

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

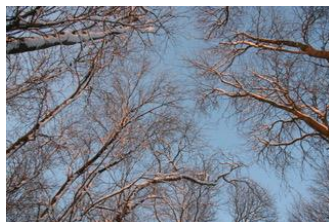
Despite the very obvious felling work the wood continues as Cuckfield's special place for quiet reflection, enjoyment and activity. As the warning signs say, be aware of the dangers posed by diseased ash trees, particularly during and immediately after high winds.

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	Note 3	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).