

KTAT AGM held at Offa's Dyke Centre on 25th April 2013 from 7.30-9.30 p.m.

There were 28 people present - 14 of whom were members (though 2 turned up too late to vote at the AGM but enjoyed the talk. Bev Lloyd and Christine Baker had sent their apologies.

Gary Cowell chaired the meeting and Angie Zelter took the minutes. Every person present received a copy of the Annual Report which included the annual accounts plus a copy of the new leaflet and the KTAT NEWS No.2 Spring 2013.

- **The Treasurer's Report** was given by Anne Mary Davies. We have a healthy balance of £13,017.31 as of 31/3/13. Many thanks to Anne Mary for being the Treasurer and continuing in this role. The Accounts were nominated to be accepted by Christine Brooks and seconded by Sheila Clarke and accepted unanimously with 12 Members voting.

KTAT INCOME & EXPENDITURE FROM 1/4/2013 TO 31/03/2013

OPENING BALANCE	£13,206.29
INCOME:	
Bank Interest	£22.25
Membership	£110.00
Friends of KTAT	£50.00
Environment Wales Funding	£4,267.80
Donations / Fund raising	£58.00
Total Income	£4,508.05
EXPENDITURE:	
Administration	£177.65
Company Registration	£36.75
Expenses (Forrester, surveyor)	£2,782.80
Travel	£156.90
Equipment	£939.28
Insurance	£105.00
Books	£195.40
Training	£250.00
Catering	£33.25
Hall Hire	£20.00
Total Expenditure	£4,697.03
BALANCE	£13,017.31

- **Our Annual Report** was read by Angie Zelter. It was nominated to be accepted by Angie Zelter and seconded by Anne Mary and unanimously accepted by 12 Members. The report read as follows:-

Annual Report for AGM 25th April, 2013.

This has been a most exciting year with much of the previous 2 year's work at last coming to fruition. We visited Llangattock Community Woodland Group to get an idea of how they organised themselves, which was fun and useful. We have built up good working relationships with the owners of two local woodlands and finalised management agreements and plans with them. We have organised the winter flora and fauna surveys. We have received our first grants, bought tools, and started the actual woodland management work in both woods. We are up and running and hoping that more volunteers will get involved and come and enjoy the woods with us.

Greenstreete, Llangunllo.

The Samatha Trust have been wonderful to work with and although the process has been lengthy it has been solid. On 8th January 2013 a 10 year license was signed and a few weeks later a 10 year management plan was also agreed between our 2 Trusts. Once this was all finalised we were able to register with Environment Wales (on 8th February), which has been a great help.

The Samatha Trust own Greenstreete – The National Samatha Centre - 35 hectares of gardens, hills, woodlands and wetlands which provide a peaceful setting for their Buddhist retreats and meditations. The Greenstreete Larches is a 2.74 hectare area of larch plantation. Well-established mature 60 year-old Japanese larch (*L. kaempferi*) covers 80% of the plantation, with the remaining 20% being a small planting of mature sweet chestnut of a similar age along the northern track of the wood and a scattered broadleaf understorey including hazel coppice and ash regeneration. The plantation is located on a steep, west facing slope at between 250-350m above sea level. We will gradually cut down the mature Larch (which is becoming vulnerable to wind-throw and disease) and transform it into a native broad-leaf woodland able to provide firewood and timber for both Trusts whilst increasing biodiversity.

Our aim of recruiting and training local volunteers, to learn more about their local environment and manage woodlands has already begun. A walk-over survey with KTAT volunteers was carried out on 19th September 2012 by Chris Ledbury and Katie Gaisford of Radnorshire Wildlife Services who recorded 64 vascular species.

A bird survey was conducted by Ann Cummings, again accompanied by volunteers, on 8 December 2012 with 16 different bird species recorded.

On 23rd February 2013, 9 volunteers were provided with tools and shown by Brian Barker, woodland officer for the Shropshire Hills AONB, how to high prune and coppice. The good work and learning process continued on 20th March, the second Greenstreete workday.

None of this would have been possible if we had not received a grant from Environment

Wales which enabled us to pay forestry expert Dr. Evelyn Over to do a feasibility study, draw up a draft management plan for us, and give us advice and contacts.

Another grant enabled us to buy tools and pay for someone to come and teach us how to use hand-tools safely to high-prune, coppice, fell and cleave.

Weir Cottage

We are managing Weir cottage wood in the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and have already been busy! Marie Hall has signed a ten year agreement with us, attached to a management plan and seems to be happy to give us a fairly free reign. John Clayfield, a local naturalist, came and did a flora survey with us in July and we identified more than 50 species of plants and shrubs and 11 species of trees! We hope to do other surveys and repeat them at regular intervals to monitor the impact of our management. We started by putting a path into the woodland to improve access for Marie and family and ourselves so we can work in the wood with minimum impact. As we go to press we haven't finished the path but two Members of the Trust have taken down 8, mainly dead, elm trees and we hope to have a day finishing off the path and processing the wood.

We are trying to set up a model tree allotment at this site to demonstrate how we wish to manage our woodlands. We will use the woodland and any funding we get to increase our experience, skills and knowledge. We have spoken to and are hoping to work with the Parish Council on how we can be part of a sustainable way forward for the Parish. The Llanfair Waterdine Parish Charities Trust is keen to work with us. Their remit is to promote the education of the youngsters in the Parish so we hope to run some woodland courses together.

If you become a Volunteer you can join in our work parties there. It is only 1 mile from Knighton!

People Involved

We started the year with 8 Trustees:- Christine Baker, Christine Brooks (Chair), Gary Cowell, Colin Cummings, Anne Mary Davies (Treasurer), William O'Leary, Camilla Saunders, and Angie Zelter (Secretary). Unfortunately Will had to resign due to pressure of work. **We therefore now only have 7 Trustees.** We would like to recruit a couple more Trustees as our constitution allows up to 10.

We have **19 Members** who can vote at our AGM and have a say in our policies and activities. We are grateful to the **16 Friends** who contributed substantial funds to help sustain our work.

Meanwhile, we now have **22 registered Volunteers** who have expressed interest in our woodland management work days either at Weir Cottage or at Greenstreete or to taking part in the many flora and fauna surveys that will be taking place this coming year. We expect to do bird, bat, butterfly and moth surveys to add to our plant surveys.

Funding

Environment Wales have been most generous and have given us the following grants:-

1. A Pre-Project Grant of £3467.80 for specialist help in preparing a management plan and feasibility study for Greenstreete.
2. A Small Project Grant of £800 for tools and trainer for our First work Day at Greenstreete.

Keep Wales Tidy have enabled us to get good insurance cover with them and also kindly gave us £300 of garden centre vouchers to use for tools.

- **Trustees**

Christine Brooks then announced that she wanted to stand down as a Trustee but wanted to continue to be involved as a Member. The Chair and all present thanked her for all her hard work as a Trustee. New Trustees were sought but no-one offered to fill the gap. The remaining 6 Trustees had all confirmed they were willing to stand for a further year which was gratefully accepted.

THE FORMAL MEETING THEN ENDED

- Kath McNulty, the CONFOR National Manager for Wales, gave us an illustrated update on Welsh Woods. This was extremely interesting and elicited lots of questions.
- Refreshments were served and 3 new people signed up as Members.