



CMA Annual Report 2018/19

Reporting on the period April 2018 – March 2019 inclusive

Chairman's report

As the 2018-19 financial year closes, I'd like to begin by expressing sincere thanks to CMA Treasurer, Alan Preece. Past and present Board members will remember the sometimes considerable anxiety and concern felt when, for several years, CMA finances were stretched by incomprehensible fines from HMRC and our perfectly sound basis for refuting those claims, ignored. Alan immersed himself in years of accounts, and along with a close and extremely helpful friend, managed to somehow unravel the mysteries of the fines. His long awaited success came during 2018/19 after 99% of the fines were refunded. A heartfelt 'thank you' to Alan as CMA finances now go from strength to strength.

Mark Baker took on the role of Secretary and proved himself, as the Board knew he would, extremely efficient in the role, which is vital to allow CMA to continue to run smoothly and in the best interests of you, the members. For example, after delving into the Articles of Association that govern the way CMA operates, Mark found some anomalies. He has been looking into an alternative model constitution for members to consider during 2019/20 that would be clearer, more straightforward and provide some flexibility in appointing Board members.

Phil Bolton and Steve Peach were also welcomed to the Board in late 2018 and both immediately undertook work such as the preparing the paperwork for CMA bursaries, accreditation initiatives, composing articles for the Ranger and looking ahead to Conference 2019.

The Accreditation Review Group 'met' several times through teleconferences and email exchanges. An intriguing offer from a consultant to assist us was eventually not taken up, although the process provided considerable food for thought for the group as it continues to focus on developing a new, and fit for purpose, accreditation system for members.

CMA has welcomed new corporate members during 2018/19 and an increasing number of individual members bringing the latter total to just over 500.

Many of those members came together in November at Lee Valley Regional Park for the Annual Conference 2018. CMA thanks all those who delivered presentations, ran workshops and organised several field trips. To name and thank individuals would be to miss someone hence I refrain from doing so. During the last afternoon we heard of, and contributed to, the ongoing work of the Parks Action Group (PAG) looking at how public parks and green spaces can meet the needs of communities now and in the future.

In mentioning PAG, that brings me to Dave Solly who organised and facilitated the entire PAG session at conference. Alongside thanking Dave for that extended piece of work, I must offer

CMA's sincere and comprehensive gratitude to him for his many years of unfailing service to CMA. Dave stepped down as a Board member at the end of 2018 and his tremendous knowledge, experience and dedication to all things CMA will be sorely missed, although we're all very aware that Dave is still just at the end of a phone!

National Committee members include all the Regional Co-ordinators together with our International and National Trust representatives. During four teleconferences during 2018/19 the Committee has inputted ideas, offered suggestions and given wide ranging summaries from around the eleven regions. I thank them all for their time, effort and positive contributions to the future of CMA.

The European Ranger Federation (ERF) continues to develop with the passion and dedication you might expect. Several training events, seminars and conferences have been held, often with CMA representatives attending, and our own Vice President Roger Cole, holds the same office within the ERF. As we move into 2019/20, CMA looks to the International Ranger Federation (IRF) for another momentous World Ranger Congress in Nepal.

Back home, 2018/19 was a year of government announcements, publications and consultations. 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' and 'Health and Harmony; the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit' consultation give us all much to reflect on and consider, with Agriculture and Environment Acts following. As potentially 'once in a lifetime' changes, I'd urge members and colleagues to look for opportunities to put our profession centre stage. I might suggest that your wide-ranging knowledge and experience could be in considerable demand as the future unfolds...

I have two final thank yous. The first is to Rachel Limb, a more diligent, hard-working administration/support officer, you'd be hard to find. Rachel is exceptionally efficient, a brilliant organiser and I cannot believe CMA has ever been run as smoothly as it is now. Her sense of humour rarely leaves her and she is a joy to work with.

The last but biggest thank you of all goes to you, the CMA members. It is entirely down to your commitment and hard work that CMA can offer such a huge range of study/training days, provide members with the Ranger magazine four times a year packed full of your contributions, have several regions producing regular and comprehensive newsletters and vibrant regional committees keeping their eyes and ears on the ground around the country.

CMA membership is steadily rising and I, for one, am looking forward to that continuing apace as 2019/20 progresses. With a new accreditation system in development, its launch will offer a great opportunity to promote the benefits of CMA membership far and wide.

Linda Nunn, May 2019

Treasurer's report

This year has again seen once again a settled financial position. Our finances are currently stable and have reserves for some strategic spend on larger projects to move CMA further forward. Again a huge thank you to Rachel Limb, admin support, who has been very efficient and speedy in processing our book keeping which has made my life so much easier.

During the 2018/19 financial year we had an income of £25,412.18 and outgoings of £24,790.99. Therefore we have made a rectified pre-tax surplus of £621.19. This takes into account accruals for two invoices for goods and services received in 2018/19 which were paid in 2019/20. Our tax bill is therefore estimated as being £118.03 (at 19%), leaving us with a post-tax profit of £503.16.

Balances	1 st April 2018	31 st March 2019
Current (including accruals)	£8,881.37	£9,501.11
Reserve	£5,000	£5,001.45
Total	£13,881.37	£14,502.56
		+£621.19

This is down from a pre-tax profit of £1,945.12 in 2017/18. However this is partly down to buying some key equipment for conferences etc so our finances appear to be in good shape.

The historic issues that we have had with HMRC in previous years have been fully resolved during this financial year. This has taken several years but we are satisfied with the outcome.

Therefore things appear to be stable and comfortable financially for CMA. This allows us to once again begin planning how best to increase our service to members, with the confidence that our cash flow will not be in jeopardy.

Alan Preece, May 2019

Secretary's report

This year we have decided to produce the Annual Report shortly after the end of the financial year rather than in the autumn, the intention being that the contents of the report will be easier for its contributors to recall, we will have up to date accounts to report and more recent and relevant subject matter for readers to digest. A big thank you to everyone has contributed.

Rachel Limb continues to do a fantastic job as our Admin Contractor. This year she has also successfully taken on the role of National Training Co-ordinator, undertaking the admin for all our study days and training events.

2018/19 saw a large number of excellent study days, listed below. Many thanks to everyone who organised study days and particular mention is due to Phil Bolton who has really gone above and beyond the call of duty by organising and leading almost half of these events! It has really helped to kick-start activity and boost membership in the South East region.

Event	Date	Region
Great Crested Newt Survey Monitoring	08/04/2018	South East
An introduction to Reptiles and Amphibians, ecology and surveying techniques and equipment Workshop	16/04/2018	South East
Processing coppice material for fencing, fuel etc	25/04/2018	South East
Valuing and Managing Veteran Trees	01/05/2018	North West
Transforming an antisocial SSSI - Gordon Miller Award site visit	01/05/2018	West Midlands
Surveying techniques for amphibians	09/05/2018	South East
An introduction to Reptiles and Amphibians, ecology and surveying techniques and equipment Workshop	11/05/2018	South East
An introduction to Wildflower Identification	14/05/2018	South East
Charcoal making using Rhododendron	17/05/2018	North East
An introduction to British Bats, Ecology and Conservation. Survey and equipment Workshop	29/05/2018	South East
Creating grassland priority habitats	19/06/2018	South West
Bushcraft skills for Rangers	20/06/2018	East of England

An introduction to Tree Identification (Part 1. Leaves)	22/06/2018	South East
Managing a valuable wildlife site with high levels of public access	26/06/2018	South East
Wildflower Identification by Family	06/07/2018	North East
South East and London Regional AGM and visit to National Trust Runnymede	27/07/2018	South East
Tree Identification for Beginners	19/08/2018	Greater London
Shugborough Estate, starting from scratch!	28/09/2018	West Midlands
Low Wray Farm - A case study -Managing change in a World Heritage Site.	03/10/2018	North West
South West Ranger Forum, Space for Nature on the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths	09/10/2018	South West
Managing Mousehold Heath for People and Wildlife	10/10/2018	East of England
Avalon Marshes Partnership Study Day	14/11/2018	South West
CMA Conference 2018 - Engaging communities, enhancing lives	20/11/2018	National
Introduction to Coppicing	30/11/2018	East of England
Durlston Country Park NNR Study Day	05/12/2018	South West
Stronger Together - Working in Partnership	18/01/2019	West Midlands
Bird Identification for Beginners	19/01/2019	Greater London
Introduction to Habitat Management for Reptiles & Amphibians	27/02/2019	South East
Introduction to Tree Identification (Part 1: Buds & Bark)	01/03/2019	East of England
East of England Ranger Rendezvous	01/03/2019	East of England
Pond and Lake Biodiversity Survey Methods	19/03/2019	East of England

Membership is constantly fluctuating as members join and leave, particularly around the historic renewal period in late March/early April, but the trend is for numbers to slowly increase, exceeding the 500 mark for the first time in many years.

One piece of work I have been focussing on is the potential change of CMA's legal form from a company limited by guarantee to a Community Interest Company. The CMA board feel this may be a more appropriate form of organisation for the association to adopt, but the change would require membership approval. We will continue to explore this option and will communicate with members later in 2019 ahead of a vote at the AGM.

Mark Baker, May 2019

International Coordinator's Report

The CMA continues to help overseas Rangers wishing to gain valuable work experience in the UK. Urs Wegmann, a Swiss Chief Ranger managing nature reserves near Zurich, spent several weeks in three National Parks in May, sharing knowledge, gaining and furthering friendships and speaking to audiences about his work. It is normally possible to arrange free accommodation to help keep the costs down and this is only due to the generosity of hosting authorities and individual rangers.

World Ranger Day on July 31st witnessed a wide variety of successful events being organised across the country to help celebrate the work of Rangers throughout the world whilst at the same time reflecting on those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice protecting nature. My thanks to Chris Lockyer for helping to encourage these events and also for collating and publicising what happened.

Will Stewart, a Warden working for Norwich City Council, was financially supported by CMA to attend the Portuguese Ranger Association's Annual meeting in the Azores in early February.

CMA, along with other European Ranger Associations, has been regularly offered a free place at their annual conference which enables the wider sharing of knowledge and experiences.

The European Ranger Association (ERF) has supported two, well subscribed training events on interpretation and anti-poaching and in early March organised a meeting in Denmark (photo right) to update and progress the twinning of Ranger Associations.



Several such twinings already exist and I attended on behalf of CMA to discuss what

others were doing and what they were achieving in order to progress our own proposed twinning with the newly reformed Ranger Association of Ireland (RAI). A short report is now being prepared to outline the best way forward which will be presented to the CMA Board later on this year. Preparations are now well under way for the 9th World Ranger Congress which takes place in Nepal in November this year. CMA is helping to financially support both a member from our regions and also a European Ranger to attend this event.

Ian Brooker, May 2019

Regional Reports

South West

The South West region has had another successful year in terms of training/study days and has had regular quarterly committee meetings. Meetings over the last year have been kindly hosted free of charge by Devon County Council, The National Trust and Natural England.

Emma Jones our regional newsletter editor (NT Killerton) has produced 5 seasonal Sou'wester regional newsletters; Spring 2018 – Spring 2019.

Dave Ellacott our regional coordinator has managed to provide/organise the following training/study days:

- Creating grassland priority habitats. Higher Town Farm, Lansallos, Cornwall - 19 June 2018
- South West Ranger Forum, Space for Nature on the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths. Clinton Devon Estates, East Budleigh, Devon - 9 October 2018
- Avalon Marshes Partnership Study Day. The Avalon Marshes Centre/NNR, Westhay, Somerset - 14 November 2018
- Durlston Country Park NNR Study Day Learning Centre, Durlston Country Park NNR, Swanage, Dorset - 5 December 2018

The region has unfortunately lost a committee member for Wiltshire in the last couple of months due to work pressures (so we will be looking for a replacement). We have two new committee members: County Rep for Dorset (Clive Whitburn from the National Trust, currently organising a summer event/study day around World Ranger Day) and Rhys Parry (assisting Jenny Heskett in

Cornwall). Most regional committees have an attendance of around a dozen members including National Trust Corporate Partnership representatives.

Mark Baker and Ian Brooker kindly attend our meetings to update us on the national and international CMA issues respectively.

I had a rather uncertain time over the last quarter as my three year contract with Devon Wildlife Trust as Urban Ranger in Plymouth ended in January; however I have recently managed to secure a post with Dartmoor National Park.

Looking forward to a successful 2019-2020.

Tim Russell, May 2019

East of England

Newsletters:

The East region published four regional newsletters during the 2018-19 year: issues 11 (April 2018), 12 (July 2018), 13 (October 2018) and 14 (January 2019). The newsletters are now being sent out to members across the country through MailChimp thanks to our national admin Rachel.

Events:

We've had some excellent events in the region during 2018-19. Training events have covered a few different topics, and we were lucky to once again have Phil Bolton from the South East region lead some training for us which added to our events list. Events during the year included:

- 20 June 2018: Bushcraft skills for Rangers at Hadleigh Park, Essex.
- 10 Oct 2018: Managing Mousehold Heath for People and Wildlife at Mousehold Heath, Norfolk.
- 30 Nov 2018: Introduction to Coppicing at Hadleigh Park, Essex.
- 01 March 2019: Tree Identification (Part 1: Bark and Buds) at Langdon Hills Country Park, Essex. Followed by a regional social.
- 19 March 2019: Pond and Lake Biodiversity Survey Methods at Belhus Woods Country Park, Essex.

We would like to keep offering a varied and interesting events programme, so please consider if you or someone you know would be able to run a study day or training event. Please also let us know what topics you would like to see for future events, so that we can try to plan events to meet your needs.

World Ranger Day:

Langdon Hills Country Park held events to celebrate World Ranger Day in 2018. The rangers and friends group usually hold some form of event near World Ranger Day to raise funds for the Thin Green Line Foundation, but this year they decided to try something different. The first event took part during the day and was aimed at families, raising awareness of the work rangers do as well as raising money through a variety of activities including crafts and a ranger raffle. The second event took place in the evening for the Friends of the Park and some local residents. Sausages and cider were available to raise more money for the Thin Green Line, the Ranger Raffle was drawn, and as dark descended the newly-installed beacon was lit in a dramatic finale to the day's celebrations.

It is hoped that others may be inspired to light their own beacons in future. Congratulations to Nick Stanley, Senior Ranger at Langdon Hills, for a successful event and many funds raised.

East of England Committee:

We have had some changes to our regional committee since the last AGM. A huge welcome goes to Will Stewart, who has taken up the role of Norfolk County Rep. Our Essex County Rep Matthew McGettigan has now moved counties and will be transferring his good work to Cambridgeshire where he is now based.

Current regional committee:

Regional Coordinator – Tom Heenan

Regional Newsletter Editor – Tom Heenan

Bedfordshire Representative – Vacant

Cambridgeshire Representative – Matthew McGettigan

Essex Representative – Vacant

Hertfordshire Representative – Derek Evans

Norfolk Representative – Will Stewart

Suffolk Representative – Colin Hart

If you're interested in a vacant role, please get in touch:
eastofengland@countysidemangement.org.uk

Tom Heenan, May 2019

South East

South East Region has had a really active 2018/9. Four information packed copies of the Beautiful South was produced and were well received by members. We profiled the work of:

- Alex Rosenfeld Llama farmer from Plumpton College;
- Deborah Carter (E. Sussex rep) trip to the Island of Eigg (up SCRA Country);
- Deborah Carter – trainee ranger at Batemans National Trust;
- Laura Summerbell National Trust Ranger at Runnemedde;
- Joe Williams (while still a ranger at QE2 Country Park and Staunton Country Park Hampshire);
- Phil Henderson (while still a ranger and Nymans NT); and
- Steve Peach “The South Downs to Uganda and the Kruger National Park

Training days included the very popular dormice training where on the 15th January 2018 twelve members joined me at Bluewater Shopping Centre in Greenhithe Kent to erect new dormice nest boxes and carry out maintenance on the existing boxes. This course is designed to help rangers work towards their individual Natural England Class Licences.

On the 23rd February 2018 twelve members joined me in at Bluewater again for an Ecology and Conservation for dormice course, again helping rangers work towards acquiring their Natural England Class Licence.

South East Region joined East of England Region on the 13th March 2018 at Belhus Wood to erect new dormice nest boxes and carry out maintenance on the existing boxes. This course is designed to help rangers work towards their individual Natural England Class Licences.

On the 16th April 2018 nine members joined me at Nymans National Trust in East Sussex for 'An introduction to Reptiles and Amphibians: Ecology, Surveying techniques and equipment workshop training day. This course is designed to enable rangers to work towards their individual Natural England Class licences for Great Crested Newts.

We returned again to Nymans NT on the 25th April 2018 for our first Study day processing coppice material for fencing, fuel and much more! Attendance was limited but four members attended.

South East Regional AGM on 27th July 2018 at National Trust Runnymede. This included a guided walk around art, memorials and monuments in the landscape, SSSI wetland and ancient woodland, and a visit to the Ankerwycke Yew. Ten members attended and we were joined by Colin Houston from London Region. Phil Bolton was officially elected as the regions training officer.

2019

Deborah Carter became East Sussex rep and Emma Goodwin became Surrey rep.

The year began with a training day visit to Nymans NT on the 27th February 2019 "Introduction to Habitat Management for Reptiles and Amphibians". Eight members joined us on the day. This course is designed to enable rangers to work towards their individual Natural England Class licences for Great Crested Newts.

On Friday the 1st March 2019 we joined our friends in East of England for another joint training event at Westley Heights, Basildon Essex. "An Introduction to tree identification (part 1: buds and bark). Nine members attended.

On the 19th March 2019 we joined East of England again for "Pond and Lake biodiversity Survey Methods" training day at Belhus Wood Country Park, Romford road Aveley, South Ockenden Essex. Nine members joined us on the day.

On the 10th May 2019 we returned to Nymans NT for a unique study afternoon and evening for a "Great Crested Newt Trapping and Survey methods" event. Eleven members attended. This event also included a social element of a pub evening meal which was really popular.

On Saturday 18th May an introduction to Great Crested newt course was hosted by Bracknell Forest Council. 5 members attended and over 40 newts were recorded.

25 members have attended a dormice course and 26 members have attended a Great Crested newt course.

Phil Bolton (on behalf of Richard Westwood), **May 2019**

Northern Ireland

For Northern Ireland it's been an 'interesting' time in all aspects to say the least over the past year particularly for local teams and the uncertainty around Brexit, For government organisations a defaulted budget in governmental funding with the absence of a sitting assembly has led to a freeze on most projects, and not starting any new ones. The implications have also impacted on small pot funding grants which many smaller environmental NGOs rely on. The future impacts of everything are uncertain and with nature not knowing borders whatever happens here could significantly impact on current and future cross-border environmental work.

CMA-based activity has been the following;

- Individual CMA members now sits at 2 + National Trust corporate membership making up the bulk of CMA-based comms and activity with the circa 45 Ranger and countryside based staff and 50+ regular volunteers/trainees/placements
- Regional Ranger gathering 30-31st Aug 2018 (NT countryside teams and Volunteers) hosted by the North Coast East team based out the coastal village of Cushendun in the Glens of Antrim.
- The formation of the Ranger Association of Ireland in the south has been completed and the NI CMA rep joined the Ranger gathering leading to its formation in the Killarney National Park 27-28th Feb. With the formation of the RAI and its recognition with the ERF and IRF it opens up further possibilities within the island of Ireland to ensure good communication and relations with the ranger teams across both countries. We have the ambition to run joint gatherings and study days where able.

Toby Edwards, May 2019

Wales

- My employing organisation - Denbighshire CC - is a corporate member of CMA
- I circulate all CMA events to staff.
- Regionally North East Wales Countryside Officer Forum (NEWCOF) has had an event on Moorland Management also advertised free to CMA Members.
- CMA Little Tern Study Day was offered, but unfortunately there were no takers.
- I have contributed articles to Ranger for latest edition.

Future:

- Will work through NEWCOF for joint activity and promote CMA.
- Hopefully adjoining Authority Flintshire CC will join as corporate member.

Howard Sutcliffe, May 2019

Greater London

This year we appointed our first representative for Greater London, Colin Houston. The priority now is to engage members across London and find out what their views are on the opportunities for CMA in the capital. All suggestions welcome!

There were two study days organised in London over the last year, tree identification and an urban bird identification for beginners in January. Members from outside London are always welcome to sign up to future workshops.

Colin Houston, May 2019