



The Royal Forestry Society
Annual Review
2021



A letter from the President

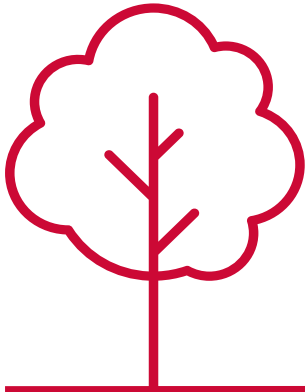
Nothing is more tangible than timber or tactile than wood but, after getting out of the blocks slower than I had hoped a year ago, 2021 was a year when the real world of RFS woodland visits only caught up with the virtual towards the end of the season. A symbol of some sort of normality returning was the inspiring Whole Society Meeting in the North West Midlands; its counterpart was our online Treescapes conference run with Birmingham University which I had been dreading. It was excellent and demonstrated the scope offered by the medium.

The Royal Forestry Society continues to get stuck into any forum or partnership where its appreciation of the gulf between political aspiration and practical achievement can help to temper ambition with reality; that caution continues to underpin our approach to evolving forestry policy and underlies our emphasis on woodland resilience and forestry skills as land management goes through its biggest upheaval in 80 years.

The RFS' members and supporters put us in a position to fulfil our role as an educational charity which encompasses Teaching Trees; Forestry Roots; our divisional field meetings; RFS e-news and the Quarterly Journal of Forestry which Freia Bladon burnished during her tenure as editor. And that's before you even take into account training and the book club.

RFS membership is the most fun you can have belonging to an educational charity, as an increasing membership evidently agrees. That fun, of course, does not just happen. It springs from the work put in by divisional committees (particularly secretaries and chairs) and is aided and abetted by the cadre of cheerful RFS staff who keep the show on the road under the guidance and leadership of Chris Williams who has been our Chief Executive for a year. And just as the divisions could not operate without the generosity of our hosts, so the organisation benefits from the work put in by the board under the able chairmanship of Kitty Hall. As I start the process of shuffling off into the sunset, I thank them all.

James G.M.



“RFS membership is the most fun you can have belonging to an educational charity, as an increasing membership evidently agrees”

- Sir James Scott

Your RFS Team



Chris Williams
Chief Executive



Becky Wilkinson
Learning & Outreach Manager



Elle McAllister
Digital Communications Officer



Claire Street
Events Officer



Pat Sedgley
Office Administrator

Jen Turner
Development Manager



Dawn Dewhurst
Finance Officer



Kate McKeever
Membership Officer



Sam Britton
Learning & Outreach Officer



We are the RFS

Our priorities

We are an educational charity inspiring passion and excellence in woodland management. We work with others to:

- **Share learning and best practice** through publications, woodland meetings, training, lectures and online resources for our members.
- Deliver forestry **education for children and young people**.
- **Inform and inspire** more people to pursue careers in forestry (and its allied sectors).
- **Raise awareness** of issues affecting woodlands to the government and media.
- **Demonstrate responsible ownership** through management of our RFS woodlands.

Our patron

Her Majesty The Queen

Our directors

President: Sir James Scott

Vice President: Ben Herbert

Immediate Past President: Andrew Woods

Chair of the Board of Trustees: Kitty Martin

Hon. Treasurer: Rodney Morgan-Giles

Amy Jackson

Cheryl Lundberg

Christine Cahalan

Craig Harrison

David Gwillam

Ian Tubby

James Hamilton Stubber

Company Secretary: Christopher Williams

Extended support team

Communications Officer: Wendy Necar.

QJF Editorial Board: Julian Evans, Keith Kirby, Rik Pakenham, Alison Field

QJF Co-Editors: Freia Bladon (until March 2022), Lesley Trotter.

E-News Editor: John Jackson. **EIF Coordinator:** Rachel Thomas.

Managing Agent, Hockeridge and Pancake Woods: John Morris.

Warden, Charles Ackers Redwood Grove at Leighton: Evelyn Over

Managing Agents, Battram Wood: Native Forestry.

Teaching Trees team: Alice Parker, Alastair Holland, Barbara Brannigan, Jenny Everitt, Jemma Cuthbert, Jessica Lloyd, Jodi Winter, Katy Ryalls, Nicki Jempson and Tim Kaye.

Special thanks

Special thanks to all our divisional committee members and volunteers (in particular, those who have contributed to our many in-person and online events and training courses).





The RFS at a glance

In 2021 we:

Reached **3,844** members (the most for over 20 years).



Were supported by over **250+** incredible volunteers.



Were given **£232,000** in generous donations for education.



Awarded over **£40,000** in grants to our members to help them plant trees for resilience.



Published **3** reports on the damaging effects of grey squirrels.



10,000 + Children aged 6 to 16 years enrolled to take part in our Junior Forester Award.



Helped **8** young people gain paid traineeship or scholarship employment in forestry.



Launched our **new look** website.



Our finances

Summarised Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Income	Expenditure	Revenue Surplus/(Deficit)	Revaluation Gain/(Loss)	Transfers/ Refunds	Inc./Dec. in funds
Unrestricted funds						
Head Office	299,224	(313,572)	(14,348)	122,168	3,354	111,174
<i>Designated funds</i>						
Divisions	10,274	(5,769)	4,505	-	(3,354)	1,151
Education	56,251	(59,692)	(3,441)	-	-	(3,441)
Hay Barns	-	-	-	-	-	-
Batram Wood	-	(1,332)	(1,332)	-	-	(1,332)
Hockeridge Woods	15,056	(9,415)	5,641	-	-	5,641
Leighton Pollock	6,445	(3,175)	3,270	8,816	-	12,086
Total	387,250	(392,955)	(5,705)	130,984	-	125,279
Restricted funds						
Duke of Cornwall	6,246	(9,599)	(3,353)	5,383	-	2,030
Leslie Astle	763	(1)	762	1,830	-	2,592
NDG James	1,369	(154)	1,215	3,281	-	4,496
Spencer Bursary	-	(386)	(386)	-	-	(386)
Teaching Trees	78,291	(59,601)	18,690	-	-	18,690
Randle Travel	1,602	(180)	1,422	3,841	-	5,263
Viking	2,460	(3)	2,457	5,897	-	8,354
Future Foresters	87,021	(115,465)	(28,444)	-	-	(28,444)
Wise About Woods	24,313	(15,905)	8,408	-	-	8,408
Total	202,065	(201,294)	771	20,232	-	21,003
Total - all funds	589,315	(594,249)	(4,934)	151,216	-	146,282
<i>Year ended</i>						
31st Dec 2020	571,267	(505,187)	66,080	(122,995)	-	(56,915)
Summary Balance Sheet						
			Dec 2021	Dec 2020		
Property, woodland and fixed assets			309,206	311,906		
Investments			1,731,662	1,553,088		
Stocks			2,209	1,105		
Debtors			40,616	76,033		
Cash, current and deposit accounts			294,416	273,413		
Creditors			(24,171)	(16,915)		
Subscriptions received in advance			(39,789)	(30,763)		
			2,314,149	2,167,867		
	Unrestricted	Restricted				
Funds brought forward	1,646,435	521,432	2,167,867	2,224,782		
Result for the year	125,279	21,003	146,282	(56,915)		

These financial statements are only a summary of information derived from the charitable company's annual accounts and may not contain certain information for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. A copy of the full accounts and the trustee's report can be obtained from the RFS Head Office or from www.rfs.org.uk

Working in partnership

The RFS works with others across the forestry and corporate sectors because we know we can achieve more when we work together. Here are just a few of the partnerships we were involved in in 2021.

50p from every transaction with Trainhugger goes to RFS and RSFS members as grants to help them plant a resilient tree.



Working in partnership to improve the health of our woodlands and manage the negative impacts of grey squirrels.



Sharing best practice and good ideas to get more young people engaged with forest education and promote forestry careers.



Helping businesses fulfil their Corporate Social Responsibilities by linking them with RFS and RSFS members to plant resilient trees.



Supporting research and mitigation strategies that will help protect our oak trees from current and future threats.



Working in partnership to help adapt forests, woods and trees to survive the damaging effects of rapid climate change.



Alongside divisional contributions to the Queen's Green Canopy, the RFS has launched a new Junior Forester Award (JFA) for schools and youth groups. The JFA gives young people of all ages an insight into the skills needed for a career in Forestry, as well as equipping them with the practical ability to assist in woodland management in their schools and local communities.



Thank you

Our warmest thanks go to all our members, volunteers and the many donors and benefactors who have supported our work in 2021. We couldn't do any of the work we do without our supporters.

Contact us

If you would like to make a donation to one of our programmes, or if you would like to find out more about the work of the RFS please contact us.

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