464.56	
Transfers		3000.00	-3000.00					
Bank Interest			61.01			61.01		
Closing Balances	31/12/2022	1655.20	10585.05					
				1390.27	61.17	61.01	-2464.56	-480.56
Total Income					1512.45			
Total Expenditure					-2945.12			
Net Deficit for year (income less expenditure)					-1432.67			

ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND RESERVES

Box Community Wood is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and its annual income is less than £500,000. It has therefore prepared its accounting records on the 'Receipts and Payments' basis. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the *Charities Act 2011* and *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice* applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the *Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities* published on 16th July 2014.

BCW trustees have decided that it would be prudent to retain a modest cash reserve against any future management expenses that may be incurred. A proportion of this has been invested in an accessible interest-bearing account in the short term, and the Reserves policy will continue to be monitored at the discretion of the trustees.



BOX WOOD

BCW TRUSTEES

Stephen Hemmings—Chairman

Martin Smith—Secretary

Roger Ogle—Treasurer

Beris Hanks

Thomas Pentzek

BCW REGISTERED DETAILS

Charity number 1169429

Registered address:
c/o Stephen Hemmings
1 Baycroft, Box, Stroud, Gloucestershire,
GL6 9HH.

BOX COMMUNITY WOOD

England & Wales - Charity number 1169429

Accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st January 2021
date

Period start

To 31st December 2021

Period end date

Charity name: Box Community Wood

Charity registration number: 1169429

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	1. To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment at Box Wood for the public benefit; and 2. To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment. Nothing in this constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the CIO for purposes which are not charitable.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	• Raised funds locally in order to purchase Box Wood • continued to monitor management arrangement and lease with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) • Carried on a woodland management programme under the direction of GWT. Box Community Wood has complied with its duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by The Charities Commission in exercising its powers and duties.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have paid due regard to all guidance received from the Charity Commission relating to public benefit

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	n/a
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	n/a
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	n/a
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	During this period of operations Box Community Wood has: • Continued a programme of woodland management under the direction of GWT • Removed old, damaged or unnecessary fencing and gates • Cleared scrub, dead brush and invasive non-indigenous species from the wood • Widened and cleared paths and rights-of-way through the Wood • installed or repaired gates, fencing and kissing gates at the entrances • Streams have been cleared and a 'leaky dam' created to manage rainwater passing into the wood after heavy storms • old stiles have been replaced, where appropriate, with robust kissing gates for easier and safer access • An historic gateway has been restored and access cleared • General measures to facilitate easy and safe access to the Wood have been put in place • opportunities to encourage and support indigenous wildlife are taken wherever possible

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	n/a
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	n/a
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	BCW has maintained a stable and positive financial position, with net deficit of only £428 and reserves of £13,673.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	BCW retains a modest cash reserve against any future management expenses that may be incurred. A proportion of this has been invested in an accessible interest-bearing account in the short term, and the Reserves policy will continue to be monitored at the discretion of the trustees.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£12,462
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	n/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	n/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	No known concerns

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Occasional public donations, bank interest and wayleave payments.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	n/a
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	BCW leases the woodland to Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, which takes responsibility for maintenance and insurance including public liability. BCW would therefore need to find an alternative lessee should GWT desist.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution document
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are appointed by Box Village Society (4) and the Novalis Trust (1)

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Familiarization with the CIO Constitution and general guidance for charity trustees issued by the Charity Commission.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	The charity has five trustees from whom a chair, treasurer and secretary are chosen by agreement with the other trustees
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	Box Wood is leased out to Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, which takes total management responsibility including safety, maintenance and the organising of volunteer work parties.
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	BOX COMMUNITY WOOD
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1169429
Charity's principal address	1 Baycroft Box Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 9HH

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Stephen Hemmings	Chair	Whole year	Box Village Society
2	Beris Hanks		Whole year	Box Village Society
3	Thomas Pentzek		Whole year	Novalis Trust
4	Martin Smith	Secretary	Whole year	Box Village Society
5	Roger Ogle	Treasurer	Whole year	Box Village Society

Corporate trustees - names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

--	--	--

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

--

Other optional information

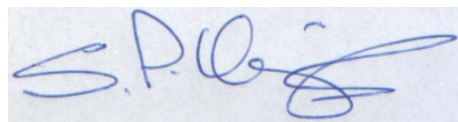
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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Stephen Philip Hemmings

Roger Anthony Ogle

**Position (eg
Secretary, Chair, etc)**

Chair

Treasurer

Date

--

BOX COMMUNITY V

1st January 2021 to 31

	DATE	CASH AT
		£
		<u>Current Account</u>
Opening Balances	01/01/2021	1775.99
Insurance		-402.36
Wayleave Payment		
Annual Brochure Printing		-56.60
Donations (4)		600.00
Gift Aid		366.29
2 Benches		-1042.87
Miscellaneous		-30.40
Bank Interest		
Closing Balances	12/31/2021	1210.05
Total Income		
Total Expenditure		
Net Deficit for year (Income less expenditure)		

VOOD - FINANCIAL SUMMARY

1st December 2021

BANK	INCOME		
£	£	£	£
<u>Reserve Account</u>	<u>Donations</u>	<u>Misc. Income</u>	<u>Bank Interest</u>
12325.37			
61.17		61.17	
50.00	650.00		
	366.29		
26.33			26.33
12462.87			
	1016.29	61.17	26.33
		1103.79	
		-1532.23	
		-428.44	

EXPENDITURE	
£ <u>Improvements</u>	£ <u>Miscell.</u>
	-402.36
	-56.60
-1042.87	
	-30.40
-1042.87	-489.36

BOX COMMUNITY WOOD

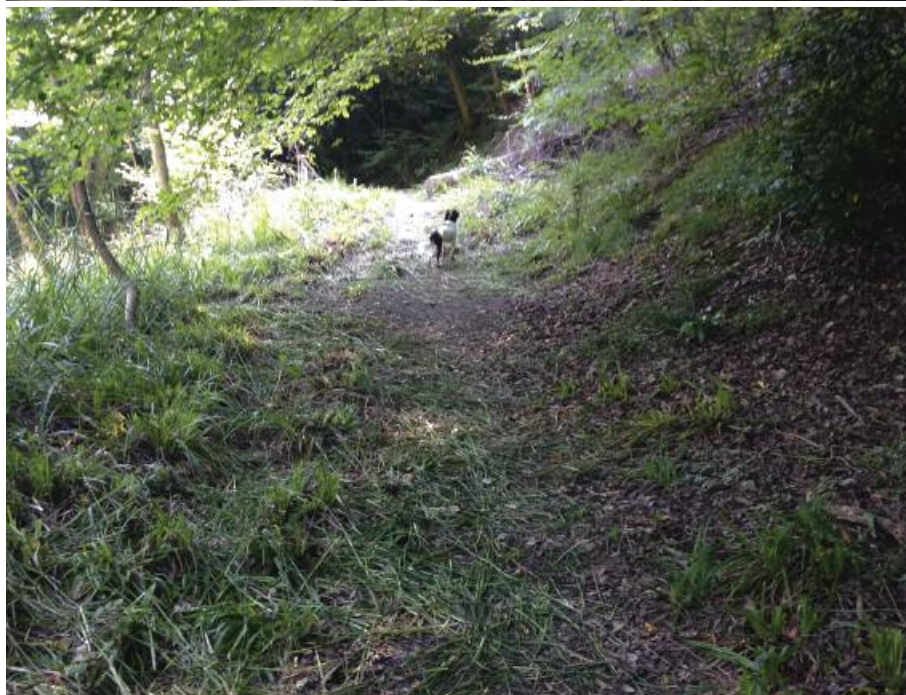
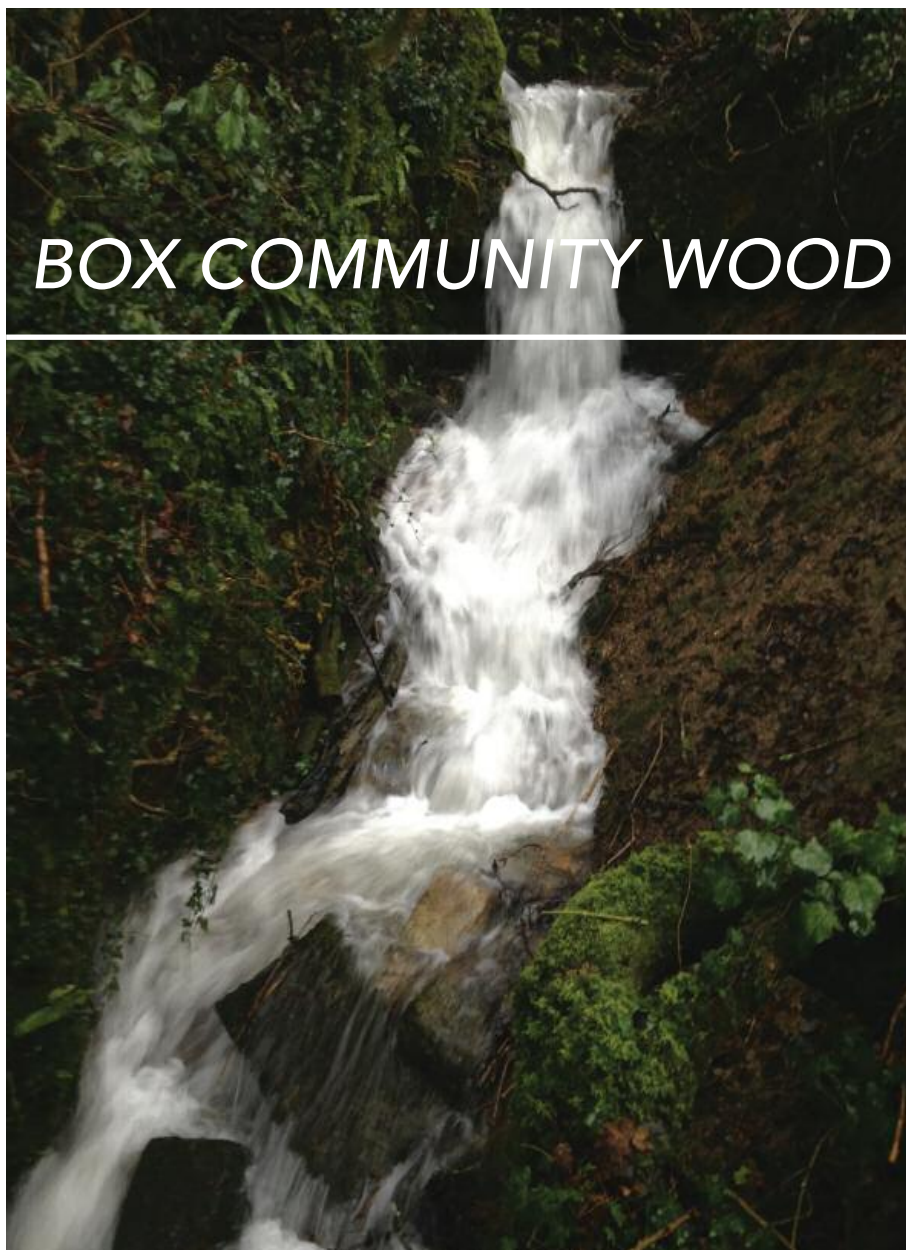
England & Wales - Charity number 1169429

Accounts

*Report on Activities
1st January 2020 to
31st December 2020*

*Registered Charity
Number 1169429*

BOX COMMUNITY WOOD



BACKGROUND



Box Wood had traditionally been used by Box residents and visitors for a variety of recreational purposes over many years. Walking, educational activities for local children, exercising dogs, the indigenous wildlife and access to neighbouring villages are benefits that we can all enjoy.

Box Community Wood (BCW) is an independent charitable body, established specifically to own the Wood and protect and manage it as an amenity for the foreseeable future.

BCW raised funds locally and acquired the Wood on behalf of the community, in order to make it available for the enjoyment of the public in general, to conserve and manage the woodland and protect it from any possible future development.

It was recognised that the trustees of BCW would not have the necessary expertise or resources to manage the Wood in the longer term, and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) agreed to enter into a 99-year lease as our tenant to manage and conserve the Wood. This includes the development of an ongoing, medium-term Management Plan, obligations to manage its sustainability and insurance against probable risks.

Between February 2017 and the date of this report extensive wildlife audits have taken place and a programme of scrub clearance, footpath clearing and general management begun, organised by GWT and manned by their team and supported by enthusiastic local volunteers.

The Wood is now fully open to the public, and footpaths, fencing and gates, signage and general access have been massively improved. The intense activity around the purchase of the Wood has raised local awareness, and its use by villagers and the local community in general has increased greatly in the period since its acquisition by BCW.



CHARITABLE PURPOSES



1. Box Community Wood acquired Box Wood on behalf of the local community, in order to preserve the integrity of the woodland into the future, and to protect Box Wood from future development. Box Wood is an area of natural beauty contained within the Cotswold A.O.N.B. Under the ownership of Box Community Wood, Box Wood has been made wholly accessible to all members of the public, attracting local people to the great outdoors so that they can enjoy and appreciate this unique piece of Gloucestershire's natural countryside. Box Wood is carefully managed for the benefit of all wildlife, flora, fauna and the general environment.

2. Box Community Wood, in cooperation with local educational organisations, will maintain and develop opportunities within Box Wood for educational purposes. One trustee of Box Community Wood is specifically nominated to ensure that educational opportunities are considered in all aspects of the wood's maintenance and development.

Box Community Wood has a strong interest in working with young people, as well as disadvantaged and hard-to-reach groups, with a particular interest in the health and well-being benefits of being outdoors. Box Wood is available to play a part in educational organisations' outdoor curricula.



PRACTICAL AIMS OF BCW

- Ownership of Box Wood, on behalf of the community
- Year-round access to Box Wood for everyone
- Protection of Box Wood from future development
- Ongoing care and maintenance of the woodland
- Footpaths will be kept open and maintained
- Protection and encouragement of indigenous wildlife
- Preservation and/or restoration of ancient woodland
- Insured against probable risks

PUBLIC BENEFITS OF BCW'S ACTIONS

- Box Wood is now protected from development
- Box Wood is now fully open and accessible to the public
- Footpaths are open and maintained
- Wildlife is protected and encouraged

Box Community Wood has complied with its duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by The Charities Commission in exercising its powers and duties.

**PRACTICAL
CONSERVATION
PROJECTS
UNDERTAKEN
DURING 2020**

Although 2020 has been a very difficult year the Box Wood Volunteer Group has made excellent progress on a number of fronts whilst the public has benefited from the work carried out in 2018 and 2019.

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

GWT has continued to manage Box Wood as far as the Covid19 restrictions have allowed, organising well-attended volunteer sessions. The wildlife corridor between the clearing in Box Wood and the National Trust's Iron Mills Common was extended and further widened early in the year by the Box Wood Volunteers, bringing more light and air into the area. Increasing the coppiced areas of the woodland adjacent to Iron Mills Common, together with clearance of the shrubby growth on the Common by the National Trust, has created more open access and hence diversification of wildlife habitats between Box Wood and Iron Mills Common.

The coppicing produced many long staves which were bundled and tied and then transported to the River Frome where they were used in a GWT project to stabilise the river banks. This was a large effort which took the majority of the sessions before the first lockdown. This also coincided with the start of the nesting season when the coppicing efforts were due to end.

The trustees of Box Community Wood and the Box Wood volunteers were sorry to hear of the departure of George Griffiths from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. George was GWT's local Reserves Manager and had organised and directed all the excellent work carried out by the teams of volunteers over the last three years. We wish George well in his new employment, and look forward to working more closely with his successor once the Covid restrictions allow.

The lockdown and the beautiful spring weather saw a dramatically increased footfall throughout the woodland. The

work done in extending the clearing gave visitors a beautiful show of spring flowers, especially the primroses on the bank around the edges. The coppicing and clearing in 2019 ensured that the wild garlic and bluebells were at their best throughout the wood and were much admired. In June and July the long dormant Moon Daisy seeds in the clearing gave a spectacular show, and demonstrated how the increase in light and air enables a greater diversity of flora and, with it, an increase in opportunities for a greater diversity of wildlife.



As we moved into autumn, the rather wetter weather proved that the 'leaky dams' installed in 2018 were slowing the flow and erosion from 'the pond'.

Two generous private donations were given which together allowed for the rebuilding of the Cotswold drystone walls each side of the kissing gate to Iron Mills Common. This work, together with improved signage, is now complete.

Throughout the summer, whilst taking their exercise, volunteers took on smaller tasks such as checking for fallen branches and litter picking. Two intrepid volunteers once again waded into the pond to clear the Himalayan Balsam that had grown back.

GWT started an 'ash dieback' programme, marking those trees thought to be dangerous to visitors. A number were felled before the forced cessation of work.

Autumn saw an all too brief resumption of small teams of volunteers. It was gratifying that on every occasion the team spaces available were oversubscribed. Despite the limited time and volunteer sessions between lockdowns, a second 'coppice coup' was created below the clearing to encourage even more new growth on the woodland floor for 2021.

**BCW TRUSTEES –
UPDATE**

In 2019 Leonie Lockwood, BCW's trustee and secretary, moved out of the area and was replaced by a new trustee and secretary, Martin Smith. Similarly in 2020 John Storey resigned as he now lives in Rodborough and Roger Ogle took his place as trustee and Treasurer. We are very grateful indeed for the service given by the two resigning trustees, and offer a warm welcome and our thanks to Martin and Roger for taking on those roles.

PLANS FOR 2021

A donation was made to enable a simple but very robust English oak bench to be fitted within the area known as "The Clearing", and this will be constructed and fitted early in 2021. There have been a number of further donations during 2020, and the trustees would like to express their gratitude for all of these. In 2021 we are hoping to continue improving ease of access to Box Woods with steps onto Pensile Road at the Devil's Elbow, offering easier access for less nimble visitors, as the stone stile is attractive but can be tricky to negotiate. This is a significant project which may require some further fundraising as it progresses.

The 'ash dieback' cutting is also planned to recommence and the Health and Safety signage will be renewed when required.

New tree plantings have been proposed and funding provided to GWT to repopulate the areas cleared of Cherry Laurel. A variety of native species suitable to the terrain and wildlife will be planted but as we are unable to do this in the spring it is likely to now happen in the autumn.



EDUCATIONAL
PURSUITS

by Tim Makaruk,
Novalis Trust

Students from Cotswold Chine School attend a weekly Forest School in Box Woods. This is with kind permission from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. Through a mixture of woodland crafts, ecology and conservation, exploring, playing games, campfire cooking and supported risk-taking our sessions aim to develop resilience, self-confidence and independence skills as well as building self-esteem and belonging. Students are also able to work towards the John Muir Award, which aims to protect and preserve wild places.

We start each session by making a small, raised fire. Students work together to find tinder, collect fuel, take the role of safety monitor and use a flint and steel to create a spark. We then meet around the fire to discuss the aims for the session – these decisions are fair and take into account the voice of each student. Each week is different and activities can range from damming the stream, pond dipping, identifying and preserving species, whittling, green woodwork projects and den building, to name a few. Towards the end of each session we meet around the fire for a hot drink and a campfire snack.

Our students find Forest School sessions very rewarding. The woodland environment is by its very nature a calming one. Students are able to see the rhythm of the changing seasons and they appreciate a new and different learning style. They return to school each week really feeling like they have had an adventure!



FINANCIAL
SUMMARY

BOX COMMUNITY WOOD – FINANCIAL SUMMARY								
1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020								
	DATE	CASH AT BANK		INCOME			EXPENDITURE	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
		Current Account	Reserve Account	Donations	Misc. Income	Bank Interest	Repairs	Miscell.
Opening Balances	1/1/20	1924.79	12205.66					
Insurance		-392.20						-392.20
Wayleave Payment			61.17		61.17			
Annual Brochure Printing		-56.60						-56.60
Donations (4)		800.00		800.00				
Repairs to Wall		-500.00					-500.00	
Bank Interest			58.54			58.54		
Closing Balances	12/31/20	1775.99	12325.37					
				800.00	61.17	58.54	-500.00	-448.80
Total Income					919.71			
Total Expenditure					-948.80			
Net Deficit for year (Income less expenditure)					-29.09			

RESERVES BCW trustees have decided that it would be prudent to retain a modest cash reserve against any future management expenses that may be incurred. A proportion of this has been invested in an accessible interest-bearing account in the short term, and the Reserves policy will continue to be monitored at the discretion of the trustees.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES Box Community Wood is a CIO* and its income is less than £500,000. It has therefore prepared its accounting records on the 'Receipts and Payments' basis. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the *Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice* applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities published on 16 July 2014.

* Charitable Incorporated Organisation

