



## **CMA Annual Report**

**2022/23**

## Chair's Report

As the 2022-23 year draws to a close, the overall impression may be that it's been a fairly quiet year for CMA however, the Board has continued to work on several important fronts. True, there have been relatively few training days, compared to a 'normal' year, as noted by CMA Secretary. This may be both because the long pandemic meant members perhaps got 'out of the habit' of organising training/study days and also we all had a lot of catching up to do in the day jobs after many long months of not being able to get outside undertaking the usual tasks. The issue of training in the widest sense however, has been discussed at length at Board and National Committee meetings, leading to ideas and plans being developed – more of that later.

During 2022, the CMA Board was pleased to welcome Paul Aubrey to all meetings, as an observer. Hopefully Paul can then be proposed as a new Board member at the next Annual General Meeting. Paul works for Carmarthenshire County Council, has gained CMA accreditation as a Practitioner member and brings a much-welcomed input from Wales. The Board and National Committee have continued to build various partnerships throughout the year by offering considerable input to the new GCSE in Natural History, offering engraved billhooks to present as prizes at both Capel Manor and Kingston Maurward colleges and working with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) on a government drive to attract more youngsters to 'Green Careers'. The CMA also signed the Red Squirrel Accord and thanks to Toby Edwards, from N Ireland for being part of their Working Group.

The CMA accreditation system has now been operating for a full 18 months and by the end of March 2023 we have congratulated 14 members on gaining their accreditation. More still needs to be done to ensure employers are aware of and value the accreditation system and there are plans to promote it widely through the remainder of 2023. A big thank you is also due to the two independent assessors for their ongoing and diligent work evaluating applications and chatting with candidates.

Talking of partnerships, our International Coordinator, Chloe Bradbrooke, describes in more detail our recent twinning with the Georgian Ranger Association that took place in Albania at the European Ranger Federation (ERF) Congress later in this report but I'm so delighted that we have now officially twinned with Georgia and look forward to that partnership developing over time. Members should also remember, particularly as one of the founding members, to visit the web sites of the ERF and International Ranger Federation (IRF) as there are often many news articles, reports on fabulous projects and in person and online training opportunities to perhaps take advantage of.

Earlier, I mentioned plans being made around training. Looking forward to the next couple of years, the Board has been talking to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) regards some possible funding. This would help the CMA move forward through employment of a small team of officers to undertake the day to day work that volunteer Board members can struggle to find the time for and specifically, to further develop some ambitious plans

around training provision for members. I'd like to specifically thank Mark Baker, Steve Peach and Ted Talbot for their time and effort in moving these exciting plans forward. Watch this space...!

Many thanks are also due to all CMA Board, National Committee and Working Group volunteers as only with their time commitment and input of valuable, new ideas, can the CMA move forward. Immense thanks also to Rachel Limb and Liz Bourne for their tireless work to keep admin and finances in order and produce your quarterly Ranger magazine. Most importantly, a huge thank you to you, all CMA members, for your support this year. A special thank you to all corporate members also for your annual backing of both your employees and the CMA. We have welcomed some new corporate members this year and that is always such great news. I'd also like to thank Kerryn and her team at Countryside Jobs Service (CJS) for their ongoing support of the CMA.

To all of you, please do feel free to contact myself, any Board member or indeed Rachel with ideas or thoughts of what you'd like CMA to try and provide for you or even to chew over with someone what's going on at work. Board members are all working in the field and have experienced most things between us; any of us would be happy to chat informally if that might help.

Keep up the great work everyone as we look forward to 2023-24; I hope to meet at least some of you at training days or perhaps at an Annual Conference which we aim to hold in person again next year.



**Linda Nunn**  
**Chairman**

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **Finances**

This year has seen a good financial position. Our finances have increased despite the pressures from inflation seen across the country, reversing the slight loss of £537.44 from last year.

As is said, and very much meant, a huge thank you to Rachel Limb, admin support, who has been, as ever, very efficient and speedy in processing our bookkeeping which has made my life so much easier.

During the 2022/23 financial year we had a larger income of £17,983.56 (against £14,796.63 last year) and a slightly smaller outgoing of £15,037.43 (against £15,334.07 last year). This has given us a rectified profit of £2,946.13. We therefore expect a tax bill of £559.76 which will bring our net annual profit to £2,386.37.

| <b>Balances</b>              | <b>1<sup>st</sup> April 2022</b> | <b>31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</b> |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Current (including accruals) | £11,992.48                       | £14,931.99                        |
| Reserve                      | £5,042.01                        | £5,048.63                         |
| Total                        | £17,034.49                       | £19,980.62                        |
|                              |                                  | <b>+£2,946.13</b>                 |

Therefore, things appear to be comfortable and relatively financially stable for CMA going into next year. This allows us to once again begin planning how best to deliver our service to members. Obviously, we expect the prices of our outgoings to continue rising into this year with inflation, but we remain in good place to deal with them and hopefully continue to move forward well.

### **Carbon Emissions**

With thanks to Chloe Bradbrooke, Luke Dawson, Matt Axford and Richard Westwood who sit with me on the Climate sub-group. Together we have continued to track CMA's CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions, report these to meet our Pledge to Net Zero requirement and identify both ways forward and promote the issue within the profession.

Following our pledge on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to reduce our carbon emissions by 50% by 2025 and neutral by 2030 we have been working hard to benchmark our emissions and identify ways we can meet these targets. As we continue to refine our data collection each year, we can be more sure of our true level of emissions.

However, this year has seen a substantial increase in our emissions. We estimate that CMA generated 4.26tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e, in 2022. Despite some significant savings from our contractors, this total has increased by 250% from 1.7 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> in 2021.

|   | <b>Source</b> | <b>2021 Reporting year (kg CO2e)</b> | <b>2022 Reporting year (kg CO2e)</b> |
|---|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Scope 1</b>  |               |                                      |                                      |
| All Direct Emissions from the activities of an organisation or under their control. Including fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers, fleet vehicles and air-conditioning leaks. | Gas           | 0                                    | 0                                    |

|   |   |              |                     |
|---|---|--------------|---------------------|
| <b>Scope 2</b>  |   |              |                     |
| Indirect Emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation. Emissions are created during the production of the energy and eventually used by the organisation.  | Electricity   | 0            | 0                   |
| <b>Scope 3</b>  |   |              |                     |
| All Other Indirect Emissions from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that they do not own or control. These are usually the greatest share of the carbon footprint, covering emissions associated with business travel, procurement, waste and water. | Bought-in goods and services (Ranger, envelopes, merchandise) | 69           | 88.328              |
|   | Admin and Editor (electricity, mileage)                       | 1,529        | 210.63              |
|   | Other consultants (electricity, heating mileage)              | 0            | 0                   |
|   | Business travel (Committee and volunteers)                    | 0            | 0                   |
|   | Commuting (Conference, Study Days etc)                        | 0.15         | 3,860               |
|   | Conference facility   | 0            | 0                   |
|   | Study Day venue   | 0            | 0                   |
|   | Postage   | 10           | 20.996              |
|   | Electricity (Committee and volunteer)                         | 4            | 0.432               |
|   | Online services (Webcollect, website)                         | 99           | 81.7                |
|   |   | <b>Total</b> | <b>1,711 kgCO2e</b> |

Once more, all of these are classes as Scope 3 emissions, which means that they were indirect emissions from activities occurring from sources that we do not own or control. The majority of this was through car use by members attending study days, which have resumed in higher numbers again. The remainder was from third party contractors, suppliers, magazine printing and delivery, online services and a grant to cover travel for a member to attend the European conference.

As said, members’ study day attendance by car was by far our biggest emission. This created an estimated 3.28 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e from 11,937 miles of car use. This equates to 77% of CMA’s total estimated emissions.

It is still hard to know what our true benchmark for CO<sub>2</sub>e emission is, as the impact of COVID, at the start of our journey, has not allowed “normal” years of activity for data collection. As things return to “business as usual” we are unfortunately expecting this category of emission to increase further, making our pledge to deliver 50% cuts by 2025 and complete net zero by 2030 more challenging.

Therefore, we are looking to monitor this source of emissions more closely and find ways to reduce it, whilst still delivering excellent training to our profession. We are also looking to gather information from members to see how CMA can work alongside you and your organisations reduce our emissions together.



**Alan Preece**  
**Treasurer**

### **Secretary’s Report**

Throughout 2022/23 quarterly Board meetings and quarterly National Committee have been well attended. A number of other working group and topic-focussed meetings have been held. Membership numbers have remained relatively static at around 425.

As always, the South West region has enjoyed a good selection of study days held in Devon and Cornwall during the year. A big thank you to the SW region training co-ordinator Dave Ellacott and members of the SW regional committee for pulling together the study day programme.

Sadly, there haven’t been any study days in most other regions and so the Board have agreed to extend the Training Support Initiative which provides funding for tutors, venues or other related expenses to help encourage more training events and study days to take place. For more details contact me at [secretary@countrysidemanagement.org.uk](mailto:secretary@countrysidemanagement.org.uk)

### **Events held during 2022/23:**

| <b>Date</b>  | <b>Event title</b>  | <b>Location</b> |
|--------------|---|-----------------|
| 20 May 2022  | Site visit Luxulyan Valley Access improvements and G7 funded woodland works | Cornwall        |
| 13 July 2022 | Green recovery walk at Killerton  | Devon           |

|              |   |          |
|--------------|---|----------|
| 21 July 2022 | Wildflower seed harvesting and species rich grassland creation techniques | Cornwall |
| 4 Oct 2022   | Fossil Fuel Free tools and transport                                      | Wales    |
| 7 Oct 2022   | South West Ranger Forum: Nature Friendly Farming in the South Devon area  | Devon    |
| 19 Oct 2022  | Admire the mires!   | Devon    |
| 2 Dec 2022   | Country Park Creation - Broadland Country Park                            | Norfolk  |

Liz Bourne has produced four excellent editions of our quarterly Ranger magazine, packed with great articles. She is always keen to receive articles, news items, case studies and photos from members, so please do consider promoting your projects.

Rachel Limb continues to do an excellent job for the association on a number of fronts including finance and membership admin, communication with members, and attending and minute taking at meetings (where she also often contributes with some really useful observations and ideas!).



**Mark Baker**  
**Secretary**

### International Report

#### European Ranger Congress 2022 'Biodiversity on the Edge', Tirana Albania, October 2022.

The first large gathering of rangers since the pandemic was held in Tirana, Albania. The three-day gathering attracted over 100 delegates from 24 countries, Georgia in the east to Portugal in the west, Iceland in the north to Israel in the South. The atmosphere was great as everyone enjoyed meeting old friends and making new ones. The CMA had a good representation from its members including a bursary sponsored attendee. The National Trust also supported a candidate. In the spirit of carbon saving and as part of our ambition to meet net zero I travelled overland to Albania by bus, train, ferry and foot.



## Highlights

The congress hosted many presentations and a choice of site visits to a National Parks.

The presentations concentrated on 'Connections'.

- How two nature reserves one in Germany and one in Israel, work together sharing ideas on how to protect the White Stork, which migrates between the two countries.
- How a charity in Romania is planting native trees to help connect wooded areas together, to allow large animals such as bear, wolf and lynx to spread out and increase in numbers.
- A study from the Israeli National Park Association on why people volunteer and the connections they have with the land. (Sharon from Israel is visiting UK in May 2023 to learn about volunteering in National Trust, so I look forward to meeting her and showing her around).

## Site visits

- The Shebenik National Park, covering some 34,000ha, famous for its beech forest, glacial lakes and alpine meadows.
- The Vjose-Narte Delta Protected Area, important for its wetlands, sand dunes, lagoons and salt pans and the bird populations that live within it. There are over 40 species of water bird including Dalmatian Pelican, Greater Flamingo, Cattle Egret and Heron.

It was also a chance to strengthen our relationship with Georgia and progress our twinning first talked about in Czech 2017. The CMA and GRA signed in Tirana and have continued negotiating the details since.

Due to the challenges the world faces at the moment – post-covid, economic hardship and the climate crisis, traditional exchanges may be difficult, so we are going to have to be inventive in how we pursue this partnership while still making it beneficial.

As a bit of fun we sent a badge to travel overland, hand to hand through rangers – 10 weeks to get there through London – Berlin - Riehen (Switzerland)– Bavaria – Black Forest - Georgia

Force for Nature presented in Tirana and have been growing to assist rangers worldwide. They are an enabler, providing a platform to keep in touch, make connections, share news, stories, education, training courses, surveys, data collection, general chat and networking.



*Linda Nunn CMA and Maia Tsignadze GRA sign twinning agreement*

The Thin Green Line UK was launched, creating a branch located in Europe. They will continue to help raise funds, supply equipment, provide training and raise the profile of



rangers in the northern hemisphere. They also aim to support rangers attending future congresses.

World Ranger Day saw a few places once again holding in-person events, although perhaps with less momentum in the UK than of previous years.

The International Ranger Federation, together with the Thin Green Line Foundation, the Universal Ranger Support Alliance and Re:Wild shared a World Ranger Day 2022 Social Media Toolkit. A support pack created to assist ranger associations with a press release, social media content, and printable banners to promote Rangers across the world and spotlight the year's theme of 'Diversity'.

URSA created a series of videos to be shared online.

A couple of CMA members attended a training course organised by the ERF 'Nature Interpretation Training' in Denmark.

The next and 10<sup>th</sup> International Ranger Congress announced to be held in Giens Peninsula, SE France in Oct 2024

**Chloe Bradbrooke**  
**International Coordinator**



## Regional Reports

### Wales

I'm pleased that members in the region have continued to support Ranger magazine with articles nearly every edition. This in turn has created interest from other Welsh CMA members. Denbighshire Countryside Services is a CMA Corporate member and has extended this support by offering **free** CMA membership for staff in Denbighshire. They have also recently developed new career grade Ranger roles within the County Council.



Chirk Castle Fossil Fuel Free tools and transport day

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB hosted a very successful day at Chirk Castle (NT) about the opportunities of conversion to electric for vehicle and machinery. Tom Johnstone our Climate Change and Nature Recovery Officer Co-Ordinated the day, Stihl UK and Clwyd Agri supplied most of the machinery. 40 people attended the day including local agricultural students from Llysfasi Agricultural.

There is some potential good news though, as the Welsh Government is proposing a new National Park for North East Wales Finally, another special mention to Paul Aubrey at Carmarthenshire County Council who encouraged his staff to travel to the electric day from Carmarthen and has again been a beacon of CMA activity in South West Wales over the last year. Hopefully we will finally meet next month in the Elan Valley.



**Howard Sutcliffe**  
**Wales Coordinator**

## **South West**

The south-west regional committee had been rudderless since Emma Jones stepped down as chair last summer, she has stayed on the committee and returned to the role as secretary giving the committee invaluable support.

All the committee are finding it hard to commit as much time as previously to the CMA, gone are the days we could have a leisurely in person meeting with lunch and site visit three or 4 times a year. So we have kept up having online meetings via Teams software. It seems to work quite well and we have seen a lot more of Julia Clively the Jersey rep, saves as all a lot of time and of course reduces our carbon footprint.

Below is a summary of what we have achieved in the 2022-2023 year.

### **Committee meetings** via Teams

22<sup>nd</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> July part in person at Killerton, 30<sup>th</sup> September, 13<sup>th</sup> January.

2 editions of **Sou'wester magazine**, Summer 22 and Winter 22.

Aiming for 3 this year with Spring edition already out.

### **Training / study days:** 5

- 20<sup>th</sup> May Luxulyan Valley Cornwall.
- 13<sup>th</sup> July Killerton Devon Green Recovery Project
- 20<sup>th</sup> July Lansallos Cornwall meadow creation
- 7th October South West Ranger Forum (Nature-friendly farming with NT in South Devon)
- 19th October Dartmoor mires.



### **Vacant roles on Committee**

Chair

Somerset rep

NT Rep East (i.e. Somerset and beyond)

**Jenny Heskett**

**CMA Cornwall rep and part of Sou'wester editorial team**

### **CMA Contact details**

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