

NEW ENGLAND WOOD TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1188549

Details

Other names NEWT

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2020-03-16

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

Contact

Address The Garden House
Courtmead Road
Cuckfield
Haywards Heath
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RH17 5LP

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Activities

Objects: TO IMPROVE, PROTECT AND CONSERVE THE NEW ENGLAND WOOD, CUCKFIELD, WEST SUSSEX FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AND AS BROADLEAF WOODLAND. TO ESTABLISH, FORM, MAINTAIN AND MANAGE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT A NATURE RESERVE FOR THE CONSERVATION AND CONTROL OF WILD PLANTS AND OTHER VEGETATION AND OF THE WILD CREATURES OF ANY DESCRIPTION LIVING NATURALLY THEREIN.

Activities: To improve, protect and conserve the New England Wood, Cuckfield, West Sussex for the public benefit and as broadleaf woodland. To establish, form, maintain and manage for the public benefit a nature reserve for the conservation and control of wild plants and other vegetation and of the wild creatures of any description living naturally therein.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- West Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£228,322	£12,284	-	-
2024-12-31	£8,007	£4,471	-	-
2023-12-31	£8,935	£14,660	-	-
2022-12-31	£10,231	£4,299	-	-
2021-12-31	£0	£0	-	-
2020-12-31	£0	£0	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Patrick Thomas Boyle	Chair	2023-04-25
Andrew John Robert Burton		2020-03-16
Dr Helen Mary Crabtree D.Phil		2020-03-16
Gordon Joseph Ward		2024-10-30
Hamish Douglas Church		2020-03-16
James William Grieve B.Sc		2020-03-16
Patrick Letschka B.A.,M.A.		2020-03-16
Ross Norman Bradshaw		2020-03-16
Timothy Newnham B.Sc.		2020-03-16
WILLIAM ANTHONY FAAS		2025-04-01

NEW ENGLAND WOOD TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1188549

Accounts

New England Wood Trustees Report on 2025



1 Aims and Purposes

The charity exists to maintain and preserve New England Wood, Cuckfield – which the charity owns - as a nature reserve and for the benefit of local people.

2 Objectives and Activities

The charity seeks to ensure that as many local people as possible can benefit from using the wood for recreation, relaxation, volunteering and study of the natural world, whether of their own volition or in organised groups. To that end our volunteers maintain an extensive path network within the wood and multiple access points, and the trustees and volunteers support external groups in using the wood. We are also happy to supply wood materials to people, but access makes this challenging beyond small amounts.

Our contractors and volunteers work to keep the wood and path network safe as paths degrade and trees become unsafe.

To maintain a diverse thriving environment for nature, our volunteers:

- i) Engage in scrub clearance to maintain long term open spaces and a new ride
- ii) Coppice the understorey on rotation
- iii) Do some selective thinning

according to a long term plan agreed with the Forestry Commission for 2025-2034.

Where there has been significant felling – principally to manage safety around ash die back – we also do some supplementary tree planting.

3 Achievements and Performance

a) Expansion

In early 2025 we were made aware that the 12 acres from the east of the wood up to Whiteman's Green were coming on the market later in the year. The trustees agreed we would like to buy it and that it serves the purposes of the charity to do so, but that we should aim to raise the money externally for the purchase, associated costs, and the likely costs of the first 5 years of management. We approached about 75 potential donors to assess enthusiasm. We secured over forty pledges and applied successfully for over £40,000 of grants before bidding and winning, estimating that we could raise the balance from the generosity of the village. Huge thanks to the over 250 local residents and businesses who contributed and to the grant givers: Cuckfield Parish Council, Ansty and Staplefield Parish Council, The Ernst Kleinwort Charitable Trust and the High Weald National Landscape Management Partnership, through whom we exceeded our target. At year end we had raised the funds for the project and were in the final throes of drafting documents to exchange and complete. The transaction completed in February 2026 with the fundraising target exceeded by a small amount.

While a few priorities have been established – improving the public footpaths, felling some dangerous ash with die back and clearing scrub in the southern meadow – we intend to make a long term plan for the area after a year or two of surveying it.

b) Benefitting local people – maintaining safe access and supporting user groups

New Seating, steps and path surfaces.

Thanks to Iain Pringle, 2025 mayor of the Independent State of Cuckfield for a generous donation from the mayoral funds which enabled us to replace the seating circle with new benches topped with planks of oak milled in the wood from an oak tree that fell in 2022, all milled and built by our expert volunteers. This has been of enormous benefit both to our volunteers for coffee time, for casual users of the wood who stop there far more often than previously, and particularly to external groups such as 1st Cuckfield Scouts and those organised by the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust who bring dozens of people in to the wood.

The run of steps up from the bridge nearest to the hut was replaced owing to decay, and a run of steps in the north west corner was replaced as a badger sett had begun to extend underneath it - and the badgers have since collapsed the old steps as their impressive earthworks continue. With four constantly evolving setts in the north west corner of the wood, its becoming increasingly difficult to maintain access safely and we may have to permanently close a section of path in the future.

With 2025 beginning and ending with wet winters, we split much of the straightest ash which had been felled in to planks to add to the paths to keep them navigable through the winters. In addition to making the wood more accessible to the public and easing volunteers' movement around the wood, this has also prevented the usual winter widening of wet paths as each user steps just a little further to the edge of the path in the hope of a secure footing. In turn this has led to a significant increase in the woodland flowers flourishing at the path margins.

Over the summer months volunteers were frequently out with scythes clearing encroaching bramble and sedge which constantly try to close the paths. As the wood has become more open from felling ash, this task is growing in intensity each year and we have tried out a brush-cutter.

Ash Dieback

2025 was another busy year dealing with ash dieback, a fungal disease which is devastating the ash trees in the wood and causing safety challenges. As usual we began the year clearing up what was felled the year before and finished the year felling some more trees identified as dangerous.

After a very wet 2024 in which many ash trees showed encouraging signs of recovery, the dry 2025 saw significantly more deterioration, perhaps the most rapid deterioration we've seen. We have kept the whole path network open throughout the period but continue to warn users at the entrance not to use the wood in high winds.

Of the ash trees we had four years ago before we began felling at scale, over 80% are now firmly dead or felled and no more than a few dozen remain reasonably healthy, with none in great health.

Half the ash that was in the wood in 2022 is now down, at a cost of just under £20,000, mostly financed by the generosity of Adelphi Holdings over the first two winters and Sussex Lund in the more recent two. Given the rapid deterioration in 2025 there will likely be more felling required in the next few winters. The significant majority of the remaining standing ash is now well away from the paths.

Organised Activities

1st Cuckfield Cubs had another positive evening in the wood, identifying trees, mapreading, and making smores.

We ran a second successful Dawn Chorus Walk in early May.

Holy Trinity Church used the wood for a very well attended summer family walk with dogs.

Ockenden Manor again used the wood for their Forest Bathing as part of their Full Moon Retreats.

Our volunteers assisted in setting up the Christmas trees for Holy Trinity's very successful Christmas Tree Festival in December.

The Leaky Dam volunteer groups' activity is described below.

If there's anything you'd like to do in the wood, we're keen to help.

c) Managing for Nature

Volunteer Program

Volunteers began 2025 coppicing overstood hazel, felling and stacking decaying ash trees and clearing bramble and sedge on the new ride, which is looking better each year. They finished the 2024/5 winter's work coppicing the understorey and making a deadwood hedge on the west facing slope east of the seating area.

We began spring by planting 280 saplings from the Woodland Trust in areas cleared of ash with dieback – principally along the edges of the new ride and Bramble clearing. In the dry months that followed these needed extensive watering but have survived well.

The 2025 volunteer work finished clearing the permanent open spaces and doing more work opening up the ride.

Leaky Dams

This year we made our first venture for some time in to actively managing the water flows. After a couple of years of false starts, in 2025 we added six new leaky dams and over a dozen brush bundle barriers in intermittent surface water channels. These help with flooding downstream, provide an interesting microclimate for many insects, and improve the wood's resilience to a warming climate by preserving more water within the wood, particularly from any intense summer storms. We were ably assisted by the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust (OART). They helped us find the best places and did nearly all the painful bureaucracy that goes with any work in water channels (almost 100 pages of documentation across various applications, more than half of which were written specifically for the site). They then led our volunteers in doing some of the work and also organised external groups of volunteers from the Environment Agency, West Sussex County Council (including their leader and chief executive) and UK Power Networks. We are eternally in debt to the amazing Tara Dawson at OART for managing the whole project so expertly and with enormous enthusiasm come rain or shine.

Owls

The Woodland Flora and Fauna group agreed to maintain and service the existing barn owl box and we bought an additional very smart box from them which they installed in 2025. Sadly there were no eggs this year in what was the worst year in decades for barn owls rearing young across the county. Hopefully we'll have more positive news on owls in the 2026 report.

Butterflies

With a very sunny spring much of the wildlife had a very good year. We started a butterfly transect which showed up 19 species in the wood. The new ride is continuing to develop as we clear more of it and was a hotspot for insects.

Perhaps the best example of how well the wildlife is responding to the increased open space is the peak counts of silver washed fritillary butterflies found in a single walkthrough of the wood for the last few years. 2022: 1, 2023: 2, 2024: 5, 2025: 18.

Birds

Huge thanks to Helen Crabtree for servicing and surveying the many small nest boxes within the wood and noting what else is nesting as per her attached report.

Throughout the 2024/5 winter we could regularly hear lesser spotted woodpeckers and a pair were seen together in March. While they were heard again in early May we couldn't find the nest and don't know if they successfully fledged. There is plenty of good habitat for them so fingers crossed, and for 2026.

4) Financial Report

The numbers are all pretty clear in the Accounts which split out the new land purchase-related money raised and spent as Restricted so we won't repeat them here.

The new land purchase dominated the finances in 2025. Having raised all the money but not closed on buying the new land, our finances show a substantial gain. For the expansion we successfully raised over our target of £215,000 to cover all the costs of purchase including legal fees et.c., some initial safety felling, and to provide some funds for surveying and early years' management. We expect to have a significant balance of restricted funds for the new area once all the initial costs are paid. This is important as it is unclear so far that the existing volunteer model will be sufficient for all the work needed in the new area and we may need more contractor work, especially in the next 2-3 years while the new ride and ash die back work remain demanding in the old wood.

Looking at the activity not related to the purchase, we made a gain there too thanks to a generous donation early in the year from ISOC which more than covered the costs of the new seating, Sussex Lund paying us for the 2024 felling, and a greater number of one off donations than usual not tied to the purchase but likely inspired by the publicity around it.

The charity is in a robust financial position and expects to still be once all the costs related to the purchase have been paid.

5) Thank yous

A huge thank you to:

All our wonderful donors and grant givers without whom we couldn't have expanded the wood as we now have.

All our volunteers whose amazing work keeps the site in fantastic shape for nature and safe for users to enjoy.

My fellow trustees who have been kept much busier than usual providing much wise counsel and work on the purchase.

Hayley Wicker-Bradbury who volunteered so much of her time and professional expertise helping us with the fundraising campaign.

2025 ISOC mayor Iain Pringle for the generous ISOC donation which funded the new seating that has been very much appreciated by all and a huge asset with all the external groups visiting this year.



Tara Dawson from OART leading a volunteer group using the new seating

New England Wood Trust

Registered CIO No. 1188549

Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet

as at 31st December 2025

New England Wood Trust Income and Expenditure Statement For Year Ended 31/12/2025

DETAIL		NOTES	Year Ending 31/12/2025	Restricted 31/12/2025	Unrestricted 31/12/2025	Year Ending 31/12/2024
			£	£	£	£
A1 Receipts						
	Interest Received :-	Bank Interest - Current A/C	38.00	-	38.00	35.00
		Bank Interest - Gold A/C	850.00	-	850.00	253.00
		Interest on Virgin Money Bond	897.00	-	897.00	750.00
	Donations		228,322.00	213,100.00	15,222.00	5,469.00
	RPA Grant					1,500.00
		TOTAL INCOME	230,107.00	213,100.00	17,007.00	8,007.00
A3 Payments						
	Public Liability Insurance		201.00	-	201.00	201.00
	Woodland Infrastructure	3	493.00	-	493.00	-
	Woodland Consumables	4	509.00	-	509.00	573.00
	Tools	5	233.00	30.00	203.00	304.00
	Room Hire, Subscription and Other Admin Costs.	6	184.00	-	184.00	685.00
	Contractor Felling		2,550.00	-	2,550.00	2,700.00
	Test transfer to Gold Account				-	10.00
	Legal and other fees re: proposed land purchase		8,114.00	8,114.00	-	-
		TOTAL PAYMENTS	12,284.00	8,144.00	4,140.00	4,473.00
		Net of Receipts / Payments	217,823.00	204,956.00	12,867.00	3,534.00
A6 Cash Funds at last year end			48,624.00	-	48,624.00	-
Cash Funds at this year end			266,447.00	204,956.00	61,491.00	3,534.00

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period As At 31/12/2025

DETAIL		Notes	As @ 31/12/2025	Restricted 31/12/2025	Unrestricted 31/12/2025	As @ 31/12/2024
ASSETS						
B1 Cash Funds	Cash in Bank - (CAF Current Account)		58,057.00	-	58,057.00	17,432.00
B1 Cash Funds	Cash in Bank - (CAF Gold Account)		186,743.00	183,309.00	3,434.00	10,442.00
B1 Cash Funds	Net Cash Bank Balance		244,800.00	183,309.00	61,491.00	27,874.00
B2 Other Monetary Assets	Term Deposit Account (Virgin)		21,647.00	21,647.00	-	20,750.00
B3 Investment Assets			-	-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	New England Wood					
	NET ASSETS		266,447.00	204,956.00	61,491.00	48,624.00
LIABILITIES						
B5 Liabilities			-	-	-	-

CHAIRMAN :- Mr P T Boyle

TREASURER:- Mr H D Church

Notes to the Accounts For the Year Ended 31/12/2025

Note 1

Valuation of Working Assets

The Trustee's policy is to fully write off the value of working assets in the year of their purchase.

Note 2

Donations/Grants/Contract Payments

Source	2025	2024
New Woodland Purchase Campaign	220,273.25	-
Cuckfield Society	-	2,000.00
Cuckfield Parochial Church Council	-	50.00
Independent State of Cuckfield	1,000.00	-
Lund Contract Claim	3,354.00	-
Donations	3,695.18	2,418.96
RPA Grant	-	1,500.00
Total	228,322.43	5,968.96

Note 3

Woodland Infrastructure

Source	2025
Owl Box	135.00
Leaky Dams Regulatory Consents	300.00
QR Code discs for woodland entrances	58.05
Total	493.05

Note 4

Woodland Consumables

Source	2025	2024
Chainsaw Oil	53.39	39.99
Chainsaw chain	22.50	172.43
Chainsaw Service	120.09	140.80
Tree guards	294.00	140.33
Wheelbarrow tyre & inner tube	11.95	-
Chainsaw sharpening files	6.99	-
Misc	-	79.00
Total	508.92	572.55

Note 5

Tools

Source	2025	2025
Sumup Terminal	30.00	-
Scythe Handle	68.36	-
Lifting Tongs	134.97	85.48
Rag Fork	-	33.75
Club Hammer	-	20.29
Silky Saw	-	29.10
First Aid Kit	-	135.18
Total	233.33	303.80

Note 6

Room Hire, Subscription/Charges & Courses

Source	2025	2024
Small Woods Association	42.00	42.00
CAF Bank Charges	60.00	60.00
Just Giving enhanced account fee	18.00	-
Room Hire for AGM & Trustee Meetings	64.05	48.00
Admin costs - Leaflet/card design etc	-	174.27
First Aid Course	-	360.00
Total	184.05	684.27

Note 7

Restricted Assets

The restricted assets are for the purchase of additional land west of Manor Drive, costs associated with its purchase and early years of management of that land as per the fundraising campaign in 2025

New England Wood Trust

Year Ended 31st December 2025

Report of the Independent Examiner to The Kite Trust

I report to the trustees of New England Wood Trust on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustee and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed: *Amy Beecroft*

Date: 26th March 2026

Name: Amy Beecroft

Relevant professional qualification or body: FCA

Address: 19 Newton Road, Lindfield, West Sussex, RH16 2NB

NEW ENGLAND WOOD TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1188549

Accounts

Draft 2024 Chairman's Report for New England Wood Trust

Regeneration:

2024 was another big year for our work in ensuring good regeneration of the wood from the ravages of ash die back. Many more dead and dangerous ash trees were felled with much of the hazel and other understory beneath them coppiced at the same time. Almost half the ash trees in the wood in early 2022 have now been felled or come down of their own accord.

A great deal of progress was made towards the creation of a new ride at the southern end of the wood, and a new small glade was created in the north west. Over 150 new trees were planted to supplement the natural regeneration. Many more lengths of paths were improved with material from the felling.

Financials:

The trust has had another solid year and remains in sound financial health.

The year to year movement in the accounts remains hard to track. The major expense in the year tends to fall over the winter, sometimes before and sometimes after New Year. Donations we receive also can fall either side of year end and rarely line up.

Wildlife:

In early May we had a first Dawn Chorus walk which was much enjoyed by all and will be repeated this May.

Larger numbers of silver washed fritillaries than we've seen in recent years were enjoying the newly opened up areas and a brown hairstreak was spotted - one of many in and around the village this year.

The Woodland Flora and Fauna group have kindly taken on managing the owl box at the north of the wood and a second one is planned as barn owl teenagers throw out their parents who need a new home nearby while still feeding their young.

The badgers continue to increase in number. There are now at least seven satellite setts in addition to the huge main one.

Engagement locally:

We've had enjoyable visits both ways with the Tottington Woodlanders who manage a lovely area of hazel coppice south of Small Dole.

Cubs had an enjoyable evening in the wood identifying trees, planting some trees and wild flowers, and cooking on the fire – despite the weather.

We welcomed our first DofE volunteer for many years in the spring who has been a fantastic asset to the group. This is something we'd be keen to repeat.

In what is becoming a feature of the calendar we helped the team at Holy Trinity with trimming up and putting up the Christmas trees in the church to be decorated for the wonderful Christmas Tree Festival.

Thank you!

Heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers who give so much time and effort to keep the wood in great shape and safe for visitors – and especially to Patrick our Woodland Manager who keeps us all happy and in order.

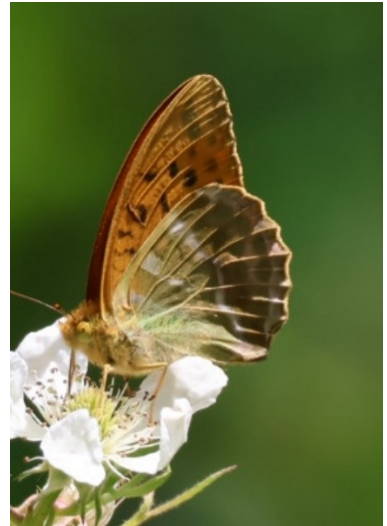
Huge thanks to all our donors large and small. Special thanks for the financial aid from the Cuckfield Society and Stephen Holroyd's Adelphi Holdings, and for the lovely boxes of chocolates from the Christmas Tree Festival and a mystery donor who left some by the hut.

Most of all, a huge thank you to Steve Davies who retires as secretary at this AGM. He has done incredible work guiding the trust through the CIO transition and all the work around managing the ash to date as well as running a very smooth ship. I am hugely grateful personally for all he has done in educating me about the wood and in providing invaluable wise counsel.

Its yours!

As I always like to remind people, the wood is for everyone, and if you want to do anything in it beyond walking the paths, let us know:

cuckfieldwoodlanders@gmail.com



New England Wood Trust

Registered CIO No. 1188549

Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet

as at 31st December 2024

New England Wood Trust
Income and Expenditure Statement
For Year Ended 31/12/2024

DETAIL	NOTES	Year Ending 12/31/2024
		£ p
INCOME		
Interest Received :-	Bank Interest - Current A/C	34.94
	Bank Interest - Gold A/C	253.34
	Interest on Virgin Money Bond	750.00
Donations	2 & 3	5,468.96
RPA Grant		1,500.00
Bank deposit from donor not recognised	7	
TOTAL INCOME		8,007.24
EXPENDITURE		
Public Liability Insurance		200.60
Woodland Consumables	4	572.55
Tools	5	303.80
Room Hire, Subscription and Other Admin Costs.	6	684.27
Tree Surgery - Safety/Ash Die Back		2,700.00
Test transfer to Gold Account		10.00
Payback of misplaced deposits (Note 7 in 2022 accounts)		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		4,471.22
NET SURPLUS or (DEFICIT)		3,536.02

Balance Sheet
As At 31/12/2023

DETAIL	Notes	As @ 12/31/2024
ASSETS		
Bank - (CAF Current Account)		17,432.42
Bank - (CAF Gold Account)		10,441.77
Net Bank Balance		
Term Deposit Account (Virgin)		20,750.00
NET ASSETS		48,624.19
REPRESENTED BY		
Contingency Reserve	7	20,000.00
Capital Reserve - Brought forward	8	
(After the Creation of a Contingency Reserve)		25,088.17
Add / Deduct Surplus or (Deficit)		3,536.02
TOTAL RESERVES		48,624.19

CHAIRMAN :- Mr P T Boyle

TREASURER:- Mr H D Church

Notes to the Accounts For the Year Ended 31/12/2024

Note 1 Valuation of Working Assets

The Trustee's policy is to fully write off the value of working assets in the year of their purchase.

Note 2 Donations/Grants

Source	2024	2023
Adelphi Holdings Ltd	1,000.00	5,000.00
Cuckfield Society	2,000.00	
Cuckfield Parochial Church Council	50.00	
Independent State of Cuckfield		300.00
Cuckfield Local		250.00
Cuckfield Woodlanders Note 3	2,094.96	1,943.67
Sundry Donations	324.00	1,174.00
RPA Grant	1,500.00	
Total	6,968.96	8,667.67

Note 3 Cuckfield Woodlanders

Source	2024
Just Giving Donations	2,094.96
Net Income	2,094.96

Note 4 Woodland Consumables

Source	2024
Chainsaw Oil	39.99
Blades for saws/scythes and chainsaw	172.43
Chainsaw Service	140.80
Tree/hedgw guards	140.33
Misc. - wire, nails, bolts, washers etc.	79.00
Total	572.55

Note 5 Tools

Source	2024
Rag Fork	33.75
Club Hammer	20.29
Silky Saw	29.10
Lifting Tongs	85.48
First Aid Kit	135.18
Total	303.80

Note 6 Room Hire, Subscription/Charges & Courses

Source	2024
Small Woods Association	42.00
CAF Bank Charges	60.00
Admin. Costs - Leaflet/card design, AGM printing etc.	174.27
QH Room Hire for AGM & Trustee Meetings	48.00
First Aid Course	360.00
Total	684.27

Note 7 Contingency Reserve

This reserve has been created to provide for expenditure that might arise from weather damage, infestations or other unforeseeable costs. This underpins the aims of the Trust to conserve the wood for the benefit of the public and for nature conservator

Note 8 The provision for a possible repayment of a misplaced £50.00 deposit in the 2023 accounts in the Capital Reserve has been removed, (see Note 7).

Year Ending 12/31/2023	
£	p
	38.93
	178.43
	8,667.67
	50.00
	8,935.03
	200.60
	426.60
	392.20
	605.40
	12,200.00
	835.00
	14,659.80
	(5,724.77)

As @ 12/31/2023	
	14,909.01
	10,178.43
	25,087.44
	20,000.00
	45,087.44
	20,000.00
	30,812.21
	(5,724.77)
	45,087.44

NEW ENGLAND WOOD TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1188549

Accounts

NEW ENGLAND WOOD TRUST

Chairman's Report for 2023

Regeneration

2023 was a continuation of the wood regeneration project- dealing with ash dieback and opening up glades for more sunlight and new growth. Our contractors expertly felled larger trees and our volunteers tirelessly cleared the timber, using much of it for building stronger foundations for the main paths. This work will continue through 2024/5 although not at the same intensity and the wood will recover much as it did after the great storm of 1987. We are grateful for the support for this effort from the Cuckfield community.

Still open for the Cuckfield community

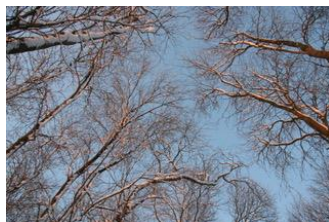
Despite the very obvious felling work the wood continues as Cuckfield's special place for quiet reflection, enjoyment and activity. As the warning signs say, be aware of the dangers posed by diseased ash trees, particularly during and immediately after high winds.

The proposed 'Cuck-stye' development

At this time the proposed Fairfax development of housing and a 'country park' flanking New England Wood is stalled and removed from the current District Plan but has not gone away. As before, we continue to monitor the situation.

The Trust finances

Expenditure in 2023 was £14,659 against £4,299 in 2022, mainly due to ash dieback felling. A deficit for the year of only £5,724 and carried forward reserves of £45,087 was thanks to our generous supporters. Sussex Lund, part of the High Weald National Landscape Partnership, have confirmed a potential grant of £15,000 for 2024/5 and new Chair Paddy Boyle's efforts in developing a woodland management plan means that the Trust will be eligible for Forestry Commission support. Altogether, a strong financial base going forward.



As always, a big thank you to all our volunteers and supporters in 2023

Our thanks to:

- Our generous donors in particular Adelphi Holdings, The Independent State of Cuckfield, Cuckfield Parish Council, Cuckfield Local, Ugliduck Trust and the many Cuckfield residents generously contributing through Cuckfield Woodlanders!
- Our amazing volunteers keeping the wood in good order and especially for their hard work dealing with ash dieback
- Steve Davies for his Secretary role, Hamish Church for keeping the books and our Trustees
- Helen Crabtree for her wildlife monitoring and advice and Parish Councillor Adrian Podmore for his support
- Dave and Emmett Edwards for the wood chippings for the paths and setting up a saplings nursery and Mark Towers and the Cuckfield Cubs for donating and planting saplings

A farewell

My shift as Chair ended and Paddy Boyle stepped up as of 1 January 2024. Paddy brings expertise, energy and enthusiasm to the role. With Paddy and his team the Trust is in very good hands.

Ken Burgess

Chair (2023), New England Wood Trust



Registered Charity No. 1188549
Trustees: Paddy Boyle, Ross Bradshaw, Andy Burton,
Hamish Church, Helen Crabtree, Steve Davies, James Grieve,
Patrick Letschka, Tim Newnham
Website: cuckfieldwoodlanders.com



New England Wood Trust

Registered CIO No. 1188549

Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet

as at 31st December 2023

New England Wood Trust
Income and Expenditure Statement
For Year Ended 31/12/2023

DETAIL	NOTES	Year Ending 31/12/2023	Year Ending 31/12/2022
		£ p	£ p
INCOME			
Interest Received :-	Bank Interest - Current A/C	38.93	44.40
	Bank Interest - Gold A/C	178.43	
Donations	2 & 3	8,667.67	10,187.34
Bank deposit from donor not recognised	7	50.00	
TOTAL INCOME		8,935.03	10,231.74
EXPENDITURE			
Public Liability Insurance		200.60	195.60
Woodland Consumables	4	426.60	304.32
Tools	5	392.20	1,530.17
Room Hire, Subscription and Other Admin Costs.	6	605.40	251.76
Tree Surgery - Safety/Ash Die Back		12,200.00	2,018.00
Payback of misplaced deposits (Note 7 in 2022 accounts)		835.00	
Charitable donation on Santander account closure			0.05
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		14,659.80	4,299.90
NET SURPLUS or (DEFICIT)		(5,724.77)	5,931.84

Balance Sheet
As At 31/12/2023

DETAIL	Notes	As @ 31/12/2023	As @ 31/12/2022
ASSETS			
Bank - (CAF Current Account)		14,909.01	50,812.21
Bank - (CAF Gold Account)		10,178.43	
Net Bank Balance		25,087.44	50,812.21
Term Deposit Account (Virgin)		20,000.00	
NET ASSETS		45,087.44	50,812.21
REPRESENTED BY			
Contingency Reserve	8	20,000.00	20,000.00
Capital Reserve - Brought forward	9		
(After the Creation of a Contingency Reserve)		30,812.21	24,880.37
Add / Deduct Surplus or (Deficit)		(5,724.77)	5,931.84
TOTAL RESERVES		45,087.44	50,812.21

CHAIRMAN :- Mr P T Boyle

TREASURER:- Mr H D Church

Notes to the Accounts For the Year Ended 31/12/2023

Note 1 Valuation of Working Assets

The Trustee's policy is to fully write off the value of working assets in the year of their purchase.

Note 2 Donations

Source	2023	2022
Cuckfield Parish Council		200.00
Adelphi Holdings Ltd	5,000.00	5,000.00
Independent State of Cuckfield	300.00	400.00
Cuckfield Local	250.00	200.00
Cuckfield Woodlanders	1,943.67	3,681.68
Sundry Donations	1,174.00	705.66
Total	8,667.67	10,187.34

Note 3 Cuckfield Woodlanders

Source	2023
Just Giving Donations	1,665.68
Gift Aid	277.99
Net Income	1,943.67

Note 4 Woodland Consumables

Source	2023
Chainsaw oil	77.89
Blades for saws/scythes	120.48
Chainsaw service and items	193.24
Paint & Hazard Warning Tape	34.99
Total	426.60

Note 5 Tools

Source	2023
Rake	50.00
Accessories for Electric Chainsaw	9.57
Splitting Wedges, Axe Handle & Gloves	77.68
Lifting Tongs	160.46
Scythe	94.49
Total	392.20

Note 6 Room Hire, Subscription/Charges & Courses

Source	2023
Small Woods Association	40.00
CAF Bank Charges	60.00
Admin. Costs - Leaflet/card design, AGM printing etc.	139.00
MyForest App	24.00
QH Room Hire for AGM & Trustee Meetings	92.40
Chainsaw Course	250.00
Total	605.40

Note 7 Bank deposit from donor not recognised

Source	2023
IPSOS MORI UK Ltd	50.00

Note 8 Contingency Reserve

This reserve has been created to provide for expenditure that might arise from weather damage, infestations or other unforeseeable costs. This underpins the aims of the Trust to conserve the wood for the benefit of the public and for nature conservation.

Note 9 The Capital Reserve includes a sum of £50.00 as provision for possible repayment of misplaced deposit (see Note 7).

NEW ENGLAND WOOD TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1188549

Accounts

NEW ENGLAND WOOD TRUST

Chairman's Report for 2022

Challenges

If you have been in New England Wood recently you will be in no doubt of the challenge facing us. Ash dieback is firmly established throughout the wood and in 2022 we were faced with a hard decision; undertake a long-term felling programme to reduce risk to walkers or possibly having to close the whole wood. We chose to try to keep the wood open and visitors are now confronted with felled ash trees alongside the main paths. These were identified as most heavily infected and posing most risk of shedding branches or falling. This reinforces the need for walkers to stay on the main paths for their own safety. The expensive felling will have to continue outside of the Spring nesting season and funds will have to be raised for this and for replanting with alternative tree species. On a more positive note, the fallen timber will rot down (as it did after the 1988 hurricane) become overgrown and provide a wildlife food source.

Meanwhile grey squirrels are increasingly stripping the bark from young trees, especially beech, and we are considering what measures we can take to limit this damage. Again, on the 'challenges' front, can we remind walkers that New England Wood is a nature reserve and renew our plea to keep dogs on leads or under control and only on the main paths. Dogs rooting about in the undergrowth threaten wildlife habitat, especially in the nesting season. Thank you!

The proposed Cuck-stye housing development by Fairfax, which would see New England Wood flanked by a 'country park', is awaiting formulation of a new District Plan and then a decision by a government-appointed planning inspector, probably in 2024. New England Wood Trust is monitoring the situation and will not engage in any discussions or consultation until it becomes clearer whether the overall development is to be approved.



Still 'Cuckfield's special place'

As ever, New England Wood is where Cuckfield residents find nature on their doorstep. A quiet place for reflection, enjoyment and activity. Scouts, Beavers and school groups have a ready-made natural classroom. If you are thinking of planning an activity in the wood, do contact the Trust- we are always ready to support you! Cuckfield residents have been generous and understanding of the challenges we face and the Trust is grateful for your support.

Cont/

The Trust finances

The Trust's financial position remains sound. With low market rates our reserve was not earning acceptable interest during 2022 but funds have subsequently been invested in a Virgin Money Charity Term Deposit at 3.75%. The surplus/increase in balance sheet position at end 2022 is largely accounted for by a donation from Adelphi Holdings towards Ash Dieback felling costs that was expended early in 2023. Some of the Trust's reserves will necessarily be used in the felling and replanting programme but it is hoped that support will be forthcoming from national and local organisations and Cuckfield residents.

As always, a big thank you to all our volunteers and supporters in 2022

Our thanks to:

- Our generous donors without whom we could not continue our work, in particular Adelphi Holdings, The Independent State of Cuckfield, Andrew Pearson, Cuckfield Parish Council and Cuckfield Local
- Our Woods Manager Patrick Letschka and his team of volunteers keeping the wood in good order and especially for their hard work dealing with ash dieback.
- Trustee Helen Crabtree for her wildlife monitoring and advice and Parish Councillor Adrian Podmore for his support
- Dave and Emmett Edwards for the wood chippings for the paths
- and the many Cuckfield residents generously contributing through Cuckfield Woodlanders!

Ken Burgess

Chair, New England Wood Trust



Registered Charity No. 1188549
Trustees: Ken Burgess, Ross Bradshaw, Andy Burton,
Hamish Church, Helen Crabtree, Steve Davies, James Grieve,
Malcolm Hewitt, Patrick Letschka, Tim Newnham
Website: cuckfieldwoodlanders.com



New England Wood Trust

Registered CIO No. 1188549

Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet

as at 31st December 2022

New England Wood Trust
Income and Expenditure Statement
For Year Ended 31/12/2022

DETAIL	NOTES	Year Ending 31/12/2022	Year Ending 31/12/2021
		£ p	£ p
INCOME			
Interest Received :-	NS and I Income Bond		2.50
	Bank Interest	44.40	1.04
	SUB TOTAL		
Donations	2 & 3	10,187.34	2,859.77
		10,231.74	2,863.31
TOTAL INCOME			
EXPENDITURE			
Public Liability Insurance		195.60	778.90
Woodland Consumables	4	304.32	165.03
Tools	5	1,530.17	47.21
Room Hire, Subscription and Other Amin Costs.	6	251.76	56.00
Tree Surgery - Safety/Ash Die Back		2,018.00	
Charitable donation on Santander account closure		0.05	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		4,299.90	1,047.14
NET SURPLUS or (DEFICIT)		5,931.84	1,816.17

Balance Sheet
As At 31/12/2022

DETAIL	Notes	As @ 31/12/2022	As @ 31/12/2021
ASSETS			
Santander Bank Account - Current			31,761.73
Santander Bank Account - Cuckfield Woodlanders			10,095.83
Bank Account - CIO (CAF)		50,812.21	2,187.81
Net Bank Balance		50,812.21	44,045.37
NET ASSETS		50,812.21	44,045.37
REPRESENTED BY			
Accounts Payable	7	835.00	
Contingency Reserve	8	20,000.00	20,000.00
Capital Reserve - Brought forward			
(After the Creation of a Contingency Reserve)		24,045.37	22,229.20
Add / Deduct Surplus or (Deficit)		5,931.84	1,816.17
TOTAL RESERVES		50,812.21	44,045.37

CHAIRMAN :- Mr K Burgess

TREASURER:- Mr D H Church

Notes to the Accounts For the Year Ended 31/12/2022

Note 1 Valuation of Working Assets

The Trustee's policy is to fully write off the value of working assets in the year of their purchase.

Note 2 Donations

Source	2022	2021
Andrew Pearson	500.00	
Cuckfield Parish Council	200.00	
Adelphi Holdings Ltd	5,000.00	
Independent State of Cuckfield	400.00	1,000.00
Cuckfield Local	200.00	
Sundry Donations	205.66	325.00
Cuckfield Woodlanders	Note 3 3,681.68	1,534.77
Total	10,187.34	2,859.77

Note 3 Cuckfield Woodlanders

Source	2022
Just Giving	3,681.68
Net Income	3,681.68

Note 4 Woodland Consumables

Source	2022
Recycled Planks	72.00
Blades for saws/scythes	98.49
Nails & shed keys	66.12
Woodlander cards	29.58
Paint, Crayons, String & Plant Ties	38.13
Total	304.32

Note 5 Tools

Source	2022
Wheelbarrow wheel	44.65
Electric chainsaw & accessories	1,014.90
Scythe	112.47
Silky saw	65.31
Tree felling signs	23.85
Gazebo, Tarp & Folding Tables	207.61
Adze	61.38
Total	1,530.17

Note 6 Room Hire & Subscription

Source	2022
Small Woods Association	40.00
CAF Bank Charges	81.00
Admin. Costs - Web Domain, AGM etc.	124.16
Total	245.16

Note 7 Accounts Payable - donations held pending inquiry

Source	2022
Towngate Wlth. Ltd	135.00
Phoenix Aluminium	50.00
MK Consultants	50.00
Kirklees Stadium	500.00
Villair Travel	50.00
Access Innovations	50.00
Total	835.00

Note 8 Contingency Reserve

This reserve has been created to provide for expenditure that might arise from weather damage, infestations or other unforeseeable costs. This underpins the aims of the Trust to conserve the wood for the benefit of the public and for nature conservation.

NEW ENGLAND WOOD TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1188549

Accounts

New England Wood Trust CIO 1188549
Trustees Annual Report and accounts 2021

Reports and accounts for 2021 were filed for New England Wood Trust 283188. That charity ceased on 31st December 2021 with New England Wood Trust 1188549 commencing operations on 1st January 2022. Annual returns will be filed from that date for charity 1188549.

Ken Burgess
Chair, New England Wood Trust

NEW ENGLAND WOOD TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1188549

Accounts

New England Wood Trust
CIO 1188549
Income and Expenditure
Statement
For period 16/03/2020-31/12/2020

Background

The CIO New England Wood Trust 1188549 was registered on 16 March 2020 to replace the original New England Wood Trust 283188. However, due to COVID restrictions its bank was unable to open a new account leaving the Trust with no option but to continue operating the original bank account in Trust 283188 and to keep that Trust running solely for that purpose. Accordingly accounts have been filed under that Trust registration.

Ken Burgess
Chair, New England Wood Trust.