



natural environment of Pondhead Inclosure, Lyndhurst, including school visits and the promotion of volunteering opportunities.

## **SUMMARY OF MAIN ACTIVITIES**

This is our sixth annual report and covers our fifth season of charcoal production. Charcoal sales for the year were £6151 which was down on the previous record year (£6790) but it was still our second best year and perhaps a better reflection of what can be achieved in a normal summer – the summer of 2018 had record levels of sunshine. The announcement of the COVID 19 lockdown on 23 March also cost us around £300 of orders that were in the pipeline and would have been delivered prior to our year end. During the year, our charcoal kiln required further significant welding during the winter, but this should see us through the 2020 summer at least.

During the year we also ran our third series of chair making courses which again proved extremely popular with all five courses fully booked. The previous year's courses had benefitted from publicity following them featuring on the Channel 5 TV programme "Britain by Bike" but demand exceeded supply once again but this year albeit with a more local element of participants. Thanks go to Perry Bond for this innovative use of our hazel crop which produced an income stream of £3578 (£3218).

Our financial aim is to cover our annual overheads from charcoal and other sales. These totalled £12023 (£11017) during the year against expenditure of £8506 (£7650). This gave us a surplus of £3517 (£3366) 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 our winning of the Royal Forestry Society's Community Woodland Award which was presented to Dave Dibden and Derek Tippetts at Windsor Great Park.

During the year decided to drop one coppice coupe scheduled for cutting in our Woodland Management Plan in view of the significant amount of charcoal timber already on hand. We used the time saved to open up a further two old rides by reference to the 1869 OS map of the New Forest. By mid-March, we had completed our revised objectives prior to the COVID 19 lockdown measures being announced

Our volunteer base continued to hold up well with over 250 registered volunteers and a steady flow of new recruits as knowledge of our activity spreads. However, during lockdown we took the opportunity to hygiene our database and remove retired volunteers and those who have never shown up, which brought the active volunteer total down to a more realistic 150. Once again, we attended the NPA Volunteer Fair in January and gave a presentation but each year there are increasing numbers of organisations looking for volunteers, making recruitment more competitive. However, we are blessed with a great team of volunteers who provided 5857 hours of work on tasks which was slightly down on the previous year (6124) because we had to cancel more events than usual as a result of adverse weather conditions. Without the continued support and effort of our volunteers this project could not continue. We remain extremely grateful to them for their hard work. 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 at the outset of our project back in 2013 and have exceeded expectations in most areas. We can take pride in these achievements and the fact that we continue to manage the woodland on a fully sustainable and self-funding basis.

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE

Year Ending 31st March 2020

	2019-20	2018-19
Opening Bank balance	7375.72	3167.26
Petty Cash	4.23	
<b>Income</b>		
Charcoal	6184.75	6790.75
Chair Courses	3578.40	3218.40
Donations	403.31	277.09
Give as you Live	198.43	133.68
Walks	553.50	405.00
Rustic Poles	365.00	192.50
Awards	500.00	
New Forest Show	240.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12023.39</b>	<b>11017.42</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Safety	217.99	136.96
Tools		504.01
Equipment	1134.75	792.65
Storage		0.00
Consumables	1383.66	1054.58
Fencing		0.00
Insurance	1047.74	1219.82
Packaging	1462.7	0.00
Promotion	159.4	491.22
Outside Courses - volunteers	250	650.00
Trees	278.7	75.00
Pondhead Clothing subsidy	390	545.26
Website	203.47	194.02
Retort Repairs	768	606.00
Food – Chair Courses	367.65	299.94
Volunteer Chocs/food	343.29	370.33
Mileage	72.45	130.05
QAVS		580.78
New Forest Show	427.03	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8506.83</b>	<b>7650.62</b>
Bank 31.3.20	10880.16	7375.72
Cash	16.35	4.23