



CMA Annual Report
2020/21

Chair's Report

The word 'unprecedented' has been used a lot to describe 2020 and rightly so. Our sector has been aware of the biodiversity and climate change crises for a long time; at last the rest of the world now seems to recognise the enormous, unparalleled challenges we all face if we, collectively, are going to make a positive difference to the future of our planet, and hence our own lives, into the future. On top of that, the Covid global pandemic strikes, as if to ram the message home that the human race is at the mercy of Mother Nature. How louder, stronger message do homo sapiens need?

Rangers, wardens, greenspace managers, reserve officers, landscape managers, countryside officers, forest scouts and all of our colleagues, with a myriad of titles across the planet, truly are the protectors, custodians, educators, interpreters and guides around our precious world, its wildlife and natural resources. Here in the UK, the CMA believes the boundless knowledge, skills and professionalism within the sector is not recognised, valued, encouraged, supported nor celebrated as it should, and deserves to be.

For that reason, the CMA has spent not inconsiderable time this year, developing a professional accreditation system that will do just that. By providing evidence of your varied and multiple competencies, you will be able to work your way from entry level to skilled and accomplished levels. After consultations internally and externally, the system will be launched during 2021 and I urge you to consider becoming accredited.

As we all take tentative steps through 2021 and future years, the CMA will be continuing to grow and developing more benefits for you, the members. Once accreditation is up and running, the Board is moving on to explore and develop more and varied training options to help with continuing professional and personal development. The CMA is a membership organisation, run by members for its members and I hope many more from the countryside and greenspace industry will join and swell the ranks, as the CMA strives to make future years 'unprecedented', for wholly different reasons, for our sector.

I cannot thank you the members enough, for working so incredibly hard, with such professionalism throughout 2020; a truly extraordinary year. I know for many it has been painful, even frightening. The world has not quite looked like this before.....let's all work hard together to try and ensure some fundamental and lasting changes takes place so we do not face another year quite like 2020.

I must also profoundly thank the small but totally dedicated Board and National Committee of the CMA, along with our Support Officer and Ranger Editor amongst others, for their commitment above and beyond the call of duty. Together, we aim to make 2021 a pretty unique year too.



Linda Nunn

Chair

Treasurer's Report

This year has again seen once again a settled financial position. Our finances are currently stable although we have created a small loss this year. This is no mean achievement given the huge events going on around us, the reduction in income from membership and the increase in services we are making. Again, 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 2020/21 financial year we had a smaller income of £22,041.74 and also a smaller outgoing of £19,427.13. This has given us a rectified pre-tax loss of £612.71. We have applied to HMRC to be dormant for tax purposes, but are still waiting on confirmation of this. That said, as we have not made a profit this year we do not anticipate a tax bill.

Balances	1st April 2020	31st March 2021
Current (including accruals)	£12,094.39	£11,464.03
Reserve	£5022.78	£5,040.43
Total	£17,117.17	£16,504.46
		-£612.71

This is down from a pre-tax profit of £2,614.61 in 2019/20. Therefore, we made £3,2270.32 less than last year, but our finances continue to be in good shape and we have a good buffer. This is in part due to some large investments, such as our website and rebranding to help us get ready for a new membership push when accreditation is finalised. It is also the result of a fall in income not least due to the impacts of furlough on a significant section of our membership. However, our healthy balance should enable us to tackle the cash flow impacts of CMA projects such as finalising accreditation.

We are chasing HMRC regarding confirmation of our tax dormancy status. However, their communications have never been as swift as we would like, so we are not taking lack of correspondence to be an indication they will not look favourably on our request.

Therefore things appear to be comfortable financially for CMA. This allows us to once again begin planning how best to deliver our service to members. Obviously globally and nationally economies are receiving huge pressures, but we remain in good place to deal with them and hopefully continue to move forward into this exciting year ahead.



Alan Preece

Treasurer

Secretary's Report

The Covid 19 pandemic has had some profound impacts in the sector and this in turn has impacted on our membership numbers. Perhaps most notably, the severe cut backs in staff and budgets undertaken by the National Trust have led to a large number of NT staff failing to renew their memberships. We believe this has been due to a combination of members losing their jobs, belt-tightening due to job insecurity, and a trend away from managers using their budgets to pay for their staff members' CMA memberships. We very much hope that as we recover from this pandemic, these lapsed members will return.

In order to support our members at a time of great uncertainty, when many will have been facing a reduced income on furlough or the possibility of redundancy, the CMA Board took the decision in Spring 2020 to give members the option to defer payment for renewing until the autumn.

Despite the loss of around 100 paid memberships, our overall membership numbers have remained at around the 500 mark thanks to the introduction of a new Student membership category in November 2020. The category is aimed at those in part- or full-time education (including apprenticeships) and we are currently offering the first years membership free. The response has been great with just under 100 new Student members signed up by the end of the financial year. Obviously we hope that they will value the benefits of CMA membership and will choose to pay to renew their membership at the end of the first year.

The lockdowns and restrictions of the last year have prevented any study days, training events or an annual conference from taking place. A well-attended online event titled 'Bat Chat Webinar - top tips for engaging children and communities' was organised for CMA members and was hosted by Devon Wildlife Trust in August 2020. We look forward to hosting more webinars and the return of study days during the coming year.

Great thanks are due our Admin Contractor, Rachel Limb, who continues to do a fantastic job in the day to day running of the association; and my fellow board members who have gone above and beyond in managing and developing the association during this unprecedented year.



Mark Baker

Secretary

International Report

In June 2020 we congratulated Ian Brooker, previously International Coordinator for the CMA, in his new role of Vice President for the European Ranger Federation (ERF). Not only brilliant for him but great for us to have continued direct contact with the ERF.

I then took on the International Coordinator role just in time to start rallying support for World Ranger Day 2020. With grateful assistance from our small International Group drawing in colleagues from different organisations and areas of the UK:

- Richard Webster, Ranger, National Trust Cheshire & Wirral countryside
- Will Stewart, Warden, Norwich City Council
- Derek Evans, Ranger, Lee Valley Park, Essex
- Steve Peach, Land Management Development Officer, Queen Elizabeth Park

World Ranger Day on 31st July, witnessed many rangers in all regions reflecting on those that have made the ultimate sacrifice in protecting the world's wildlife.

It wasn't possible to run World Ranger Day events as usual but even with limited opportunities to celebrate many rangers still contributed photos on twitter and Facebook not only holding up the posters and also showing the vast array of landscapes rangers hold in their hands.



Our main objective was to keep communications open with rangers nationally and across the world and show solidarity in unprecedented hard times. We also encouraged rangers to reach out to those in other countries and spark up a pen pal like dialogue.

In 2020 international travel ground to a halt and the ERF congress in Bavaria was sadly cancelled to the disappointment of many including the successful applicants for the travel bursary. Happy to announce that there is a newly scheduled ERF congress –Albania May/June 2022.

Unfortunately, we had hoped to progress talks with Georgia about a possible twinning arrangement at the conference. However, in the interim we are still in contact in a less formal context exploring how to share, help and get to know the Georgian rangers.

The Ranger Association of Ireland (RAI) decided it was no longer the time to pursue the anticipated twinning of associations with themselves and the CMA. We hope to continue to foster good relations and perhaps it is something that could be revisited sometime in the future. Many rangers joined in the Wildlife Ranger Challenge running to raise money including our own Chair Linda Nunn. Over 200 rangers across 20 African countries and

supporters from 80 other countries throughout the world ran to support rangers across Africa that are enduring drastic cuts in salaries and resources due to the devastating economic impact of Covid-19. Many leaving their families destitute and wildlife unprotected. The funds raised went to help thousands of their colleagues, enabling them to support themselves and their communities, and to protect iconic African wildlife such as elephants, pangolins, rhinos, and lions.

It has been happily announced that The Azores will host the 10th World Ranger Congress 5 to 9 June 2023. We very much hope that we will once we again be free to travel and meet with our global ranger family.



Chloe Bradbrooke

International Coordinator

Regional Reports

South West

Well, 2020 was an unprecedented year. A global pandemic stopped us in so many ways. We were told to stay at home and help to keep people safe. No one knew then that a year later we would still be going through such life changing times.

For many of us – we were put onto Furlough. For the National Trust, it started the process of a National Reset – and many friends and colleagues have lost their jobs as a result. The Trust lost over £200 million pounds in revenue, and it will take many years for us to become financially stable again. We will be relying on our members more now than ever.

We continued to have regional committee meetings, which were actually a life line to see friendly faces, to feel some connection to the world we once were. To offer support and kind words to each other. We held three online Zoom meetings, in June, August 2020 and January 2021.

We are optimistically hoping to run the South West Ranger Forum event in October 2021 at Stover County Park – which was postponed from last year. So, we are keeping our fingers crossed for this date.

Sou'wester - CMA regional Newsletters. With the help from Richard Brooks and his MOD team at DIO Environmental Support and Compliance we have produced three stonking editions to share with our members in April 2020, October 2020 and Feb 2021.

This offered a connection to our members and allowed us to feel we were contributing to keeping in touch with our members, when they needed it more than ever.

I want to personally thank all of the regional committee for helping to produce these, to take time to find the articles and get permissions to use them, it truly is a team effort.

As 2021 rolls on, and some sort of normal life starts to resume, let's hope the future is brighter, and we can get some cracking training days on the south west calendar again.



Emma Jones

South West Region Coordinator

South East

Unfortunately due to the restrictions in travel and the ability to meet up in any groups we have been unable to hold any study or training days in the South East over the past year.

During the summer we were planning some training days for the winter but these had to be put on hold. However with the road map to recovery outline, it is hoped that these can take place this coming winter.



Richard Westwood

South East Region Coordinator

East of England

We have continued with a full complement of county reps apart from Bedfordshire - so if you are interesting in representing that county please get in touch!

I've continued to publish our regional newsletter, "CMA East", with issue #18 (Apr 2020) and #19 (March 2021). Thanks to everyone who has contributed articles and images for the newsletter. We are always looking for photos and articles from the region to put in our next issue, so please don't be shy about getting in touch.

The study day planned for April 2020, "Beautiful Broads: A New Reserve and a Practical Approach to Climate Change" unfortunately had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We are looking to reschedule this event when circumstances allow.

Hopefully 2021-22 will see us once again able to share our sites and projects, ideas and enthusiasm with each other in person.



Tom Heenan

East of England Co-ordinator

Greater London

A quiet year on the CMA London front, with the majority of activities and events programmes suspended across the capital from mid-March. Several new members have joined in London this year, but attention has been focused on responding to the pandemic and helping local communities recover from its impacts.



Colin Houston

Greater London Region Coordinator

Wales

Over the last year there have been no CMA events in Wales due to Covid, but I have corresponded with CMA members and managed to attend a National Committee meeting.

Denbighshire County Council is still a CMA corporate member and we now have two CMA Associate members within the council. DCC staff have contributed to articles in Ranger magazine and we are developing an in-house Career Grade Ranger role.

I have been part of the North Wales communications group in relation to COVID. I have also been keeping a watching brief on the developing National Nature Service for Wales.



Howard Sutcliffe

Wales Coordinator

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