

# The Magog Trust

## Annual Review 2018



### Development, activities and achievements this year

After the wet winter and spring months the long hot summer of 2018 meant an early harvest of the crops on the South Down and the grasses of North Down bleached near white. Sections of these have now been cut so that, from year to year, a varied habitat of the grassland is maintained.

During those early months, many appreciated the extension to the Boardwalk along Jane's Piece. This has not only made it easier for walking but it has protected the chalk bank, important for the flower species indicative of recovering chalk grassland.



**Before and After:** the uneven, chalky surface of Jane's Piece, and the Boardwalk which makes it walkable.

We are seeking further funding to extend this boardwalk to the full length of the path, a scheme which will only be possible with funds outside our normal income. Donations for this are always welcome.

The monthly volunteer working parties have continued under the guidance of our Rangers, Nick and Claire Beale, who are extending their conservation work within their contract hours; we greatly appreciate their knowledgeable input and advice.

Our Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier application has been successful and now time has to be devoted into working out a contract. The delivery of this over the coming few years will be taxing. It is hoped that the contract will include capital to cover the exploratory dig for a hibernaculum, a bat roost, and the construction of an unsupported tunnel in the chalk rock.



**Raglius alboacuminatus** spotted on Magog Down (photo courtesy of Chris Kirby-Lambert, via Twitter).

In addition to the ongoing bird and butterfly surveys, an invertebrate study has been carried out, which we will be hearing all about at the AGM in October.

A further facility for exercising dogs off lead has been introduced, thanks to the success of our application to Tesco Bags for Help; appropriately it will be known as Bagfield. Here dogs can be exercised off lead, at the discretion of their owners. It is depressing that surveys show the majority of these dog owners make no contribution to the maintenance or upkeep of Magog Down.

Our car logger reveals that around 50 cars visit the site daily, and involving these users has been the main drive behind our rationale to introduce a car parking fee. Our campaign emphasizes that our 'breath of fresh air' does not come free and visitors are invited to become Friends to support the charity, or else pay a parking charge. Our aim is to introduce this on 1<sup>st</sup> November, the first possible date this could be done due to restrictions in our previous funding scheme, which ends on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

A recent mailing of car stickers involved much effort from our Administrative Assistant, but it has also yielded an update to our database of Friends and Members, and a revision in subscriptions in some cases. In response to the new General Data

Protection Regulations, a Privacy Policy was posted on our website in May, and all Friends and Members notified.

Discussions have continued with members of the Greater Cambridge Partnership: the most immediate planning to impact on Magog Down will be the alterations to the Haverhill Road / A1307 / Gog Farm Shop interchange and the introduction of an underpass near this point for non-motorised traffic which will give much better pedestrian and cycle access to Magog Down.

- 4 Haverhill Road and the Gog Farm shop junction safety improvements
- The existing crossroads would be changed to a staggered junction to improve visibility and safety by moving Haverhill Road further away from the crest of the hill. The 50 mph limit would be relaxed. An additional right-of-way would be created for the Farm Shop entrance.



- 5 Wandlebury multi-user underpass
- Providing a safe and accessible crossing of the A1307 for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Limited visibility and the speed of traffic makes crossing the road difficult. The new underpass would improve links to the surrounding area.

Extract from GCP's 2018 consultation document: proposed bus route in red and multi-user access in blue.

We were so very sorry to hear of Sir John Sulston's death in March. Not only a long-standing Member of The Magog Trust, he had become quite a regular at our monthly working parties on Magog Down (pictured below, far left). It was sad news too just a week later to learn of the death of Prof Stephen Hawking. He had been a Patron of The Magog Trust for many years: in June 1998 he opened the easy access path from the disabled parking bays up to the top of Little Trees Hill. It gave him enormous pleasure to see Cambridge spread before him.

Thanks as always for the efforts of all the volunteers who help over the years, as well as the support we receive from those contracted, in various ways, to carry out work for The Magog Trust.



Volunteer Working Party in December 2017

## Financial information

The full report and accounts for the year to 31 March 2018 have passed independent examination and will be available online after the AGM. Excluding gains/(losses) on investments, the surplus from normal activities was £10,587 compared to £3,114 last year. Income increased by 6%, while costs decreased by 3%.

In order to help our supporters to have a better understanding of the different sources of income, and areas of expenditure, we have provided further details in the table below.

## SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOMING RESOURCES	2017/18	2016/17
	£	£
Land Income, comprising:		
<i>Farming: sale of crops</i>	29,501	41,453
<i>Farming: BPS payment</i>	13,166	11,941
<i>Grants: HLS/ELS schemes</i>	8,103	-
<i>Grants: Forestry Commission</i>	3,174	2,174
Land Income Total	53,944	55,568
Investment Income	25,733	20,622
Member/Friend subscriptions	7,336	8,565
Donations and Gifts	5,552	2,885
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>92,565</b>	<b>87,640</b>
RESOURCES EXPENDED	2017/18	2016/17
	£	£
Charitable Activities:		
Farming costs	23,595	31,281
Ranger & other services	20,244	20,316
Administration	11,228	12,105
Repairs & maintenance	13,493	8,125
Tree work	3,075	3,831
Depreciation on assets	2,421	1,458
Rent	1,140	1,140
Other:		
Fund Management	6,782	6,270
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>81,978</b>	<b>84,526</b>
<b>NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>10,587</b>	<b>3,114</b>

For the financial year ended 31 March 2018, the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

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