

Registration number 03578609

**Ancient Tree Forum
(A company limited by guarantee)**

Directors' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31st March 2011

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Ancient Tree Forum
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Company information

Trustees	Edward Green Neville Fay Caroline Davis William Cathcart Keith Alexander Vikki Bengtsson John Smith David Clayden
Secretary	Brian Paul (Secretaries) Limited
Company number	03578609
Charity number	1071012
Registered office	Chase Green House 42 Chase Side Enfield Middlesex EN2 6NF
Accountants	Brian Paul Limited Chase Green House 42 Chase Side Enfield Middlesex EN2 6NF

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Ancient Tree Forum
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Directors' report
for the year ended 31st March 2011

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, submit their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2011. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice ('SORP') 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005 in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee, and is governed by its memorandum and articles of association. There are no restrictions on the operations of the charity contained in either the memorandum or the articles of association. The work of the charity is carried out by the Trustees, who meet regularly to consider the running of the charity. Trustees are appointed by invitation of the existing Trustees.

Principal activities

The Ancient Tree Forum (ATF) works through partnership, the principal one being with the Woodland Trust (WT), it also works in close association with other national organisations including English Heritage, the National Trust, The Tree Register of the British Isles and the Tree Council over specific projects. The ATF-Woodland Trust partnership operating through its Partnership Executive Group (PEG) aims to improve protection for and knowledge of veteran and ancient trees, including ensuring that relevant publications provide good conservation guidance for landowners, advisors and practitioners. The partnership provides topic-based Ancient Tree Guides, which to date total seven.

ATF and the Woodland Trust have collaborated over conservation issues and projects, - including the ground breaking Ancient Tree Hunt (ATH) aimed at encouraging community involvement in, identifying mapping and recording veteran, ancient and notable trees. Joint activities include raising public awareness of ancient and veteran trees, providing good practice guidance, influencing policy on local and national veteran tree protection, and improving understanding of how to ensure long term population sustainability. The ATH, which was launched in 2007 as a five year project, is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, and is a tripartite partnership between the ATF, Woodland Trust and the Tree Register of the British Isles and Ireland (TROBI).

An important aspect of this partnership involves monitoring and contributing to consultation on proposed legislation and guidance with the aim of minimising any adverse effects, while positively influencing veteran tree conservation to secure the sustainability of this rare habitat and the diversity of species that depend on it. Proposals from the UK devolved governments and European legislation are monitored in this way to identify policies impacting on veteran and ancient trees so that relevant comment may be made to influence decisions in favour of tree protection, reduce any negative impact and to ensure sustainable conservation. Recent successes have ensured that policy documents in three of the four devolved governments now include recognition of the values and importance of veteran trees.

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continued

Consultation responses have included commenting on the England Environment White Paper, important changes in the TPO regulations in Scotland and in England where, with the help of the Woodland Trust Campaign team, we had over 1,000 supporters. In partnership with Woodland Trust, we supported a Community Council petition to the Scottish Government for improved tree protection and also contributed to and commented on a range of guidance on ancient/native woodland and deadwood management, included guidance from the Forestry Commission and English Heritage aimed at ensuring the values of veteran trees are recognised and are conserved through good management.

The ATF - WT partnership includes provision of advice and information on trees under threat offering a facility for individuals and communities requiring support in order to make appropriate conservation decisions. Many veteran and ancient trees are lost or threatened annually from inappropriate responses to public safety, adverse impacts from planning and development and intensification of land use. Examples of such advice and advocacy include investigations aimed at protection for individual heritage trees such as the largest oak in Wales, and the impacts upon collections of veteran trees from planning developments such as the use of Greenwich Park as an Olympic venue. In such cases, the ATF in its mission to prevent avoidable loss of our ancient tree heritage, seems to communicate their values and vulnerability and the consequences of losing them, and hereby improve local, community and national interest in their sustainable protection and conservation.

The ATH is fast reaching its target of achieving 100,000 tree records. It is nationally significant in communicating widely, educating the public, schoolchildren and landowners about this natural heritage. The iconic, charismatic nature of ancient trees has fulfilled the promise of capturing the imagination through engaging a well informed, broad volunteer force. This project has successfully engaged participants in its interactive dedicated map-based website. The National Trust has partnered the scheme to catalogue its own trees, an immensely significant development, being the largest single owner of ancient and veteran trees. The ATF is currently exploring opportunities to obtain the maximum potential from the ATH data and its achievement to ensure the momentum gained in societal awareness of the conservation interests of veteran and ancient trees can be maintained and enhanced, and that added value can be obtained to use the data for improving protection and understanding the connectivity between collections of veteran trees and enhancing habitat linkage.

The Founder President of the Ancient Tree Forum, Ted Green MBE, continues to enlist additional 'Ancient Tree Guardians' in support of core ATF interests, recruiting landowners who care about veteran trees to encourage participation in their conservation. He has fulfilled a key role, travelling throughout the UK and abroad acting as an ambassador for the ATF to inspire and influence owners, managers, academics and state bodies about the values and good stewardship of ancient and veteran trees. Through the medium of the blog 'Ted and Jill's Tremendous Adventures' he is also able to enthuse and inspire an even larger and more diverse audience.

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continued

The Ancient Tree Forum website continues to be very effective, with an increasingly international audience, informing public, professional and practitioner visitors about veteran and ancient trees and good conservation practice. The creation of a Facebook page has connected us to a wider age range, expanding outreach and influence. All publications produced are available on the website, which also provides opportunities for sharing knowledge and for debate and interaction on ancient tree care and conservation. An email newsletter keeps UK supporters informed, while supporting an ever-widening base of international contacts.

New veteran tree groups have developed in the Pacific North West and Australia. Particularly strong links have been forged with colleagues in Northern Spain and Sweden where knowledge is being shared and expertise developed through joint visits, learning about restoration techniques and cultural practices. The growing international interest in Europe, the USA and Canada, and as far away as Africa, Australia, Mongolia and China, is supported and linked through the website. This exchange of knowledge also contributes to understanding global trends about ancient trees and impacts upon them.

The ATF has continued to work with the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG), a broad spectrum of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders including tree professionals, owners, advisors and managers, to counter the threat to ancient trees and potential successors from risk-aversion. The NTSG guidance document, having gone through open consultation during the year, is due for publication in August 2011. The purpose of this evidence-based document is to inform the reasonable and prudent landowner to make appropriate decisions concerning tree related public safety through understanding trees as natural organisms, helping to support a balanced and proportionate approach that considers the benefits from trees and the very low risks they present. The considerable effort expended by the ATF in supporting the NTSG is a mark of the importance placed in appropriate and sensible tree management as, historically, a great number of veteran and ancient trees have been unnecessarily sacrificed through risk aversion. Regional groups have continued to develop on a county basis with specific strongholds in Cornwall, Devon and Dorset. The Cornwall ATF group successfully raised funds for its Great Trees of Cornwall Project - a three year initiative to carry out a county wide ancient tree survey that, in addition to delivering training and community events to help conserve ancient trees, will provide skills for veteran tree protection. Publications and data from this project will help local communities and schools to continue to connect with and learn about their heritage landscape. The Devon branch is planning a major annual event for the summer of 2011 to contribute to the continued revitalisation of the Forum, fundamental to sharing collective knowledge and experience. The Ancient Tree Forum had a hugely successful learning and participating event in Suffolk in June 2010, led by one of the early pioneers, Gary Battell, with talks from Oliver Rackham and others and visits to Staverton Park.

ATF field events included site visits to advance the knowledge of those who attend, and focus attention on management needs of specific ancient trees. These continue to be well attended. Owners and site managers benefit also. During the year other key field events took place at Salcey Forest Northampton and Moccas Park.

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Directors' report
for the year ended 31st March 2011

. . . continued

During the year, the Chair gave notice of his intention to resign and strongly endorsed the important work of the Membership Group, who has been undertaking an essential strategic review of the ATF. He also extended gratitude to Mike Townsend, President, for facilitating the Board in its combined efforts contributing to the formulation of the Ancient Tree Forum's new Strategic plan, a process that was initiated following the ATF's 10th Anniversary. The review and its adopted conclusion will be announced during 2011-2012.

The company was incorporated on 10th June 1998.


Directors and Trustees

The directors who served during the year are listed below.

Edward Green
Neville Fay
Caroline Davis
William Cathcart
Keith Alexander
Vikki Bengtsson
John Smith
David Clayden

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

This report was approved by the Board of Directors on 21st September 11 and signed on its behalf

Trustee

John Smith

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Accountants' report on the unaudited financial statements to the directors of
Ancient Tree Forum

As described on the balance sheet you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2011 set out on pages 6 to 12 and you consider that the company is exempt from an audit. In accordance with your instructions we have compiled these unaudited financial statements, in order to assist you to fulfil your statutory responsibilities, from the accounting records and information supplied to us.

Brian Paul Limited
Chartered Accountants
Chase Green House
42 Chase Side
Enfield
Middlesex
EN2 6NF

Date: 21st September 2011

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Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31st March 2011

				Relates to 2011 figures	
	Notes	2011 £	2010 £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £
<u>Incoming resources:</u>					
Donations and contributions	2	205	-		205
Interest received	3	1,299	1,940		1,299
Total incoming resources		<u>1,504</u>	<u>1,940</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,504</u>
<u>Resources expended:</u>					
Cost of generating funds-					
Fundraising costs		-	-	-	-
Net incoming resources available for charitable expenditure		<u>1,504</u>	<u>1,940</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,504</u>
Charitable expenditure-					
Direct charitable expenditure	4	217	300		217
Management and administration of the charity	5	881	822	-	881
		<u>1,098</u>	<u>1,122</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,098</u>
<u>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources</u>		406	818	-	406
<u>Fund balance brought forward</u>		68,124	67,306	52,330	15,794
<u>Fund balance carried forward</u>		<u>68,530</u>	<u>68,124</u>	<u>52,330</u>	<u>16,200</u>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

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Balance sheet
as at 31st March 2011

		2011		2010	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		1		1
Current assets					
Debtors	8	35		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		68,770		68,408	
		<u>68,805</u>		<u>68,408</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(276)</u>		<u>(285)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>68,529</u>		<u>68,123</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>68,530</u>		<u>68,124</u>
Net assets			<u><u>68,530</u></u>		<u><u>68,124</u></u>
Reserves					
Profit and loss account			<u>68,530</u>		<u>68,124</u>
Members' funds			<u><u>68,530</u></u>		<u><u>68,124</u></u>

The directors' statements required by Sections 475(2) and (3) are shown on the following page which forms part of this Balance Sheet

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

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Balance sheet (continued)

Directors' statements required by Sections 475(2) and (3)
for the year ended 31st March 2011

In approving these financial statements as directors of the company we hereby confirm

- (a) that for the year stated above the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ,
- (b) that no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the company pursuant to Section 476 requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 31st March 2011 , and
- (c) that we acknowledge our responsibilities for
 - (1) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 , and
 - (2) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of Section 393 and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 21st May 2011 . and signed on its behalf by



Director

John Smith

Registration number 03578609

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31st March 2011**

Due to its size the charity is not required to prepare a cash flow statement.

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income is deferred only when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be used in a future period.

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis and categorised as follows

- (i) Fundraising expenditure includes costs directly attributable to raising income
- (ii) Maintenance costs represent costs incurred in the furtherance of the charity
- (iii) Management and administration costs represent the costs attributable to the management of the charity's assets, organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Funds held by the charity are

- (i) Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees
- (ii) Restricted funds - these are funds which can be only used for particular purposes with the objectives of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings
and equipment - 25% Straight Line

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31st March 2011

continued

2. Donations and contributions

	2011	2010
	£	£
Contributions received	55	-
Donations	150	-
	<u>205</u>	<u>-</u>

3. Interest received

	2011	2010
	£	£
Bank deposit interest	<u>1,299</u>	<u>1,940</u>

4. Direct charitable expenditure

	2011	2010
	£	£
Project with Woodland Trust - Publication of The Good Practice Guide	217	300
Contribution to 'Ancient Tree Hunt'	-	-
	<u>217</u>	<u>300</u>

5. Management and administration costs

	2011	2010
	£	£
Accountancy Fees	276	270
Insurance	287	287
Tree Council	250	250
General expenses	68	15
	<u>881</u>	<u>822</u>

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31st March 2011

.. continued

6. Tangible fixed assets	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1st April 2010	3,685	3,685
At 31st March 2011	<u>3,685</u>	<u>3,685</u>
Depreciation		
At 1st April 2010	3,684	3,684
At 31st March 2011	<u>3,684</u>	<u>3,684</u>
Net book values		
At 31st March 2011	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
At 31st March 2010	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

7. Staff costs and trustees' remuneration

The company has no employees (2010 nil)

Trustees received no remuneration (2010 nil) and were not reimbursed for any of their expenses for the year (2010 nil)

8. Debtors	2011 £	2010 £
Other debtors	<u>35</u>	<u>-</u>
9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2011 £	2010 £
Accruals and deferred income	<u>276</u>	<u>285</u>

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31st March 2011

continued

10. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	1	-	1
Current assets	16,440	52,330	68,770
Current liabilities	(276)	-	(276)
Net funds	<u>16,165</u>	<u>52,330</u>	<u>68,495</u>