



Stroud Woodland Co-op* - Directors report 2013-14

Overview

The last year has concentrated on ongoing delivery of the action plan agreed at the last AGM. This has led to a continuation of:

- Thinning larch, removing hung-up / dangerous trees and processing of previously felled trees. Work undertaken by volunteers, who also generated firewood.
- Building the compost toilet
- Clearing brash and ivy
- Making things for play – a new 'bouncy log', replaced rope swing, new 'bridge'

We did not employ a contractor for any forestry work this year, so our outgoings were much lower - £369 (compared to £2,441 last year). These consisted of FSA fees, insurance and Small Woods membership. We raised a brilliant £565 through member's voluntary annual contributions, up from £375 last year. Thank you. This meant our first ever surplus for the year of £199.

We have also welcomed two new members this year: Dominique Shead and Rebecca and James. These are in addition to Simon Arundel, John Miles, Nick Mills, Stella Parkes, Claire and Paul Sheridan and Kate and David Shrubbsall who joined last year.

Actions from AGM 2013

At the last AGM, directors were asked to consider a number of topics that had been discussed. These included:

Investigating the need for Director and Officer liability insurance: Directors agreed that we would continue not to take out this insurance. We also set up a system of monthly monitoring of the state of the wood by members.

Investigate how other co-operatives deal with the issue of declining value of shares over time: Directors to produce a report within eight to ten years addressing how to deal with the inflation issue.

Ongoing returning and selling shares: Ben Spencer continued to manage this process on a rolling basis. The availability of shares was spread by word of mouth. We welcomed two new members this year. There are currently four members who have expressed an interest in returning their shares.

Voluntary annual contributions: these were very successfully encouraged by Helen Keating and Stella Parkes. Many thanks for their efforts and your donations.

Firewood / woodland management sessions: four very successful sessions were held. With the agreement of the participants chainsaw operators were rewarded with a double share of the firewood produced.

Audit of Folly Wood contents: This has not yet been completed.

Further woodland acquisitions paper: This has not yet been completed.

* Stroud Woodland Co-op is legally registered as Stroud Woodland Community Benefit Society Limited