



New Forest Association

2010 Annual Report And Statement of Accounts

Registered Charity No: 260328

New Forest Association

Patron

Belinda, Lady Montagu

President

Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre

Chairman of the Council

William Ziegler
Lords Oak Cottage
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Hon Secretary

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Vice-Chairman

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Hon Treasurer

Nigel Deacon
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Trustees

David Humbert
Peter Roberts

COUNCIL MEMBERS

To retire at the Annual General Meeting for 2011

D.Humbert, Miss D.Macnair, Mrs A.Millar, T.Moore, P.Marshall, P.Roberts,

To retire at the Annual General Meeting for 2012

M.Abbott, M.Chilcott, J.Cox, R.Errington, N.Sanderson, Mrs. J.Tubbs,
W.Ziegler. Mrs E Gillmon, R.Reeves, B.Tarnoff, J.Ward

To retire at the Annual General Meeting for 2013

G.Baker, P.Frost, E.Marris, G.Barnes. N.Deacon

Website

www.newforestassociation.org

President's Report

The looming public consultation on the future of the Forestry Commission's land and woods in England was expected to be published as early as last October. However the Government was so nervous of these proposals (and with hindsight they were right to be so!) that the date of the launch of the consultation was postponed time after time. Eventually when the document was published on the 27th January it sparked a national outcry that astonished everybody and fuelled campaigns by the press and local organisations nationwide.

The New Forest Association was ready and waiting for this moment, and within hours of DEFRA publishing its consultation paper on the internet your Council launched its own campaign to protect the New Forest from the Government's ill prepared ideas. It is for moments like this in the Forest's history that the Association was originally formed, and once again it has proved that it is a highly effective and respected voice. The NFA gains its strength not just from the valuable expertise of its Council members, but also from the fact that it has the largest membership of any Association dedicated to protecting and preserving the New Forest, and it thus speaks with authority.

On behalf of the membership of the Association I would like to thank all our Council members, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman in particular, for the enormous amount of hard work during the sometimes very stressful three weeks that the consultation survived. It was with enormous relief that we all learned that the Government had listened to the numerous voices of protest, and pulled the plug on the whole policy.

We must now wait and see what DEFRA's next step will be, and this will no doubt depend upon what the panel of experts (once it has been appointed) concludes later on this year. The panel has been convened in order to advise the Secretary of State, Mrs. Caroline Spelman, on future forestry policy. In the meantime the NFA will watch and wait.

Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre
President

Chairman's Report

The Council

During the year the Council has been looking at the way it operates and as a result changes to the Committee structure have been made. This came about following our Treasurer finding a Charity Commission "checklist" designed to help charities look at themselves and consider whether they are achieving their charitable aims and correctly carrying out their statutory duties. Having gone through the exercise of reviewing our modus operandi set against this checklist the overall view was that in most areas we were not doing badly but in others we could do better.

The main result of this exercise was the formation of a new committee with the exciting name of the Finance & General Purpose Committee. As the name suggests this committee will be responsible for all finance and governance issues, such as reporting to the Charity Commission and preparing the accounts. It also will consider and report to the main Council on other issues such as PR and other operational matters. Lastly, although answerable to the Council, it has an executive remit which will allow it to respond quickly to situations as they arise rather than have to wait till the next full Council meeting.

Public Estate Consultation

The Public Estate Consultation was a prime example of something that needed our urgent attention. In simple terms, and in relation to the New Forest only, the suggestion was that the Forest would be designated as a heritage forest and gifted to a suitable Trust/Charity to manage.

Although we had known that the consultation was coming (our first press release on the subject was in October) we did not know the full extent of the proposals, nor that the slant of the questions and the lack of supporting information would make it so impossible to respond to.

We were not alone in thinking this and very quickly a national groundswell of concern arose, resulting in the consultation being cancelled. Locally we were very much part of this groundswell, both issuing press releases and responding to requests for interviews from media outlets ranging from the BBC to the Times as well as local newspapers. We were also in contact with our local MPs and made use of our contacts in the House of Lords.

Our message was consistently the same, being that our default position was one of opposition to the plans as outlined. This was largely due to our being deeply concerned not just by what was in the consultation document but what was not. With particular reference to the New Forest we were concerned that:-

1. No reference was made as to whether New Forest would be treated as a Cultural as well as a Natural Heritage Forest.

2. No information was given as to whether the full infrastructure of the New Forest would remain intact e.g. the housing, timber, staff etc nor any recognition of the fact that it is vital that the whole Forest estate is kept together as a single unit.
3. No reference was made as to whether the existing New Forest Acts would remain unaltered as the cornerstone of the existing protective legislation the New Forest presently enjoys, nor that the Verderers' powers would continue unaffected.
4. No reference was made as to how or by whom any new management body would be deemed to be experienced and competent enough to run the New Forest.
5. Apart from suggesting that any new management body might "pursue income generating activities in the Forest" no detail was given as to how adequate funding might be made available to run the New Forest in the long term.
6. No definite information was given as to how the current levels of public access would be maintained.

We were also deeply concerned by the power that would be granted to the Government by the proposed Public Bodies Act, as on first reading it appeared that it could be used to override the existing New Forest Acts. With the removal from the bill of the section relating to forestry this is now uncertain but to make sure we are making moves to include an amendment to the bill stating "*Nothing in this Act shall prejudice or derogate from the provisions of the New Forest Acts 1877 to 1970 or any byelaw made thereunder, or s.4 of the Agriculture & Forestry (Financial Provisions) Act 1991.*"

As an Association we do not believe that the Forestry Commission is for all time the only possible candidates to run the Crown Lands, but at the moment they, with sufficient funding, are the only real option.

Having "pulled" the consultation the government is now intending to set up a panel to consider the government's forestry policy in England, and we feel it is of vital importance that it contains at least one expert on the New Forest as is it easily the largest and most complex of the so called Heritage Woods.

To think of holding discussions to consider its future without involving someone with an intimate knowledge of how it works would be a travesty, and we are working to ensure that the New Forest is correctly represented on the proposed panel of experts.

This matter has not gone away. It will be back in some form or another and we intend to be ready for it.

Agenda

The Association Agenda is a policy document which lays out our concerns for the future of the New Forest and basic policies in relation to them. It is the litmus paper against which all our work must be tested to ensure that we are on the right path and carrying out the policies we have set ourselves.

The Agenda was first approved as our policy document in 1994 and was amended in 2005. This year has seen a much fuller revision, which now properly acknowledges the increased scope of the Association following the creation of the New Forest National Park. It is not a document set in stone as circumstances change and we therefore propose to review it on a more regular basis to ensure it remains relevant and up to date.

To produce a printed version for every member would be an expensive task, so we will be making it available on our website for all to see. However we recognise that not all our members have internet access and if you do not and would like a copy please let me know and I will arrange for one to be sent to you.

Membership

Membership continues to be an area of concern, with a gentle decrease in numbers to approximately 881. Proposals are afoot to remedy this by trying to increase our profile by better use of PR generally and in particular our website and possibly other internet based social networks. Hopefully by improving the way we publicise ourselves, and by using different types of media to do so, we can get our message in front of a wider and more varied cross section of the public.

The work that your Council members carry out on behalf of the Association is varied, time consuming and, I believe, of great importance to the future of the New Forest. The importance of having a well respected campaigning watchdog such as the New Forest Association cannot be overstated, as has been amply demonstrated by the recent furore caused by the recent Public Estate Consultation.

So please, make sure that you pass on the message to others. Possibly by passing this annual report onto a non member in the hope that they then may choose to join us.

On a more positive note, I am happy to welcome New Forest Hotels and Woolley & Wallis as our first corporate members. My thanks to them and I hope they are the first of many businesses who recognize the value of the New Forest to their business and our work in maintaining it.

Can you help us?

As part of our efforts to improve our profile and what we can offer members we need help. We would like to start a Social & Educational Committee and are looking for members to help take on and run it. If you think you might be interested in helping or have ideas on what we should and could be doing please contact me or any Council member.

Also, as already mentioned, we are considering becoming involved with other digital networks but to be honest have a serious shortage of knowledge on the subject. Again if you feel you have some understanding of this (Facebook, Twitter, Blogging etc) and would be interested in getting more involved, please let us know.

Other news

Apart from those items already covered it has been a busy year as you will see from the individual Committee reports. The members of these committees continue to work ceaselessly monitoring and advising on much that is happening in the Forest as well as promoting reviews and changes which would benefit the area.

This year has also seen changes at the National Park Authority with both a new Chairman (Julian Johnson) and Chief Executive (Alison Barnes). Further changes will follow when our President, Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre, steps down as Official Verderer having completed the maximum term he is allowed to do the job.

Over the last nine years his commitment and abilities have increased the relevance and strength of the Verderers Court to a level not known for many years. Given the importance of their role in the New Forest this is to be welcomed and both personally and on behalf of the Association I would like to thank him for his dedication to the cause.

Lastly, this will be my last Chairman's report as I will not be seeking re-election to the post. It has been an honour to have held this position since 2001 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Council members who have so ably helped me over the years. In particular I would thank my Vice Chairman, Peter Roberts, and Hon. Secretary, Michael Chilcott for their help, support and guidance.

The new Chairman will be chosen by the Council at the first meeting after the AGM. Whoever it is I wish them well and hope that they have the opportunity to take as much out of the role as I been able to through working with such a knowledgeable and dedicated a group.

William Ziegler
Chairman

Committee Reports 2010 – 2011

Membership & Development Committee Final Report

A successful AGM and Member's Day was held on Saturday April 17th, 2010 at Minstead, followed by a field trip to Acres Down led by Neil Sanderson and Peter Frost. The summer season of shows and events got underway in June with the Copythorne Rally. We attended seven venues in total across the Forest, the others being Ringwood Festival, New Forest Show (3days), Burley Show, Hamptworth Country Fayre, Nomansland Fête and the Romsey Show. 12 new members were recruited and over £1000 worth of merchandise sold.

The committee also organised an Autumn Member's Event at Foxlease on Saturday October 23rd. The turnout of members was rather disappointing, especially as feedback had been that too little was on offer, socially, to members. But the weather held, and those who did come (30+) certainly felt that we had value for money – free reign of a culturally important Forest dwelling, with tudor origins, not usually open to the public, an unusual archive film showing, a superb presentation on Foxlease from Suzie Moore, a tour of the house, a wonderful lunch of local produce with a New Forest quiz, and an extended tour of the grounds taking in the site of the lake and bridge.

Despite all this activity the year saw a small but steady decline in membership and several attempts have been made by the committee to find ways to appeal to a younger audience. The problem does not seem to be confined to the New Forest Association. I see a similar decline in many of the organisations I am involved with, where the officers are without replacements when their natural term comes to an end. Of course, the general downturn in the economy is a common enemy, too.

During the summer I made the decision that I could no longer continue my several roles with NFA – Council Member, Newsletter Editor and Chairman of M&D committee. I agreed to stay until the end of the year, and formally tendered my resignation in early January. In any case, the organisation has undergone some recent changes, as will have been reported elsewhere in this document, and the M&D committee, as such, no longer exists. I wish the Association, and all its officers and members, good luck for the future.

Georgina Babey. Chairman (Ex),

Land Management Committee Report

The Land Management Committee (LMC) has nine members and has been ably chaired by David Humbert. However, due to the pressure of work from David's business, and the time that is involved in chairing such an important committee, he has, unfortunately, decided to stand down. In January, with the approval of the Council and the Land Management Committee members, I agreed to take on the job of Chairman. I am pleased to say David will continue to be a member of the Committee.

The Committee members are: Clive Chatters, Jonathan Cox, Peter Frost, David Humbert, Philip Marshall, Richard Reeves, Neil Sanderson, Jenni Tubbs and Brian Tarnoff,

Campsite Survey

There are ten campsites in the New Forest managed by Forest Holidays in partnership with the Caravan and Camping Club. These are:

Holmsley, Ashurst, Hollands Wood, Roundhill, Ocknell, Setthorns, Denny Wood, Matley, Longbeech and Aldridge Hill.

Last year saw the completion of the Campsite survey; this has taken two years to complete and is the first detailed snapshot of the campsites. There is concern that, for many years, there has been a gradual increase in the environmental impact of camping on the surrounding areas of the forest; small changes can, over time, have major detrimental effects on the Forest. This deterioration is also reflected in a number of presentments to the Court of Verderers regarding the campsites. In addition to this none of the campsites have ever been subject to normal planning consents, this is because their use was approved under Crown Immunity, a law that no longer exists.

The purpose of this survey was to provide a clear baseline of the current configuration of these campsites against which future change can be monitored. For every campsite each built feature, from buildings to dragons teeth, and every natural feature from bare ground to dead tree stumps has been recorded along with their locations. The survey was managed by Jonathan Cox, promoted by The New Forest Association and supported by the Verderers, the National Park Authority, the Forestry Commission and Forest Holidays.

Forest Restoration

The NFA is represented on the site visits, which are part of the ongoing S.S.S.I. restoration programmes. These site visits are now very much part of Forest management. All the Crown Lands and adjacent Commons are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (S.S.S.I.). The Forest is divided up into units and the aim is to get these units or part of these units into 'favourable condition' or if 'unfavourable', then 'unfavourable improving'. Sorry about the technical phases used, but like the word biodiversity it does say what it means.

Natural England and the Forestry Commission have a legal responsibility to carry out this work. Each piece of work to be carried out requires detailed site visits and plans organised by the Forestry Commission staff. Simon Weymouth and Sarah Oakley deserve to be mentioned for the excellent work they do. They have to gain agreement from the Verderers and deal with different points of view arising from the site visits.

Most of the work proposed is in very sensitive areas, such as the Fletchers Thorns part of the Black Water stream where important plants and reptile breeding areas have developed around the drainage channels to be restored. Neil Sanderson believes that both the flood plain restoration and the retention of the rare pond plants can be accommodated if the work is carried out with care.

Most of the work last year involved reconnecting old stream meanders, filling in drainage cuttings between meanders and reducing the depth of streambeds. Then there are smaller works, staking heather bales at mire erosion points and clearing lawns of scrub and conifer.

I have attended most of the S.S.S.I. site visits over the years and it would be fair to say that there are a few disagreements but there is also plenty of very good-natured joking, which is always the case when commoners are present. One of the major disagreements that does persist at the moment is 'debris dams', so I have written a separate article on the subject.

I believe that great progress is being made with this S.S.S.I. restoration work and after the initial disturbance to the Forest. The result is a biologically richer, more natural and a more beautiful Forest which, in my opinion, has no detrimental effects on grazing.

The Open Forest Design Plan

Not to be confused with the **Forest Design Plan**, which deals with the New Forest Inclosures. The LMC attended the inaugural meeting of the Open Forest Design Plan in 2010. The aim is to prepare a plan for all the felling work on the open forest for the next ten years so that they can obtain a general consent from the Forest Authority, Natural England and the National Park Authority, thus avoiding having to obtain individual consents annually. Consultation through the Open Forest Advisory Committee (OFAC) would continue.

All plans need to comply with a number of different conservation, recreation and Government strategies. These include Strategic Management Plans, Forest Design Plans, Operational Site Assessments, Archaeological Plans and plans for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). If areas are designated as SSSIs or candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC) further guidelines are created to ensure that nature conservation becomes a much higher priority. At the time of writing these plans are still to be finalised.

Costicles and Busketts Grazing Proposal

Several years ago (2008) Neil Sanderson produced a proposal for introducing grazing to an area around Costicles pond in Busketts Inclosure and along the grazing strip by Woodlands Road, cut off from the forest by the cattle grids in the 1970s. This proposal would complete a Life 2 project, which restored the pond in 2001 but did not introduce the essential element of grazing.

In December 2010 the Land Management Committee presented the proposal to the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme Board. It will now proceed through the various channels of the HLS procedure, and hopefully it will come to fruition in a couple of years' time.

A31 verge clearance

Jenni Tubbs attended a meeting organised by the Verderers and Agents for the Ministry of Transport to discuss proposals for verge maintenance work on the A31. These included removal of vegetation, drainage, and unnecessary access gates. It was agreed that Natural England and the National Park Authority would prepare a landscape plan, to be completed early in 2011.

Beaulieu Air Field Concrete

Neil Sanderson and Brian Tarnoff attended a site meeting to examine the Higher Level Stewardship project to remove left-over concrete and brick from the poorly restored airfield. Questions had arisen regarding this work because of the very rich vegetation colonising the concrete areas. The conclusion of the site visit reassured our members that this careful tidying up project would not be a threat to this species rich site.

Peter Frost

Planning Committee

Core Strategy

After a long and rocky ride we were reasonably pleased with the final Core Strategy which sets the scene for all planning applications within the National Park. Graham Baker on behalf of the committee put in a terrific amount of work and represented us at the Planning Inspector's review in September. Approval by the Inspectorate followed swiftly and was promptly implemented by the NPA. Since then we have noticed a significant reduction in applications appearing before the Development Control Panel of the NPA. Alongside this officers have shown strength in using the new policies and the Development Control members have, with few exceptions, followed their advice and reasoning.

Commoners Housing Scheme

We were disappointed with the decision to grant the scheme at Culverley as we felt this was far too grand a scheme which might cause difficulties for applicants in the future with lesser means. The policy was to encourage young commoners “*who wouldn't otherwise be able to continue in commoning,*” by giving them a base from which they could operate. An appeal was made through the Verderers to the NPA to re-assess the Commoners Housing Scheme. Although an initial report was promised by the Authority for January we have yet to see anything.

The Solent

The North Solent Short Management Plan came within our orbit this year. Our response was agreed in connection with the Solent Protection Society. The unauthorised and blatant demolition of Warrens Cottage, Undershore Road, Boldre by a builder highlighted a weakness in the Conservation Area system. Although he was required to re-build in the style of the original it has become clear that he is considerably better off (except for his reputation) than had he had to work carefully around the original structure.

End of year

During the year we have invited individuals representing other groups to our meetings. This included an NPA ecologist, NPA planner and both Hampshire and Wiltshire CPRE representatives to join us. This has enabled us to gain a wider perspective of the workings of others and ensure that when we needed assistance we had contacts in place.

My thanks go to the team of Bernie Austin, Graham Baker, Mick Chilcot, Eve Gilmon, Edward Marris and John Ward for all their work throughout the year and putting up with me as a chairman for the last time.

Peter Roberts

Finance & General Purpose Committee

The new committee had its first meeting on the 25th January to discuss how it would operate – its task being to cover all those areas not presently covered by the Planning and Land Management Committees. Its first undertakings were to ensure representation at the Volunteer Fair on 5th March and also to make preparations for the Annual Report and the AGM in April as well as finding a Newsletter Editor and considering the revised Agenda and Public Relations.

Two days later the Government announced its intention for the Forest Estate which meant we effectively became a Campaign Committee as well. Naturally this took priority and forced our arm on using a Media Consultant sooner rather than later. The three weeks highlighted a number of issues that need addressing

in any campaigning organisation. Good media contacts are essential but also a good public image through our existing activities and membership is vital. I believe that we have been an effective organisation in the classic but unglamorous world of contributing to various influential reports and plans. We have of course produced some positive work in past years – sadly the most recent, the Camping Site Survey, we did not take full advantage of to raise our profile.

With the backing of members and council the revised policy (Agenda) should enable us to move forward and not be tied to ideas of the past century. The environment of the New Forest has been our agenda since 1867 but it is now being taken up by many people. It is our job as the one organisation that concentrates on the New Forest to take forward a vision for its future that matches the times. We must therefore consider issues of sustainability, climate change and wildlife corridors and ensure that in our debates and campaigns we take as many people with us as possible.

We are fortunate that with two substantial legacies in recent times we are in a position to spend money to take the organisation forward – we will do our best to ensure that we do so wisely.

Rosa Warburton Davis

Rosa Warburton Davis has left the New Forest Association a generous legacy in her will. She was born in 1910 in London to Guy Brandis Davis, an advertising executive who ran his own business in the Strand, and Rose (nee Dennison). The family were long term residents of Dulwich, Rosa and her mother remaining there after her father's death in 1958.

She worked in the family business and was able to devote more time to her interests of gardening and wildlife after her retirement. Her mother's parents, William and Emily Dennison although marrying in London, settled at Forest Corner, Pilley. She often visited them there and came to love both Boldre and the New Forest. Her mother, who died in 1989 at the age of 103, is buried in Boldre; Rosa who died in November 2009 at the age of 98 was buried there on 7th December. Her love of Wildlife and the countryside in general have allowed twelve charities to benefit from the residue of her will. We are extremely grateful to her.

Debris Dams

'A load of rubbish blocking up our streams that should always be removed'

or

'The most important natural component of our ancient woodland streams'

My relationship with New Forest streams began 54 years ago. John Wise, the 19th century forest writer, once wrote: -

“The best advice which I can give to see the Forest is to follow the course of one of its streams, to make it your friend and companion, and go where ever it goes. It will be sure to take you through the greenest valleys, and past the thickest woods, and under the largest trees. No step along it is ever lost, for it never goes out of its way but in search of some fresh beauty”.

Over the years I have followed John Wise's advice and made the New Forest streams my friends. When young I made a point of catching a little trout in every one, even those unreliable little streams that flow into the River Avon. Now as an adult I care passionately about those same streams.

New Forest streams are unlike those that spring clear from the chalk, or the West Country streams that rush to the sea over great rocks and boulders. Our streams flow quite slowly and are fed from the acid mires and are the colour of raw sienna. They run over the forest gravels and clays and some pass through ancient woodland, around great trees with under cut banks, exposing twisted roots and branches.

In 2004 the NFA was represented on New Forest Water Basin Management Forum and it was there that I first learnt of the science that surrounds the New Forest streams and in particular debris dams. A debris dam is a natural process where collections of branches, leaves and other natural material collect in the pinch point of streams and restrict the flow of water. Up until a few years ago it was considered good management to remove these obstacles. Most of Britain's streams have been 'canalised' in some way and many have lost their woodland and the associated woody debris, however things are changing and science is teaching us to work with nature. The New Forest is fortunate in that it still retains some fine examples of the natural process of debris dams.



There are over 600 technical papers all expounding the benefits of woody debris in streams and rivers. Within their pages, tables and graphs is the scientific evidence that confirms that to remove all natural debris dams is to devalue the biological richness of our woodland streams. The only exceptions might be where large amounts of cut timber from forestry operations are present.

Debris dams influence the profile of the streambed, naturally undulating the deeps and shallows and protecting the stream from extreme current flows. They store water in the upper reaches during drought conditions and alter the velocity of the streams discharges. Debris Dams restrict large-scale downstream movements of gravel but create patches of fresh gravel, excellent for spawning fish. They provide a refuge for small creatures from predators; also the woody debris is a source of organic matter and silt, a vital food source for invertebrates lower down the food chain. The natural material acts as a bridge between water and the air and lock nutrients in the system, which would otherwise be lost. Natural woodland streams, like our ancient pasture woods, are not fixed within man-made boundaries. Time shapes their course as trees fall with age and the passing water creates new meanders and pools.

There is a perception that some large debris dams inhibit sea trout from moving up stream to spawn. I believe that in most cases trout find their way under or around these obstacles especially during high flows just as they did for thousands of years before we started to modify our rivers.

Most Verderers and the Commoners are not yet convinced of the benefits of debris dams and maintain they are detrimental to their grazing. It remains a controversial subject and we must accept there is a cultural aversion to debris dams and some people would prefer to see a less natural environment by maintaining the flowing stream. Personally I like the chaotic bits where nature can flourish and the 'picturesque' beauty of the forest is wild and untamed.

Peter Frost

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION
Held at Minstead Hall
17th April 2010

Sixty five members and fifteen guests attended. The President, Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre, welcomed them all to the meeting and opened the proceedings.

1. Apologies for Absence had been received from one hundred and twenty five members.

2. Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting.

The minutes of the previous AGM had been printed in the Annual Report which all members had received. On the proposal of Peter Frost, seconded by Geoff Barnes, the meeting agreed unanimously to adopt the minutes.

3. Matters Arising.

There were none.

4.a. The Annual Report.

The Chairman, William Ziegler, took the meeting through the Annual Report.

Higher Level Stewardship Scheme. The President updated members. The agreement was signed on 1st March 2010. The guaranteed income is £1.6 millions/year with 50% 'ring fenced' for the Verderers to use for commoning related purposes and 50% for other projects such as Open Forest conservation. An early project will probably be the provision of water and electricity to the Beaulieu Road sale yard. A full time Manager for the HLS will be appointed.

Planning Activity. The Chairman expressed his personal thanks to those involved for scrutinising and commenting on seemingly endless drafts and documents during the year.

Hon. Treasurer. Michael Perkins will not seek re election after thirteen years service. William Ziegler thanked him warmly on behalf of the Association.

Campsite Survey. The baseline survey of the ten Forest Holiday campsites is almost complete and will be published in the next few months.

Planning Committee. Peter Roberts, Chairman of the Committee, remarked that it had been a tough year much of it spent in ensuring that the National Park Authority's policies reflected its core purpose of conservation.

Grazing Pressure. Jack Weaving, commented that he hoped that the HLS Scheme will not encourage higher than the generally accepted number of seven thousand ponies and cattle running on the Forest. The President agreed that close monitoring is needed and praised the agister team for their efficiency in that respect. Alison Bolton was concerned about the loss of backup grazing. Graham Long thought that deer numbers were a significant factor in grazing availability.

Membership and Development Committee. The Chairman, Georgina Babey, gave a foretaste of the planned Autumn Event at Foxlease on 23rd October.

Land Management Committee. The Chairman, David Humbert, mentioned a long standing battle with the FC over damage caused by operations in Islands Thorns Inclosure. He contrasted this destruction with the excellent work by contractors on stream restoration projects. He thanked members, especially Brian Tarnoff, for some strong presentments to the Verderers Court.

Jack Weaving wondered if it is time to remove the Forestry Commission and run the Forest as amenity land. The Chairman said that the NF is a working forest with the FC as a source of employment and as the owner of housing suitable for commoners. He felt that the FC brings value to the Forest.

Recovering Lost Landscapes. David Humbert noted that the ideas put forward in this report are continuing to influence Forest Design work.

Fletchers Thorns. Alison Bolton asked the Committee to review restoration plans which might risk some botanical loss.

4.b. The Accounts.

Michael Perkins, the retiring Hon. Treasurer, referred to the significant changes that have taken place in his thirteen years in office. Reserves and membership have increased substantially as has the level of activity within the Association. Members had no questions about the accounts.

The Annual Report and Accounts were adopted unanimously on the proposal of Brian Tarnoff, seconded by Georgina Babey.

5. Election of Officers.

President. Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre was elected unanimously on the proposal of William Ziegler, seconded by Michael Chilcott.

Hon. Secretary, Michael Chilcott, Nigel Deacon as Hon. Treasurer and the Auditor, Robin Lloyd of BDO Stoy Hayward, were elected unanimously on the proposal of Peter Roberts, seconded by Peter Frost.

6. Elections to Council.

On the proposal of Michael Chilcott, seconded by Michael Perkins, the following were re-elected unanimously: Graham Baker, Peter Frost, Edward Maris, Georgina Babey and Geoff Barnes together with new Council members: Hilary Harper and Nigel Deacon.

7. Any Other Business.

Graham Long referred to the small drop in Association membership. He wondered if the website could be used for more active communication with members. The Chairman agreed that this should be explored.

Clive Chatters, Chairman of the National Park Authority, thanked the Association for its input to the many Plans and consultations that his Authority had embarked on during the year. Most of them are now nearing completion. He is concerned by large housebuilding proposals adjacent to the National Park boundary but there have also been positive highlights such as the HLS Scheme.

DONATING TO THE NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION

If you support and appreciate the work that the Council is doing in the New Forest and you would like to make a contribution towards this work; there are three ways of making a donation.

The first, if you are a tax payer, is by signing a gift aid declaration in support of a donation or your subscription.

Secondly, you may like to help by leaving us a legacy. Most people will want to remember their family and friends in their Will, but increasingly people may consider leaving an amount of their estate to help other people or charitable organisations. The New Forest Association offers an ideal way to leave a legacy in your Will that will be carefully administered according to your instructions for generations to come.

Normally you should consult your solicitor about the exact wording, but the following specimen clause could be sent to your solicitor to be added to your Will as a codicil. "I give to the New Forest Association (registered Charity Number 260328) the sum of £..... for the general purpose of the Association and the receipt by the Treasurer shall be a full discharge to my Executors" It is also possible to give shares or property, or the residue of your estate when all other bequests to family or friends have been made.

Finally, taxpayers who are due a tax refund may ask the Inland Revenue to give all or part of it to a Charity of their choice. If you would like to give all or part of your refund to the NFA, the procedure is very simple. On your Tax Return tick the "Yes" box in question 19, and then complete the boxes in question 19A, putting the NFA Charity Code in box 19A.3 which is "FAG98MG". If you are a taxpayer and the declaration shown applies, then tick box 19A.4 and tick box 19A.5 if you don't want the donation to be anonymous.

New Forest Association - Trustees' Annual Report.

1. Legal and administrative information.

Registered Charity No 260328

The New Forest Association was founded in 1867 and is run according to rules which were restated in the 1999 Annual Report and amended in the 2007 Annual Report.

The New Forest Association can be contacted via the secretary:

Michael Chilcott, Penny Cottage, Silver Street,
Emery Down, Lyndhurst, Hampshire, SO43 7DX

The trustees are: Maldwin Drummond, David Humbert and Peter Roberts

The officers of the New Forest Association are:

President: Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre

Chairman of the council: William Ziegler

Vice-Chairman of the council: Peter Roberts

Hon. Treasurer: Nigel Deacon

Hon. Secretary: Michael Chilcott

2. Aims and organisation.

The object of the Association is to promote the preservation for the benefit of the public generally of the New Forest as administered by the National Park Authority and generally to protect and preserve the character and amenities thereof and to protect and preserve the areas of scientific and ecological importance and the flora and fauna therein.

The New Forest Association is a membership organisation having Life Members, Annual Members and Corporate Members paying a subscription.

3. Review of progress and achievements.

Throughout 2010, the activities of the Association's council and its Planning & Land Management have continued to further the aims and objectives of the Association. A good working relationship is maintained with the National Park Authority and liaison with the Forestry Commission continues.

During the year an audit of the way the Association works and its achievement in relation to its charitable purposes was carried out using a template of questions produced by the Charity Commission. Overall the result was positive but it was felt that more work needed to be done.

One immediate result was the formation of the Finance & General Purpose which has a remit covering all matters not specifically covered elsewhere, including Finance & Governance issues. At the same time the Membership &

Development Committee was disbanded as it was felt that their work could be carried out more successfully by task specific working groups.

A further matter taken on by this new Committee was a revision of the Association's Agenda which had become out of date. This has now been completed and is due to be made public at the AGM.

The rates for membership remain at £300 for Life membership £300, and £17 for annual membership although this reduces to £15 if paid by bankers order. This remains very good value in view of the essential work undertaken by the Association.

4. Review of financial activities and affairs.

The Association has achieved another very satisfactory financial performance in the year to 31st December 2011.

Due mostly to two generous legacies the Association is in possibly it's strongest ever financial position with total cash reserves of £103,963 and investments of £50,000. A highly satisfactory state of affairs which will allow the Association greater freedom as regards it's ability to carry on works which match its aims and objectives.

Peter Roberts. Trustee

David Humbert. Trustee.

March 2009

For and on Behalf of the New Forest Association

NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION (Registered Charity 260328)
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2010

	General Fund	Life Fund	Total	Last Year
	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds				
Lloyds Current Account	8,317		8,317	1,546
Standard Life Deposit Account	89,525	6,121	95,646	64,138
	97,842	6,121	103,963	65,684
 Investment Assets				
M&G Charibonds	50,000	0	50,000	0
 Other Assets for the Charity's Use				
New Forest Embroidery	100		100	100
Office Equipment	270		270	540
Exhibition Equipment	399		399	797
Stock for Resale at cost	1,200		1,200	1,414
	1,969	0	1,969	2,851

Notes on the Accounts

1. The Receipts and Payments Account has been prepared as a summary of receipts and payments made during the year by the New Forest Association
2. These Accounts have been prepared in a format which complies with guidance issued by the Charity Commission
3. Each year 10% of the Life Membership Fund is transferred to the General Purposes Fund

Approved on behalf of the Trustees

.....	P Roberts (Trustee)	3 March 2011
.....	D Humbert (Trustee)	

**NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION (Registered Charity 260328)
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility :

- to examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act.
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matter set out in the statement below

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Acthave not been met

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Signed

Michael Perkins
Chartered Accountant (CICA) Rtd
3 March 2011

Critchells Farmhouse
Lockerley
Romsey SO51 0JD

