

## **KTAT Annual Report – written on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

The following six trustees were elected at the last AGM on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016 – Angie Zelter (Secretary & Treasurer), Camilla Saunders, Jamie Ritchie, Jo Arponen, Kate Mclean and Karen Hart. During the year Karen Hart resigned. So at present we only have 5 Trustees and feel the need for a few more to join us.

We have 41 volunteers on our lists and 30 of them are also Members who support our work and can vote at the AGM. We would like to thank all trustees, members and volunteers for their hard work, enthusiasm and company. The sixth illustrated newsletter has been printed and is being distributed and will give a good picture of our work to date.

KTAT had a very good year and our work has been appreciated. We have even been approached by a number of other local landowners to see if we can manage their woods for them. The Trustees realised that we had reached our capacity as a purely voluntary organisation and needed to change. There was not only an expressed need for our work but also real potential to bring more local woods into sustainable management. However, quite a few regular volunteers have recently either moved from the area or have other work commitments and we need to reach out and find new volunteers. The Trustees therefore decided to appoint Gary Cowell as a paid contractor to find us new volunteers, organise the woodland work days and to do some of the administrative work. We decided to use the £10,000, that we had been given so generously as the start of KTAT for purchasing land, for this purpose and received the support of the donor. Gary is now working as a part-time self-employed contractor for an average of 2 days per week. His contract started in October 2016 and will continue until the end of September this year. One of his tasks is to find funding to enable us to continue funding such a post. With his help we now have taken on the management of Castlering Wood in Beggar's Bush and are currently drawing up an agreement for the management of Knucklas Castle Wood. There is a work day each week at one or other of our woodlands. Gary is doing an excellent job and the Trustees are very pleased and thankful for all his work.

Last summer (2016) we had a stock of 24.12 m<sup>3</sup> of dried cut firewood from timber cut at Weir Cottage and Greenstreete. We distributed this to the 23 Volunteers who are also Members of the Trust as per our commitment to them. We also passed on 1.32m<sup>3</sup> to the Samatha Trust for them to use in their Retreat Centre.

Over the last year around 20 different volunteers have helped out in the woods on a regular basis. Some like to concentrate their efforts in only one woodland and others like the chance to experience the conditions in all of our woodlands. We have held around 30 work days doing work as diverse as planting, weeding, coppicing, processing and storing firewood, clearing fallen trees that were blocking paths, re-juvenating old hedges, starting to bring a hazel woodland into an 8 year coppicing rotation, surveying birds and upgrading our skills.

### **Weir Cottage**

This year Weir Cottage was sold and there are new owners. We have negotiated a new agreement with them and will be able to continue with our management plan. But obviously while the change in ownership was happening very little work was done in the wood this year. The felling in the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 5 coupes has now been completed, but some of the replanting cannot now be done until the Autumn . Nevertheless the wood processed in the last few years was dry enough to be

distributed. This coming year weeding around the new saplings planted 2 years ago will need to be kept up, and in the autumn and winter the 3<sup>rd</sup> coupe will be felled and new trees will be planted in coupes 2 & 3 and any saplings that have not survived in the wood and in the hedgerow along the road will be replaced.

### **Greenstreete**

We have now finished coppicing the old hedge along Hen Cefyn Lane and have planted up the gaps. This work will completely re-juvenate the hedge and ensure the continuity of the habitat for many birds and small animals. We are in the process of cutting the remainder of the large larch logs left outside the woodshed at the top of the Larch Plantation after the felling of the 1<sup>st</sup> coupe 3 years ago. This involves cross-cutting with chainsaws, and then splitting the rounds and stacking into the shed to provide next year's firewood for our Member Volunteers. There is some more thinning of trees to do in a broadleaf planting and another hedgeline to manage. Most exciting of all is the prospect of managing the Greenstreete wood. A management plan will be drafted and submitted this year so we can start work there in 2018/19.

### **Castlering**

An agreement to manage this woodland was signed in September last year. It consists of 36 acres in total, 21 acres of which are hazel, the rest mixed broad leaves. The hazel was planted between 1998 and 2002 and our task is to transform the hazel into an 8 year coppice rotation. This year we have coppiced 1 of the 8 coupes. It is on flat land and most of the work is being done with hand tools although some of the large silver birch are being thinned to allow more light to reach the birch not damaged by squirrels and the small oak, beech and rowan in the wood. We have enjoyed the addition of this woodland as it is in another beautiful area and working on flat land is a great relief!

### **Knucklas Castle**

Surveys and discussions have taken place, a management agreement is being worked out and woodland work will hopefully start in the new year once we have found local volunteers willing to help.

### **Annual Accounts**

The annual accounts as presented to Companies House on 31 October 2016 show our annual income was £357.50 and the expenditure was £1,025.59, giving us an excess of expenditure over income of £668.09. This was because we had no grants at all last year – we were on our own. Our net current assets on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 were therefore £13,086.33 of which we still held £10,000 for purchase of land. A copy of these accounts are shown in the 2 tables below.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE FROM 01 /11 /2015 TO 31 /10/2016

**INCOME:**

<b>Membership Fees</b>	280.00	
<b>Donations</b>	77.50	
<b>Grants</b>	0.00	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	0.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME FOR YEAR</b>		357.50

**EXPENDITURE:**

<b>Administration</b>	116.98	
<b>Travel</b>	158.60	
<b>Surveys</b>	0.00	
<b>Equipment, Materials and Trees</b>	59.07	
<b>Fees</b>	90.00	
<b>Training</b>	0.00	
<b>Insurances</b>	520.94	
<b>Hall Hire</b>	40.00	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	40.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR</b>		1025.59

**EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME** -668.09

**BAIANCE SHEET AS AT 31 /10/2016**

**CURRENT ASSETS**

<b>Debtors</b>	
<b>Bank</b>	13066.86
<b>Cash</b>	19.47
	<u>13086.33</u>

**CREDITORS**

Amounts falling due within one year

**NET CURRENT ASSETS** 13086.33

**TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES** 13086.33

**RESERVES**

<b>Reserves as at 31.10.15</b>	13754.42
<b>Income and Expenditure Account</b>	-668.09

13086.33

Meanwhile, to bring us up to date, the balance in our account on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017 was £7475.60. Unless we get some substantial donations or grants by October this year then we will have to curtail many of our activities. The next 6 months are thus crucial.

**BAIANCE SHEET AS AT 04/04/2017**

<b>Debtors</b>	
<b>Bank</b>	7449.28
<b>Cash</b>	26.32
	<hr/> 7475.60
 <b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>	
	<hr/> 7475.60
	<hr/> <hr/> 7475.60
 <b>Reserves as at 31.10.15</b>	13086.33
<b>Income and Expenditure Account</b>	-5610.73
	<hr/> <hr/> 7475.60

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE FROM 01/11/2016 TO 04/04/2017**

**INCOME:**

<b>Membership Fees</b>	50.00
<b>Donations</b>	110.00
<b>Grants</b>	0.00
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	0.00
	<hr/> 0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME FOR YEAR</b>	160.00

**EXPENDITURE:**

<b>Consultant Fee</b>	4747.50
<b>Administration</b>	17.85
<b>Travel</b>	315.95
<b>Surveys</b>	0.00
<b>Equipment, Materials and Trees</b>	0.00
<b>Fees</b>	71.00
<b>Training</b>	0.00
<b>Insurances</b>	589.81
<b>Hall Hire</b>	0.00
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	28.62
	<hr/> 28.62
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR</b>	5770.73

<b>EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME</b>	-5610.73
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