



# Annual Report

2020 - 2021

Bringing Woodlands to Life



# Welcome to the Small Woods Annual Report

The year 2020-21 has been a period that has brought us the same challenges as many others in our sector. I hope our members and supporters will feel that we have met these challenges positively.

Along with radically changing how member events and activity programmes are run during successive lockdowns and varying levels of restriction, we have also had to ensure staff are able to operate from home, wherever possible.

I hope we have also played a useful role for members in our Covid "letters of comfort", which enabled those working in woodlands to demonstrate they were working within the Government's frequently changing guidelines.

Challenges can be opportunities and we have used the year as a time to look at what we are doing and have established a new structure, which will hopefully enable our team who are scattered across the UK to work better together.

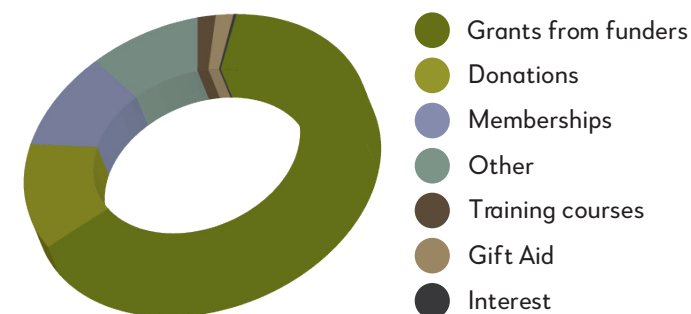
Whilst everyone is keen to get back into the woods, we are particularly pleased with the take up of online events. This has enabled involvement of a lot of members who previously had not engaged. We have had an amazing five-fold increase in member attendance at events this year, which is a definite benefit from the changes we have all had to make. Health and wellbeing programme participants have also had to adapt to online, which is challenging, but I am glad to say the vast majority have done so successfully.

Overall, the message is a positive one, as I believe we have used the year well, within the limitations placed upon us by the pandemic.

Ian Baker, CEO Small Woods Association



## Funding overview



Small Woods is funded from a diverse set of sources and this has helped our stability in this challenging year.

We have received great support from our funders, who have been very helpful in giving us the time we needed to change delivery approaches in the face of the pandemic restrictions.

At the same time, it has been a difficult year to deliver training as so much of what we do is face to face. Unfortunately, the pandemic has meant we have had to cancel courses, and for those we could run, we have had to operate at reduced capacity. Whilst this has led to a loss of £15,847 in the year, it could have been significantly worse.

We thank all our members and supporters for the part you have all played in enabling us to navigate this difficult period.



4

member  
magazines

20

member  
e-newsletters

5

postgraduate  
research projects

1

apprenticeships  
completed

131

members  
received email  
or phone advice

29

training  
courses

108

people trained  
in woodland  
skills and  
traditional  
crafts

29

member  
events

940

event  
attendees



438

virtual  
sessions  
during  
pandemic

7

woodland  
health &  
wellbeing  
projects

852

people  
supported



25

projects  
across  
the UK

Over  
25,000  
social media  
followers



50ha

small woodlands  
directly managed  
by Small Woods

26,768ha

of woodland  
represented





“

As a woodland manager, I have always found SWA a great resource and it's been interesting to observe the shifting points of interest and research, and the changing “face” of ownership that are pertinent to the small woodland sector.

Small Woods Association Member

“

I really enjoy the courses and they have helped me to understand my own woodland.

Green Wood Centre Course Participant

“

It has been great just being outside, having a routine every week, something to look forward to. Learning new skills. Talking to new people who have an idea how I could be feeling and know it's okay. We can help each other feel better.

Actif Woods Wales Participant, Ceredigion

# Thank you to our funders and sponsors



The H B Allen Trust

The Banister Charitable Trust

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