

Pondhead Conservation Trust



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS OF PONDHEAD CONSERVATION TRUST for the period ending 31 March 2019.

The Trustees of Pondhead Conservation Trust (PCT) present their annual report and verified accounts for the period ended 31 March 2019.

PCT is a registered charity No: 1158297.

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

c/o Hawthorns, Romsey Road, Cadnam, Southampton SO40 2NN.

OUR TRUSTEES

Perry Bond Chairman

Derek Tippetts Treasurer

Carol Dibden Secretary

John Stride

Dave Dibden

Ian Barker

Robin Mair

Barry Dowsett

Gary Melton

Trustees are appointed or re-appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting in January. At the 2019 AGM, Gary Melton was voted onto the management team as a Trustee and will take over as the Trust's Treasurer from Derek Tippetts after these accounts. Derek will remain a Trustee and Volunteer Co-ordinator.

All Trustees give their time voluntary and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

OUR AIMS & OBJECTIVES

PCT is a community woodland project which operates under a constitution adopted on 20 January 2014 and amended 17 July 2014. Our aim is to restore and manage 76 hectares of woodland in the New Forest known as Pondhead Inclosure to improve its biodiversity and public enjoyment.

PCT manages the woodland under a 10-year license from the Forestry Commission dated 10 September 2014.

Our objectives are as follows: -

A. To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment of Pondhead Inclosure, Lyndhurst, Hampshire,

B. To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment of Pondhead Inclosure, Lyndhurst, including school visits and the promotion of volunteering opportunities.

SUMMARY OF MAIN ACTIVITIES

This is our fifth annual report and covers our fourth season of charcoal production. During record summer weather, demand for Pondhead Charcoal exceeded expectations with sales of £6790.75 (£5804.45). This represents a 17% increase on last year which was also a record sales year. These sales were achieved despite problems with a hole in the kiln which appeared early in the season. This was repaired over the winter at a cost of £606. It is now clear that the Pondhead brand is becoming well known in the local community.

During the year we also ran our second series of chair making courses which proved extremely popular once again with all five courses fully booked. The previous year these courses were featured in Ch5's "Britain by Bike" with Larry & George Lamb who joined us for a day's filming. Feedback from course attendees, who came from all parts of the country, confirmed that 90% booked after seeing us on TV. Thanks go to Perry Bond for this innovative use of our hazel crop which produced an income stream of £3218.40 (£1977.20).

Our financial aim is to cover our annual overheads from charcoal and other sales. These totalled £11017.42 (£8228.47) during the year against expenditure of £7650.62 (£8872.30). This gave us a surplus of £3366.80 for the year. This is in line with our objective to build a surplus year on year as the life of our charcoal retort kiln is finite and we need to be in a position to have sufficient reserves to replace it in due course. Since our formation, we have invested heavily in capital equipment but nothing significant is planned for our forthcoming financial year. Overall, our finances remain strong.

The highlight of our year was undoubtedly the receipt of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (the MBE for voluntary groups). This incurred unexpected "one-off" expenditure of £580.78, mainly for celebrations and the formal presentation by the Lord Lieutenant. Money well spent.

During the year we produced a new Woodland Management Plan which now takes us through to the end of our present license from the Forestry Commission. By the first week in March, we had completed the objectives set out the plan, including two large coupes that were coppiced entirely by hand by our volunteers who also constructed excellent staked dead hedges to prevent deer browsing. This worked well last year and saves the expense of costly plastic deer fencing.

Our volunteer base continued to hold up well with over 195 (180) registered volunteers and a steady flow of new recruits as knowledge of our activity spreads. Once again, we attended the NPA Volunteer Fair in January and also gave a presentation. Volunteer hours on tasks during the year amounted to 6124 which was a significant increase on the previous year (4018 hours) with

most tasks being fully booked. Without the continued support and effort of our volunteers we would not have been able to achieve the results outlined in this report. We remain very grateful to them for their hard work in all weathers - this project could not continue without them.

In addition, to our own volunteer team we also undertook conservation days with staff from local companies and other organisations, including Ordnance Survey, Old Mutual Wealth and groups from the Princes Trust and local Special Needs Schools.

Overall, we continue to meet the targets we set ourselves originally and have exceeded expectations in most areas.

Derek Tippetts
Hon. Treasurer & Trustee

April 2019

Year ending 31 March 2019

Bank 1.4.18	4007.94	4649.53
Cash	5.21	7.45
	4013.15	4656.98
Income		
Charcoal	6790.75	5804.45
Chair Courses	3218.40	1977.20
Donations	277.09	346.00
Give as you Live	133.68	100.82
Walks	405.00	0
Rustic Poles	192.50	0
	15030.57	12885.45
Expenditure		
Safety	136.96	215.39
Tools	504.01	1489.34
Equipment	792.65	677.03
Storage	0	1948.25
Consumables	1054.58	996.10
Fencing	0	111.74
Insurance	1219.82	1184.30
Packaging	0	1029.30
Promotion	491.22	549.92
Outside Courses - volunteers	650.00	141.66
Trees	75.00	54.00
Pondhead Clothing subsidy	545.26	131.46
Website	194.02	74.40
Retort Repairs	606.00	0
Food – Chair Courses	299.94	
Volunteer Chocs/food	370.33	269.41
Mileage	130.05	0
QAVS	580.78	0
	7650.62	8872.30
Bank 31.3.19	7375.72	4007.94
Cash	4.23	5.21
	15030.57	12885.45

Accounts sampled & verified by R, Travis ACIB (Retired) 10.4.19.