

THE MAGOG TRUST Annual Review 2013



Never a day goes by without an influx of visitors to Magog Down and careful administration is required to cater for their different needs. The Magog Trust contracts a number of services from administration and accounting, rangers, dog bin emptying, path and hedge cutting, fence mending to woodland and chalk grassland management. In addition our volunteer group opens and closes the main gates on a daily basis as well as carrying out woodchip spreading on paths, scrub clearance, more fence mending, litter clearing to name but a few.

From recent correspondence coming into our mailbox, it appears that a number of visitors, some of them Friends or Members, have concerns about the management of Magog Down. This review gives us an opportunity to explain how it is organised and the expenditure involved.

The land is privately owned by the Magog Trust. It is managed by a small unpaid group using volunteers and contractors to carry out maintenance on the land. One income stream is subscriptions of Members and Friends; another source is farm income through the Common Agricultural Policy which has a number of schedules attached stipulating as to how and when certain tasks can be carried out. Our resources are limited and tasks are carried out within these schedules when our contractors and volunteers are available. This year has been exceptional in giving weather conditions resulting in much growth early and late in the season, reflected not only on our site but also on others and even road verges. In some cases, contractors' machinery is struggling to cope with the volume of growth. With the agri-environment scheme under which we farm the Magog Down, restrictions are set on the period during which we are allowed to cut the grass; these are set primarily to allow flowering plants to set seed. Hay from the North Down has to be dumped as it continues to be contaminated by dog faeces, despite our many notices reminding dog owners that this is an offence. This eliminates use of the hay as animal fodder and income source. However, it creates a vibrant habitat for fungi.

- Rangers' service – our ranger patrols operate every day of the week on Magog Down and the Trust contracts this out from CPP&F at an annual charge of around £14,000. The patrols are at spasmodic times.
- Grass cutting – our grass cutting schedule of the North Down is strictly determined by the prescriptions set out by Natural England and by the availability of contractors during this period.
- Path cutting – we have a regular schedule of path cutting to which we aim to keep, though governed by the availability of contractors. As I write, the growth of *Artemisia vulgaris* has been particularly vigorous, but all paths remain passable. Costs of path cutting are around £1300 annually – equivalent to the subscriptions of nearly 100 Friends.
- Flowering species – their abundance has been remarked upon by a visiting U3A Botany Group
- Chipping programme for paths for the winter months will recommence in October. This task, like all others on Magog Down, has a cost attached – £450, despite much of this hard manual labour being carried out by volunteers and woodchips supplied free.

Magog Down is an area for recreation and conservation and is not managed as a public or country park – it is a corner of the Cambridgeshire countryside to which the public has access.

The restoration, from arable field to flower rich chalk grassland, is a long-term project and changes to access, notices, paths, and the route of paths will take place over the years, while the project matures and develops. Many appreciate this wonderful spot which only twenty years ago was inaccessible to members of the public.

Twenty years on, the rabbit fencing which was erected when the young whips were planted, is being steadily replaced, as well as new stock fencing to protect the sheep grazed on the land. Woodland glades are beginning to appear through tree thinning, rejuvenating the understoreys to encourage a more diverse habitat. The area now exposed from the old shelter belt, towards the top of Little Trees Hill, will be restored as chalk grassland. It is closed, at present, to public access while restoration is underway.



Winter bird feeding has taken place, for the first time, in what has been a particularly hard winter. The decision to continue with this winter feeding is not necessarily straightforward as we have to ensure the correct bird food mix so that extraneous species are not introduced and that an area amenable both to our commercial farming operation and to creating a suitable habitat for feeding, is achieved. We continue to seek advice from experts in both fields and hope that funding and/or sponsorship can be obtained for this activity.

An important part of chalk grassland management is sheep grazing; because of overgrazing in Feoffee Field in the winter months and the small numbers defined as ideal for higher level stewardship targets, further discussion has taken place with the shepherd. The problems we have encountered over the years from uncontrolled dogs do not ease negotiations. Having installed new stock fencing and created suitable grazing paddocks, it is vital that we do achieve grazing in the long term and sheep re-appeared in August. Some of the paddocks will have to be cut in this farming year.

A request by Stapleford Countryside Access Group for multi-user paths, to include bikes and horse-riders, could not be supported. On the other hand we have been working with Stapleford Parish Council and obtained a Biodiversity grant to reclaim the management of the Parish Pit, the last worked of the four clunch pits in the parish (the other three being part of Magog Down). This pit contains a small area of important chalk grassland.

It is with much regret that we learned of the proposed retirement as Governor of our honorary Treasurer, Michael Bond, who will stand down at our AGM. Michael has been our treasurer for nineteen years and his broad knowledge of matters accounting, farming and local government is such that he has given the Trust wise council over the years and kept a watchful eye over our funds. We are fortunate that his steady hand in these matters has brought us to the position we now find ourselves, that of being able to fund the extensive and continuing work which has to be carried on to take Magog Down into its second quarter century. As Chairman, I have had many an occasion for which to be grateful for his council and I join with the other Governors and Members to express our thanks and wish him well.

As one Governor retires, I am very happy to welcome to the Governing Body, Dr Bryan Davies, an Honorary Member of the British Soil Science Society and a Fellow of the Institute of Professional Soil Scientists. He is a Former Head of ADAS Soil Science Specialists. Bryan set up, with Robin Cox, a survey of birds on Magog Down (reported at AGM 2012) from which arose the winter bird feeding programme. There has also been a happy outcome for our search for a new Treasurer. David Barrass, another Stapleford resident and Friend of Magog Down, has offered his services to the Trust and is willing to become a Governor and Treasurer. David is a qualified accountant and, as Head of Finance and Operations, has run the finances at Cambridge Arts Theatre for the last 6 years giving him the background as to how a small charitable company is governed and how it is financially structured and managed. We look forward to their contributions to the Trust.

The Magog Trust has been applauded for all that it has achieved over the last twenty plus years. It is vital that it receives support of those who use Magog Down and recruits more Members, Friends and Governors to take it into the years ahead for future generations.

In order to reduce our administration costs, we would like to contact you in future by email. Please give us your email address by writing to us quoting your Membership number at admin@magogtrust.org.uk

Registered Office: The Magog Trust, Verger's Cottage, 1 Gog Magog Way, Stapleford, Cambridge CB22 5BQ
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PRESIDENT Christopher South VICE-PRESIDENT Joan Barnes
PATRONS The Lord Lieutenant Hugh Duberly CBE, Ian Hay Davison CBE, Prof. Stephen W Hawking CH CBE
FRS FRSA, David Rayner
www.magogtrust.org.uk



MAGOG TRUST

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2013

		2013		2012	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	11		477,335		477,335
Investments	12		557,202		486,482
Current Assets					
Debtors	13	12,065		16,414	
Accrued Income from Investments		11,389		18,721	
Cash at bank and in hand		47,557		24,600	
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			71,011		59,735
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
Income in Advance	14	39,481		9,235	
		2,275		2,350	
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		41,756		11,585	
Net current assets			29,255		48,150
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Total assets less current liabilities			1,063,792		1,011,967
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year					
	15		10,000		10,000
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Net assets			1,053,792		1,001,967
Funds:	16-18				
Accumulated Fund			467,335		467,335
Expendable Endowment			527,787		481,855
SFC Designated Fund			16,678		17,651
General Fund			41,992		35,126
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			1,053,792		1,001,967

For the year ended 31st March, 2013 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477(1) of the Companies Act 2006. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476(2). The directors acknowledge their responsibility for: i) Ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386; and ii) Preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of its financial year and of its profit and loss for the financial period in accordance with section 396, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2007).

Approved by the board of directors and Governors on 3rd September, 2013, and signed on its behalf

**Kathleen Foreman,
Chairman and Governor**

MAGOG TRUST**MAGOG TRUST****Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2013****SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

	Notes	2013	2012
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Membership funds	1	7,497	9,047
Unrestricted Donations and gifts	2	2,468	1,970
Restricted Donations		190	1,136
Sale of goods and fund raising events	4	-	-
Grants	3	-	-
Miscellaneous Income		747	-
Land management income	1	57,632	45,065
Investment Income	1,5	18,840	17,042
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Total Incoming Resources		87,374	74,260
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RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Direct charitable expenditure	1	96,992	93,051
Costs of generating funds	6	-	-
Governance and other costs	7	8,859	7,428
Publicity Expenses		630	790
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Total Resources expended		106,481	101,269
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NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR		(19,107)	(27,009)

STATEMENT OF OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS

	Accumulated Fund £	Expendable Endowment £	Designated Funds £	General Fund £	Total 2013 £	Total 2012
Net income for the year	-	-	-	(19,107)	(19,107)	(27,009)
Investment gains (losses)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unrealised gains (losses)	-	70,921	-	-	70,921	(14,116)
Transfer from Exp. Endowment	-	(25,000)	-	25,000	-	-
Transfer from Designated Funds	-	-	(973)	973	-	-
Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in funds for the year	-	45,921	(973)	6,866	51,814	(41,125)
Total Funds:						
Brought Forward	467,335	481,855	17,651	35,126	1,001,967	1,041,738
Write back earlier provisions	-	-	-	-	-	1,354
Historic Cost Adjustment	-	11	-	-	11	-
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Carried Forward	467,335	527,787	16,678	41,992	1,053,792	1,001,967