

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
TOTAL INCOME		10,231.74	2,863.31
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	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.