



ANNUAL REPORT
2019/20

Future Trees Trust

We are the only UK charity dedicated to improving broadleaved trees by selective breeding. In just the same way that it's possible to breed better, more productive cows, pigs, wheat and roses, it's possible to do the same with broadleaved trees. It takes much longer but the results can be world-changing.

We use research to make sure that the next generation of broadleaved trees will deliver all the environmental, social and economic benefits that they possibly can.

By helping trees produce more timber more quickly, survive longer and store more carbon, we know that many more people will choose to plant broadleaved trees, with all the benefits they will bring to our environment, our economy and our society.



Highlights of 2019/20

Oak grafted seed orchard update

Our oak grafted seed orchard project aims to tackle the challenges of irregular acorn production by establishing up to six seed orchards across Britain that will provide high-quality British acorns.

Scions collected from oak plus trees and clonal archives during winter 2018/19 and grafted onto rootstocks were planted this year at our four existing orchards. A total of 378 new trees were planted and we now are halfway to completing these sites.

Also this year, 25 plus trees were climbed in Oxfordshire, the New Forest, Windsor Great Park and across Scotland. Grafts will be planted winter 2020/21 and further tree climbing will be conducted in to collect graftwood from more uncaptured plus trees.



Sustainable Seed Source Project – Hornbeam

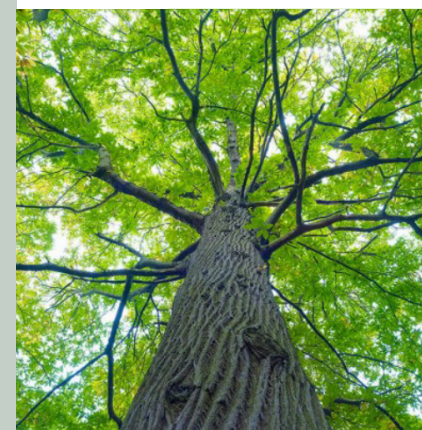
2019 saw us work with hornbeam for the first time as part of the Sustainable Seed Source Project in partnership with Woodland Trust. After surveying 25 sites, recommendations were made to register ten stands as source identified and five stands as selected. These will be the first stands on the National Register of hornbeam and an important first step for seed supply.

Living Ash Project

In December, we planted 2200 grafted ash trees at a site in Hampshire. These were taken from trees which have displayed some tolerance to ash dieback and have been planted as part of a pioneering project to tackle the devastating tree disease.

We will continue to monitor the archive to provide the basis for a breeding programme of tolerant ash over time and enable the development of orchards producing commercially available seed.

For more information, visit www.livingashproject.org.



Elms – all is not lost!

In December, we published our “Where we are with elm” report. This important report was undertaken by Karen Russell, who gathered the information relating to the use of elm, plant collections, trials, breeding work, mature trees and population locations plus research from a wide range of individuals and organisations. The report received much media attention, with Karen interviewed across the BBC and featured in print media around the world. We now need to work together with all the other stakeholders to ensure the brightest possible hope for the return of this iconic species to our countryside. The report is available on our website.

Our vision is to achieve the highest possible benefits from our broadleaved woodlands –
both for today's society and for future generations.

The Patsy Wood Trust legacy award

Following the award in 2017 of a significant grant from the Patsy Wood Trust to help us engage with young foresters and to bolster our research capabilities, we created two permanent full time roles at Future Trees Trust. **Jo Clark** is our Head of Research and **Joe Beesley** (picture right) is our Researcher.

Joe says: “I joined Future Trees Trust in January 2020 to assist our Head of Research with visiting field trials, analysing data and sharing our findings. It’s been really exciting working on our oak grafted seed orchard project and searching for resistance to ash dieback as part of the Living Ash Project. There’s plenty more work to come as we look for more plus trees and plant new trials.”



We also created a student placement role for a young graduate starting out in their forestry career, the first of which was **Jonas Brandl** (left). Jonas spent his year working at the Dartington Hall estate and then with Timber Strategies and Sawmills Devon. Jonas says: “I’m very grateful to the Patsy Wood Trust, Future Trees Trust and the Royal Forestry Society for sponsoring and organising this unique work experience. During my time with Timber Strategies and Sawmills Devon I was able to explore my interests in forestry from research through project management to practical applications. The shared role split between these innovative partners coupled with the experience gained from working closely with FTT will help me shape my future career.” We have just recruited the second Patsy Wood Trust scholar, James Cryer who will start work with William Hamer on 1st September.



In addition to these new roles, with the Patsy Wood Trust funding, we have also created a PhD study at Reading University – “Enhanced acorn production to regenerate native oak woodlands in the UK”. At the time of writing (June 2020) we are currently recruiting for this study. More news about this next year!

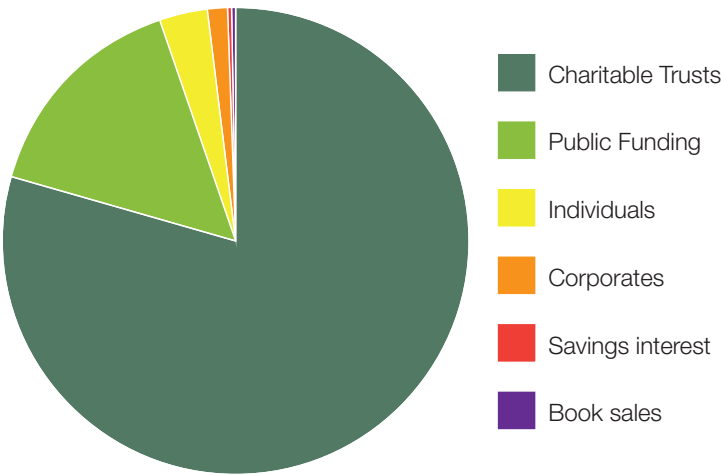
Fundraising, income and expenditure

We are extremely grateful to all our supporters, which this year included:

- Banister Charitable Trust
- Carew Pole Charitable Trust
- Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust
- Chapman Charitable Trust
- Cobb Charity
- D.G Albright Charitable Trust
- Defra
- Dowley Charitable Trust
- D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
- Earl of Plymouth estates
- Esme Mitchell Trust
- Forest Research
- Frognaal Trust
- Henry Hoare
- Hugh Fraser Foundation
- Hugh Symons Charitable Trust
- Ian Addison Charitable Trust
- John Ellerman Foundation
- Joseph Strong Frazer Trust
- Langdale Trust
- Lord Faringdon Charitable Trust
- Mabel Cooper Charity
- Marsh Christian Trust
- Michael Marks Charitable Trust
- Miles Barne
- Northwick Trust
- Patsy Wood Trust
- Philamonic Trust
- Pye Charitable Trust
- Ratcliff Foundation
- Richard Radcliffe Charitable Trust
- Roger Vere Foundation
- Samuel Storey Family Charitable Trust
- Sir Jeremiah Colman Gift Trust
- Spear Charitable Trust
- Summerfield Books
- Susanna Peake Charitable Trust
- Tansy Trust
- Taurus Foundation
- Tilhill

Income

In 2019/20, our income was **£293,280**. The income breakdown is illustrated below .



Expenditure

Our expenditure last year was **£264,424**
Expenditure on charitable objectives **£191,299**
Expenditure on core operating costs **£73,125**

Our operating costs represented **27.6%** of our total expenditure—the national average is around 25%. Our operating costs were impacted significantly this year by renting office space for the first time. We are working hard to ensure these costs do not escalate beyond the currently acceptable level.

Coronavirus and Future Trees Trust

At the time of writing (June 2020) it is too early yet to predict the likely long-term impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on our work. But it is probable that many of our current funders are likely to shift their focus to support causes whose objectives are to assist the recovery from the pandemic. Although we hope this not to be too damaging to our work, we do understand this and will adapt our research priorities to suit the funding we have available to us.

Our work makes planting native broadleaved trees far more economically viable and incentivises the planting and management of native broadleaved woodlands.

Meet the trustees



John Leigh Pemberton
Chair of Board of Trustees
As the owner of the UK's largest chestnut products company at Torry Hill, Kent, John brings extensive commercial and forestry experience to the role of Chair.



Alice Snowden
14 years forest nursery experience, specialising in seed and selecting suitable seed sources. Production of best quality trees from the best quality seed is important to me for so many reasons; ensuring the sustainability of timber as a resource being the main driver behind my involvement with Future Trees Trust.



Robert Lee
Director at Forestart, the UK's largest tree seed retailers. Robert was a founder member of FTT and is chair of the Cherry and Oak species groups.



Jason Hubert
Responsible for leading Forest Research's strategic approach to communications and ensuring their research effectively influences forestry practice and policy.

Our full-time members of staff are:
Tim Rowland *Chief Executive Officer*
Jo Clark *Head of Research*
Joe Beesley *Researcher*



Roger Coppock
Previously Head of Analysts at Forestry Commission, in charge of research purchasing, with overall responsibility for Tree Health in GB.



Andrew Stafford
ex Director at the Dulverton Trust, a major private charitable trust. Andrew has a wealth of charity development and governance experience.



Christine Cahalan
Spent most of her career teaching forestry and doing forestry-related research at Bangor University, and is now a member of several forestry trusts and advisory panels.



We are a founding partner of the National Tree Improvement Strategy (NTIS), which aims to unite all those with an interest in tree improvement – foresters, researchers, nurseries, land-owners, conservationists, processors and many others – under one ‘umbrella’ organisation, to ensure that conifer and broadleaved tree improvement progresses with less reliance on public sector funding.

This important sector-wide initiative launched in 2017 and we are confident that it represents the best way forward in terms of creating multi-level partnerships in order to secure the funding required to support the ambitious tree-breeding research programmes we have identified.

For more information, visit www.ntis.org.uk



Partnership working

We work with many of the principal stakeholders in the forestry sector. In addition to our long-term partnerships with Forestry Commission and Forest Research, we have formed working partnerships with:



DEFRA
Funding our input to the Living Ash Project, a five-year project to find ash trees resilient to ash die-back disease with which to create a breeding population.



Royal Forestry Society
Partners in our Patsy Wood Scholarship initiative



Woodland Trust
Partners in the Sustainable Seed Source Project to find seed sources for important future species, not currently available.



Millennium Seed Bank
Partner in our Sustainable Seed Source project, funded by Woodland Trust



Action Oak
Research, fundraising and communications support to help protect the iconic oak tree.



National Forest and Earth Trust
Hosting a number of our trials and orchards



Confederation of Forest Industries
Partner in the National Tree Improvement Strategy



By making the planting of broadleaved trees more economically attractive, more, much better trees will be planted in the future, with all the associated benefits and advantages these trees will bring

Our strategic objectives for the next five years are:

Objective 1

Ensure that improved seed is available for all of our core species

Objective 2

Selecting trees with natural tolerance to pests and disease for seed production

Objective 3

Develop a sustainable supply of improved seed for more species

Objective 4

Encourage the use of better quality stock and carefully selected provenances for all new planting.

Objective 5

Develop partnerships across the forestry, ecology, funding and education sectors

Further detail on how we will approach each of these Objectives is available in our Strategy Document 2020-25, available on our website.

