

## DIRECTORS REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2019

The directors present their report and financial statements for the year ended 29 February 2019.

#### Review of business

The principal activity of the company continues to be that of managing a Community Woodland for the benefit of the Tarvin Community but also the wider public from surrounding villages.

This fourth report will be presented to members of Tarvin Community Woodland Trust Limited at its annual meeting in April 2019.

**Purpose:** to hold the woodland in Trust for the Community and to ensure it is well managed and developed. It provides outdoor recreation for young and old in a safe environment; its central pathway, some 2.5km in length, is well walked. The woodland is educational in providing access to a wide range of flora and fauna, for example it has a varied and healthy population of bird species. These are viewed from hides and at bird feeding stations. Education in natural history is one of the Trust's main aims and being adjacent to the primary school provides learning opportunities to its pupils.

**People:** A wide variety of people contribute to the success of the woodland for which we are grateful. The Trustees have wide and varied backgrounds which allow for efficient management, maintenance and growth. They have wider career experience in engineering, business management, legal issues, education and communications so the trust is well served. The Members, many of whom are also volunteers, have a wide practical skill base and are well placed to offer constructive advice to the Trustees on both woodland improvements and new initiatives. In recent years most practical work has been done on weekdays as most volunteers are in retirement. More recently an initiative has been to attract younger people as volunteers who because of their careers can contribute on the weekend. Importantly we have a number of regular and ad hoc events often related to fund raising which also need volunteers; our annual plant sale and coffee morning as examples are well supported.

**Communications:** We are convinced that the success we have seen in recent years has been greatly aided by good communication between TCWT and the Community. This is achieved by notice boards, twice yearly delivery of our newsletter directly to the majority of households and public relations exposure in the local press and the village website, Tarvinonline.

#### Overview:

Our Community Woodland is very well used on a daily basis by both Tarvin residents and friends from neighbouring communities. Our long stated aim of managing the woodland for sustainability at affordable cost has been achieved again this past year. We rely heavily on our weekly volunteer work force mainly on a weekday but occasionally on the weekend.

Last year, in addition to regular maintenance, we began an ambitious and extensive project again carried out by volunteers to create a "wilding" area which will encourage growth and diversity of wildlife in an undisturbed environment. The 2400m<sup>2</sup> area has been protected, partially cleared to allow improved growth and will be replanted in stages. The effect is already visible. Careful monitoring over time of both flora and fauna will guide the project and allow a measure of progress which will be reported to members.

In addition to woodland development we have since our inception been committed to be part of the social fabric of our community through our support for the school, our extensive plant sale, participation in nature related activities including apple pressing and access to nature through bird boxes and hides and wildlife habitats. Education forms a growing part of our curriculum partly through the school activities but increasingly by means of a growing number and variability of educational notices in the woodland which are changed with the seasons.

Again this year the Trust truly thanks local residents for their support; their generosity of time and funding support are much appreciated, we believe also by the whole community.

Stuart Exell, TCWT Chairman