

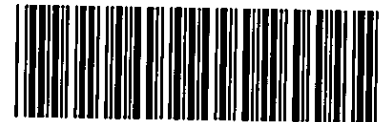
Registration number 03578609

Ancient Tree Forum
(A company limited by guarantee)

Directors' report and unaudited financial statements

for the year ended 31st March 2012

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Ancient Tree Forum
(A company limited by guarantee)

Company information

Trustees	Edward Green Neville Fay Caroline Davis William Cathcart Keith Alexander Vikki Bengtsson John Smith David Clayden Helen Read Robert Warnock Brian Muelaner
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 2012

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 2012. 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 the National Trust, English Heritage, Natural England, The Tree Register of the British Isles and the Tree Council. 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, was 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). Although the main thrust of the project ended earlier in 2012, records continue to be received and entered onto the website.

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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Directors' report

for the year ended 31st March 2012

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, seeks to communicate their values and vulnerability and the consequences of losing them, and thereby improve local, community and national interest in their sustainable protection and conservation.

The ATF exceeded its target of achieving 100,000 tree records in 2011. This is nationally significant in communicating widely, educating the public, schoolchildren and landowners about this natural heritage. The iconic, charismatic nature of ancient trees fulfilled the promise of capturing the imagination through engaging a well informed, broad volunteer force, which ended on completion of the project. This project continues to successfully engage 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 and has already contributed twenty four thousand records. The ATF-WT are currently analysing the data to obtain the maximum potential from this massive data source. The results of this analysis will help 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.

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Directors' report

for the year ended 31st March 2012

continued

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 value and good stewardship of ancient and veteran trees. Through the medium of the blog 'Ted and Jill's Treemendous Adventures' he is also able to enthuse and inspire an even larger and more diverse audience.

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 e-mail newsletter keeps UK supporters informed, while supporting an ever-widening base of international contacts. It is hoped that it will also provide direct links to a vast amount of reference material available at a number of other sites.

During the year, the ATF joined a partnership with Pro Natura (Sweden), Amigos del los Arboles Viejos (Friends of Ancient Trees, Spain), Inverde (Belgium), Societatea Progresul Silvic (Romania) and the European Arboricultural Council (Europe wide and responsible for the European Tree Worker qualification) to apply for EU Leonardo da Vinci funding for a training project.

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 their potential successors from risk-aversion. The NTSG guidance document was published in August 2011 to widespread approval including that of the HSE. 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, Dorset and Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association. The work carried out by WDVTA has been exemplary, this one district has recorded 5759 trees to date and produces an excellent six monthly newsletter.

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Directors' report

for the year ended 31st March 2012

continued

Mike Townsend's brilliant support has enabled both the Business Plan and Strategic Plan to be completed, together these two documents help to structure our priorities over the coming years. A draft Manifesto was produced by Vikki Bengtsson and Helen Read which will provide the ATF with a sound document to inform the public and other bodies of our main objectives.

The summer event in Devon was an outstanding success. The field visits to Whiddon Deer Park and Wistman's Wood were well attended and extremely interesting and informative. The diversity and calibre of the speaker on the two days was outstanding.

ATF field events included site visits to advance the knowledge of those who attend, and focus attention on management needs of specific ancient trees. The autumn 2011 event was held at Thoresby Park which looked at unique issues surrounding the impact from historic mining causing land slippage within the SSSI wood pasture site. We also visited Sherwood Forest looking at the magnificent trees there and discussing future engagement and interpretation opportunities.

The 2012 spring event was held around the Wrexham area, the first of several stops was to look at some very old oak in an industrial park outside Wrexham. These trees were next to a munitions factory during WWII and it was felt they posed a potential fire risk so were filled with concrete. We ended the event at the privately owned Wynnstay Park where we were invited to provide the owners with guidance on managing their fine collection of ancient and veteran trees.

During the last year I took over the daunting task of Chairing the ATF, made less so by the strong support of the Treasurer and the Membership Group. We extend 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 conclusions will be announced during 2011-12.

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

Helen Read - Appointed 21st September 2011

Robert Warnock - Appointed 21st September 2011

Brian Muelaner - Appointed 21st September 2011

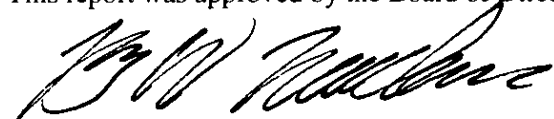
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Directors' report
for the year ended 31st March 2012

continued

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 24 September 12 and signed on its behalf

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Muelaner', is written over the printed name.

Brian Muelaner
Chair

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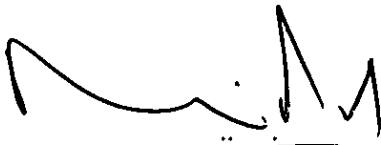
**Report to the Board of Directors on the preparation
of unaudited financial statements of Ancient Tree Forum
for the year ended 31st March 2012**

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the accounts of Ancient Tree Forum for the year ended 31st March 2012 which comprise of the Profit and Loss Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes from the Company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given to us

As a practising member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales, we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at www.icaew.com/membershandbook

This report is made to the company's board of directors in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the accounts of Ancient Tree Forum and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the company's board of directors, as a body, in this report, in accordance with the requirements of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales as detailed at www.icaew.com/compilation. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's board of directors, as a body, for our work or for this report.

You have approved the statutory accounts of Ancient Tree Forum and have acknowledged your responsibility for it, for the appropriateness of the financial reporting framework adopted and for providing all information and explanations necessary for its compilation.



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

24th September 2012

Ancient Tree Forum
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Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31st March 2012

				Relates to 2012 figures	
	Notes	2012 £	2011 £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £
<u>Incoming resources:</u>					
Donations and contributions	2	1,777	205		1,777
Interest received	3	1,021	1,299		1,021
Total incoming resources		<u>2,798</u>	<u>1,504</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,798</u>
<u>Resources expended:</u>					
Cost of generating funds-					
Fundraising costs		-	-	-	-
Net incoming resources available for charitable expenditure		<u>2,798</u>	<u>1,504</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,798</u>
Charitable expenditure-					
Direct charitable expenditure	4	2,303	217		2,303
Management and administration of the charity	5	896	881	-	896
		<u>3,199</u>	<u>1,098</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,199</u>
<u>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources</u>		(401)	406	-	(401)
<u>Fund balance brought forward</u>		68,530	68,124	52,330	16,200
<u>Fund balance carried forward</u>		<u>68,129</u>	<u>68,530</u>	<u>52,330</u>	<u>15,799</u>

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

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Ancient Tree Forum
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Balance sheet
as at 31st March 2012

		2012		2011	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		1		1
Current assets					
Debtors	8	-		35	
Cash at bank and in hand		68,428		68,770	
		<u>68,428</u>		<u>68,805</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(300)</u>		<u>(276)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>68,128</u>		<u>68,529</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>68,129</u>		<u>68,530</u>
Net assets			<u><u>68,129</u></u>		<u><u>68,530</u></u>
Reserves					
Profit and loss account			<u>68,129</u>		<u>68,530</u>
Members' funds			<u><u>68,129</u></u>		<u><u>68,530</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 10 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Ancient Tree Forum
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Balance sheet (continued)


Directors' statements required by Sections 475(2) and (3)
for the year ended 31st March 2012

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 2012 , 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 22nd September 12 and signed on its behalf by


J.P. SMITH
Director

Registration number 03578609

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Ancient Tree Forum
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Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31st March 2012

1. Accounting Policies

1.1. Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities issued in March 2005 and applicable accounting standards

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

1.2. Incoming resources

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

1.3. Resources expended

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

1.4. Fund accounting

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

1.5. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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 2012

continued

2. Donations and contributions

	2012	2011
	£	£
Contributions received	1,777	-
Donations	-	150
	<u>1,777</u>	<u>150</u>

3. Interest received

	2012	2011
	£	£
Bank deposit interest	<u>1,021</u>	<u>1,299</u>

4. Direct charitable expenditure

	2012	2011
	£	£
Direct costs in relation to Events	<u>2,303</u>	<u>217</u>

5. Management and administration costs

	2012	2011
	£	£
Accountancy Fees	312	276
Insurance	289	287
Tree Council	250	250
General expenses	45	68
	<u>896</u>	<u>881</u>

Ancient Tree Forum
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Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31st March 2012

. . . continued

6. Tangible fixed assets	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1st April 2011	3,685	3,685
At 31st March 2012	3,685	3,685
Depreciation		
At 1st April 2011	3,684	3,684
At 31st March 2012	3,684	3,684
Net book values		
At 31st March 2012	1	1
At 31st March 2011	1	1
 7. Staff costs and trustees' remuneration		
The company has no employees (2011 nil)		
Trustees received no remuneration (2011 nil)		
 8. Debtors	2012 £	2011 £
Other debtors	-	35
 9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2012 £	2011 £
Accruals and deferred income	300	276

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Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31st March 2012

continued

10. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	1	-	1
Current assets	16,098	52,330	68,428
Current liabilities	(300)	-	(300)
Net funds	<u>15,799</u>	<u>52,330</u>	<u>68,129</u>