

KTAT AGM held at Offa's Dyke Centre on 27th March 2012 from 7-9 p.m.

There were 17 people present – 8 of whom were members. Christine Baker chaired the meeting and Angie Zelter took the minutes.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Anne Mary Davies. We have a healthy balance of £13,206.29 as of 31/3/12. Many thanks to Anne Mary for being the Treasurer and continuing in this role.

KNIGHTON TREE ALLOTMENT TRUST INCOME & EXPENDITURE UP TO 31/03/2012

OPENING BALANCE	£0.00
INCOME:	
Bank Interest	£23.02
Membership	£340.00
Friends of KTAT	£1,680.00
Donations	£11,220.00
Raised Funds	£8.00
Total Income	£13,271.02
EXPENDITURE:	
Bank Charges	£6.00
Company Registration	£20.00
Expenses	£38.73
Total Expenditure	£64.73
BALANCE	£13,206.29

Our Annual Report was written and read by Colin Cummings. Many thanks for his work. The report read as follows:-

First report of the Knighton Tree Allotment Trust

Knighton Tree Allotment Trust is a relatively new community group and this is our first AGM.

It has been an interesting 18 months and at times it seems that we would take two steps forward and then one step back. By missing out on the first woodland management opportunity we heard about, we quickly learned that we were in competition with a number of local tree surgeons and wood fuel suppliers and naturally landowners are very wary about making their woodlands available to a new group that has no track record. However, we were not disheartened, as we have a good range of contacts, members and friends who believe in what we are trying to achieve. Indeed, we have been successful in identifying a number of woodlands and we are currently signing off an agreement with one of the owners. Furthermore, a large woodland management opportunity has arisen, and we have proposed how their requirements can be fulfilled. If successful, we can then employ a woodland manager, which makes viable the other more problematic woodlands we have come across.

Our progress to date

KTAT is registered as a company limited by guarantee. Its policies cover the Environment,

Equal Opportunities, Health and Safety, Volunteers and the Welsh language. The Trust has 7 Trustees and their areas of responsibility include treasurer, publicity including newsletter, policy, training, fundraising and we have taken part in practical workdays. To date, the Trustees have put in over 400 hours of voluntary work and whilst we try and share the workload, we can always do with another willing pair of hands to help us take this project forward. So if you are interested, please come and see us after the film. We are on TVEG's website, have an entry on Woodland.co.uk's Community Woodlands website and made contact with others to gain their expertise. In particular, we are grateful to Alison Colebrook (Environment Wales), Jackie Charlton (Llangatog Community Woodlands), Kath McNulty, National Manager for ConFor who promote Forestry and Wood and Brian Barker from Shropshire's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty team for their helpful advice, guidance and support. We have contacted Llais y Goedwig, which is a voice for people who run woodlands, provide case studies and ideas to make the project pay. We have also enquired about commissioning flora and fauna surveys through Radnorshire Wildlife Trust and Shropshire Wildlife Trust. We have liaised with Lightfoot Enterprises based in Bishops Castle who had themselves investigated setting up a community woodland project. Seeking to be the first community to pioneer this social enterprise, they sent a submission to Glasu and KTAT were proposed as a partner group.

Finding a woodland

We have been monitoring the estate agents' web pages, scanning the various land and 'woodland for sale' web sites and contacting local farmers and landowners who have woodland. We have been to look at quite a few woodlands that are available to manage, lease or buy and been to several auctions. One of which we attended with a local landowner, with the possibility of forming a partnership to purchase land. So far, we have taken an interest in about 20 woodlands with varying degrees of success.

To sum up

We are a lot more experienced and prepared than 18 months ago. Our first agreement is close to signing and a proposal has been submitted to manage a large estate on behalf of the owners. We have started practical workdays and our first newsletter has been issued. We know more and more people are investing in wood burners. This has led to a corresponding increase in the demand for firewood and there are lots of woodlands out there that are in desperate need of management. As you can see we are ready we just need to find woodlands to manage, lease or buy! So if you hear of a piece of woodland that is within about 5 miles of Knighton that is available, please give us a ring and we will follow it up. The telephone number is on our web page.

AGM Proposals and Elections

A proposal to alter the Memo and Articles of Association so that there can be from 3 to 10 Trustees was proposed by Gary and seconded by Colin and passed unanimously.

A proposal to vote for Trustees in a block was agreed and as there were no new nominations the current acting Trustees were all proposed by Sheila and seconded by Christine Brooks and passed unanimously. Therefore the current Trustees are now Christine Baker, Christine Brooks, Gary Cowell, Colin Cummings, Anne Mary Davies, William O'Leary, Camilla Saunders, and Angie Zelter.

The formal meeting then ended and the **film 'The Man Who Planted Trees'** was shown followed by refreshments.

