Malvern Community Forest

**Welcome to our AGM covering the period 2015 - 2016**

A different venue; a different approach to previous years.

Our team have been out working on site today, here at Prospect. This is our third year working with a management licence to develop this site into a community health and well-being facility within an environmental setting of existing and newly planted trees.

All are invited to work with us this afternoon developing skills and progressing activity here on site.

The business of the AGM. This is important. The trustees have the responsibility to demonstrate to the members that we are following through on what we said we would do with the money we are entrusted with. The end of year accounts are on the web site for you to check and in summary we have raised £8 745 and spent £5 887 with a forward balance of £11 378. The accounts are produced by our Treasurer, Steve Roe. Steve has made a very valuable contribution to our team and has decided that he will step down at this AGM.

We are also charged with your safety whilst on site. There have been a few minor cuts/burns. And I am proud to say that I have managed the year without injury. However it is our skilled bodger and paramedic who has replaced me with one or two grammes of the red stuff spilled.

This is also your opportunity to ask of us anything you wish, or indeed to volunteer your services to our charity.

And this brings me to a comment made last year about membership fees. Perhaps we should have a higher fee, or a graded membership fee structure? We have debated this through the year and concluded that we wish to retain a simple £5 membership for every adult and will publish the fact that donations at renewal or another time of the year are greatly appreciated. Indeed in some years donations have been a major source of income for us.

This year there will be no presentations from our Project Coordinators – the reports are all on the web site. But I am allowed a few highlights:

Abundance got really organised during 2016. Linda and MJ asked for investment and got it. Volunteer numbers are up, picking days are up and our new equipment really does the job.

Prospect Community Woodland has improved access; seating; new footpath handrail; new fitness equipment; 100 newly planted trees; a tool store and a composting toilet. Craig Hughes has got us all in order and working to a plan with support from the internationally acclaimed Owen Manning.

Townsend Community Woodland has seen bags of rubbish removed; footpaths widened; coppicing and hedge maintenance. David Munday continues to lead activity on this site.

In addition we officially opened Prospect Community Woodland – 60 guests attended that event where we also enjoyed music from Tim Cranmore, Martin Thorne and friends. Our Sausage Sizzle saw 20 members and friends enjoy a great evening with every sausage eaten – songs, music and poetry……oh and loads of free fireworks from all over Malvern. The Tree Dressing saw 16 members and friends start a tradition to look after our young oak on the top of Prospect. And this is where you see our Events Coordinator enjoying herself after getting these events and much more organised; Julia has given 5 years support to MCF and is stepping down at this AGM from her roles; although she will still be busy on site. My thanks to Julia Goodfellow-Smith.

We have completed a transition to a new logo and a new website. This work was completed by Ken Timms, Vice Chair and Ian Caldwell.

And talking about transition we can move onto voting on 2 important issues after I finish this report.

Please remember that only members that have paid their £5 yearly fee can vote on elections or any other issues raised, which are put to the vote. This does not stop anyone from commenting, engaging or volunteering.

1 – New trustees and roles.

I am stepping down as Chair after 5 years. We are very fortunate to have our Vice Chair – Ken Timms volunteering to take on the role of Chair. I recommend him to you and have nominated him.

I have volunteered to stand as vice-chair.

Ian Caldwell has volunteered to take on the role of trustee and treasurer and has been nominated and secured formal support from the trustees to take on this role.

All our other trustees and management team members are standing for re-election apart from Julia.

2 – Change to our objectives. This change saw considerable detailed debate amongst us all. The proposed change is before you for your vote. You will note that the change proposed would allow the trustees to engage in more wider issues and partnerships to support the awareness of woodlands and trees; skills and crafts. I whole heartedly recommend this change to you.

**The future.**

I will leave this to our new chair to present.

Michael Goodfellow-Smith: 2017