

KTAT Annual Report for 17th May 2018 written by Angie Zelter.

Only four Trustees were elected at the last AGM on 11th May 2017 – Angie Zelter (Secretary & Treasurer), Camilla Saunders, Jamie Ritchie, and Kate Mclean.

We currently have 67 volunteers, 36 of whom have joined since the last AGM. Over the last 12 months we have removed 35 volunteers from our list – those who have moved away, stopped responding to correspondence, asked to be removed or have passed away. Approximately 30 volunteers are active in the woods and 32 of the volunteers are also members who support our work and can vote at the AGM. We send a big thank-you to all trustees, members and volunteers for their continuing enthusiasm and good company. The seventh illustrated newsletter has been distributed and will bring you up to date on our activities.

KTAT had another excellent year working in the woods and meeting new volunteers. We have held 46 woodland task days in the 12 months to May 2018 which compares well to the 33 and 19 task days held in each of the previous 2 years. Our volunteers have now contributed well over 6,800 volunteer hours since KTAT began. From planting, weeding, coppicing, thinning and felling, to processing firewood and producing hedging stakes and bean poles, we have made good progress in managing some of the nearby local woodlands, thus conserving and protecting wildlife as well as bringing the woods back into sustainable production.

At the moment we are in the midst of distributing this year's allocation of 36.92 cubic metres of firewood that was cut and dried in previous years. 21 member volunteers are in the process of collecting it.

Gary Cowell was our paid contractor for 18 months funded primarily by a private donation but also successful funding applications to Tesco's Bags of Help, Mid-Counties Co-operative's Community Fund, the Oakdale Trust, the Naturesave Trust, Knighton Town Council and Nisa's Make A Difference Locally scheme. We would like to thank our donor and those organisations for their help over the last year. We have been very fortunate to have had Gary leading our work days and taking on much of the administrative burden that others had been doing previously. So here is a very big thank you to Gary.

In addition to applications for small grants KTAT decided to try for a larger grant from Heritage Lottery Fund for a 3 year programme to continue and expand our work. Our application was to support a larger group of well-trained volunteers and to make KTAT more financially self-sufficient. Recognised experts would train volunteers in biodiversity surveying and in how to make woodland products such as hurdles, charcoal, 3-legged stools and hazel baskets – services and products that would widen our appeal and could be sold by KTAT to fund our overheads. The project would also involve a lot more outreach work and has the support of Knighton Primary School and local Scout and Guide groups.

Our initial application to Heritage Lottery Fund, submitted in December 2017 was, unfortunately, unsuccessful, meaning that funds for the Co-ordinator role ended in March 2018. This is obviously a major set-back for us, as with Gary working a full two days each week we had been able to work in three woodlands and begin planning for work in a fourth. We had also started to improve skills and knowledge and begun to reach out to more people in the local community.

We have resubmitted an adjusted bid to Heritage Lottery Fund with a decision due on 31st May 2018. We are currently operating without the support of paid staff while we

await the outcome of the bid and look for other funding opportunities. Without funding we will not be able to do all that we had planned and will probably only be able to work consistently at Castle Ring and Weir Cottage in the coming year. Gary has continued some of the Co-ordinator role in a voluntary capacity while we await the funding decision and other volunteers have stepped in to keep as many work days going as possible.

KTAT held two training courses in the summer of 2017. They were led by Vaughan Lewis, the Woodland Trust's Ancient Woodland Restoration Officer for Powys. The courses were on the identification of ancient woodland indicator species at Greenstreete, plus tree identification and an introduction to basic woodland management techniques at Castle Ring Wood. Both were very well attended and most enjoyable.

KTAT has begun a productive relationship with an organisation called Lightfoot. In January 2018 Lightfoot asked KTAT to design and deliver a three-day training course on "An Introduction to Woodland Management". Run by Gary, it was both classroom and woodland based and was a great success. Lightfoot and KTAT will be working together this coming year to put on more such courses which will earn an income for KTAT.

Our current newsletter gives more detailed information but I will briefly summarise each woodland.

Weir Cottage

We have continued with our planned management of Weir cottage – planting in gaps, weeding around the young trees, cutting the third of the five coupes, and processing what has been cut. The new owners have been willing to sell our bean poles and hedging stakes at their garden centre.

Greenstreete

We have thinned a self-seeded stand of evenly aged ash trees, leaving the most vigorous trees that should have the greatest tolerance to the fungal disease called Chalara that is predicted to kill the majority of ash trees in Britain. We have also finally processed the remainder of the large larch logs left outside the woodshed at the top of the Larch Plantation. We will not be working in this plantation in the future but instead have been asked to manage the Greenstreete wood but this will depend on future resources.

Castle Ring

We continued coppicing hazel in the first coupe as the woodland owners asked us to thin the birch more heavily in the area that we worked last year, to allow in even more light for the regenerating hazel. Volunteers have enjoyed working on the flat instead of steep slopes and this woodland has provided the hedging stakes, bean poles and pea sticks that we are now starting to sell locally.

Knucklas Castle

Work will not be able to start unless we get further funding to provide for a co-ordinator.

Annual Accounts

The annual accounts as presented to Companies House on 31 October 2017 showed our annual income was £5,073.53 and the expenditure was £11,796.09 giving us an excess of expenditure over income of £6,722.56. This was because the grants coming in of £4,290 did not off-set the wages of our part-time co-ordinator. Our net current assets on 31st October 2017 were therefore £6,363.77. A copy of these accounts are shown in the two tables below.

Meanwhile, to bring us up to date, the balance in our account on 9th May was £3,902.42.

Again you can find the accounts to 9th May in the tables below.

Conclusion

This last year has shown the development and progress that has been made by KTAT by employing a coordinator, to organise and lead task days and training, and to do much of the time-consuming administration. We now have more woodland management agreements in place, have delivered a weekly, rather than occasional, task day programme and the number of new volunteers joining the organisation has increased. However, if we are not able to raise the minimal funds to employ a co-ordinator then we will have to cut back our commitments and rely once more on purely voluntary efforts. We could certainly do with more donations so if any of you are feeling particularly generous please do send us a cheque. We are also in need of more people willing to stand as Trustees. I have been joint Secretary and Treasurer for too long now and it is not healthy for an organisation to rely on so few Trustees. So please stand up and offer yourselves for sacrifice in a few moments.

KNIGHTON TREE ALLOTMENT TRUST

Balance sheet as at 31/10/2017

CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors		
Bank		6357.07
Cash		6.70
		6363.77
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year		
		6363.77
NET CURRENT ASSETS		6363.77
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		6363.77
INCOME & EXPENDITURE from 01/11/2016 to 31/10/2017		
RESERVES		
INCOME:		
Income and Expenditure Account		-6722.50
Membership Fees	290.00	
Donations	434.53	6363.77
Grants	4290.00	
Sales	59.00	
Miscellaneous	0.00	
TOTAL INCOME FOR YEAR		5073.53
EXPENDITURE:		
Consultant Fee	9607.20	
Administration	43.58	
Travel	573.56	
Surveys	0.00	
Equipment, Materials and Trees	476.61	
Fees	91.00	
Training	325.00	
Insurances	589.81	
Hall Hire	40.00	
Miscellaneous	49.33	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR		11796.09
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME		-6722.56

And here are the current Income and Expenses and Balance sheets up to 9th May 2018.

Balance sheet as at 15/05/2018

CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors		
Bank		3875.52
Cash		63.73
		<u>3939.25</u>
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year		
		<u>3939.25</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		
		<u>3939.25</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		
		<u><u>3939.25</u></u>
RESERVES		
Reserves as at 31.10.17		6363.77
Income and Expenditure Account		-2424.52
		<u><u>3939.25</u></u>

INCOME & EXPENDITURE from 01/11/2017 to 15/05/2018

INCOME:

Membership Fees	300.00	
Donations	1012.53	
Grants	1500.00	
Sales	71.12	
Miscellaneous	0.00	
	<u>0.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME FOR YEAR		2883.65

EXPENDITURE:

Consultant Fee	3315.00	
Administration	2.26	
Travel	141.50	
Surveys	0.00	
Equipment, Materials and Trees	1119.31	
Fees	108.00	
Training	0.00	
Insurances	583.89	
Hall Hire	25.00	
Refreshments	13.21	
Miscellaneous	0.00	
	<u>0.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR		5308.17

EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME -2424.52