

Countryside Alliance



2016 Annual Report





Message from the Chairman of the Board



SIMON HART MP

Since taking on the role of Chairman of the Countryside Alliance in late 2015 I have worked with colleagues, members and

supporters nationwide in pursuit of a fast-moving and constantly challenging campaigning agenda. None of this would have been possible without the invaluable, committed, dedicated volunteer support across a wide range of activities and disciplines. Our activities are summarised, right, by Tim Bonner who as Chief Executive has spearheaded the Alliance’s campaigning work and continues to progress our activities into the last part of this decade. As Tim comments show, the result of the recent general election could have a far reaching if not fundamental impact on members’ interests and activities for some time to come.

Our Annual Report has been reduced in size and complexity but we recognise the value of both cost effectiveness and transparency. We are therefore channeling an increasing proportion of information online; a full Report & Accounts can be seen on our website at www.countryside-alliance.org/ annual report. Communication with our members is an important part of our work and I would encourage all members to vote in the accompanying ballot details. Voting online at www.ersvotes.com/ca17 in the members’ ballot is a very cost effective technique; instructions appear overleaf. I would like to welcome both Caroline Squire and Richard Hardy to the board of the Countryside Alliance – their biographies also appear on our website. Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the passing of the 6th Duke of Westminster, a Vice President of the Countryside Alliance whose support of and generosity to the Alliance was invaluable over many years.

BOARD OF THE COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE 2016

- President:** Baroness Mallalieu
- Vice Presidents:** Baroness Golding
Duke of Westminster KG CB
CVO OBE TD DL [deceased
19th August 2016]
- Chairman:** Simon Hart MP
- Deputy Chairman:** Lord Mancroft
- Chief Executive:** Tim Bonner
- Elected Members:** Tim Vestey
Jamie Foster
Johnnie Arkwright
Lizzie Pinney
[stepped down at 2016 AGM]
Richard Fry
[elected at 2016 AGM]
Andrew Ogg
[elected at 2016 AGM]
- Appointed:** David Harrel
Charles McVeigh III
Bill Tyrwhitt-Drake
Guy Portwin
Paul Dunn

The Countryside Alliance Foundation: Nick Bannister

Summary Financial Statements

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

Revenue	£	£
Subscriptions	3,215,471	3,230,267
Fundraising and donations	1,291,206	1,333,930
	4,506,677	4,564,197
Direct costs	(2,457,651)	(2,916,451)
Gross surplus	2,049,026	1,647,746
Administrative expenses	(1,805,039)	(1,512,198)
Finance costs	(24,645)	(30,173)
Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation	219,342	105,375
Tax expense	-	-
Surplus on ordinary activities after taxation	219,342	105,375

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

	2016 £	2015 £
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	78,982	65,997
Investments in subsidiaries	5,100	5,100
	84,082	71,097
Current assets		
Inventories	15,408	19,046
Trade and other receivables	241,510	296,664
Cash and cash equivalents	594,636	622,703
	851,554	938,413
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	(475,958)	(455,166)
Financial liabilities	(400,000)	(500,000)
	(875,958)	(955,166)
Net current assets / (liabilities)	(24,404)	(16,753)
Total assets less current (liabilities)	59,678	54,344
Non-current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	33,292	22,300
Financial liabilities	50,000	275,000
Income and expenditure Account	(23,614)	(242,956)
	59,678	54,344

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 25th April 2017.

The full report and financial statements appear on the Countryside Alliance's website at www.countryside-alliance.org/annualreport



Chief Executive's Report



TIM BONNER

2016 saw the continued development of the Countryside Alliance alongside another year of successful campaigning. The Alliance continues to evolve into an ever more efficient and effective campaigning organisation focused on delivering for the countryside in

Westminster and the devolved assemblies, as well as in the media. The organisation recorded a significant surplus and further reduced its net debt, leaving us in our strongest financial position for over a decade.

The Brexit referendum last June will have a profound effect on the future of the countryside and much of the Alliance's future work will be dominated by the development of post-Brexit land management policy. Meanwhile the Alliance was able to deliver a number of successful campaigns. Recommendations from the 'Lead Ammunition Group' to phase out the use of lead ammunition were rejected by the Government as a result of years of work by representatives from the Alliance and other shooting organisations which exposed fundamental flaws in the process. Gun owners will benefit from changes in the law which will make the licensing process and gun use for young people more straightforward. The Government also accepted an amendment to the Policing and Crime Act which will make it simpler for police officers to remove balaclavas and face coverings from protestors. In Scotland the Scottish Countryside Alliance was instrumental in making representations to the Scottish Government's review of hunting legislation. Lord Bonomy's report was strongly supportive of the use of packs of hounds to flush to guns and limited its recommendations to issues around perception and enforcement. Back in Westminster campaigners using an electronic petition process secured a debate on banning grouse shooting. The Alliance led the parliamentary response and the proposal was roundly rejected by MPs.

In a constantly changing and unpredictable world the role of the Alliance is ever more important both to protect the countryside from the effects of political decisions, both intended and unintended, and to take advantage of opportunities that may arise. The successes of 2016, which also leave the Alliance in a much stronger financial position, mean that we will be ready to tackle the important task of overturning the ban on hunting if the recent election makes that a political reality invaluable over many years.

To vote online please go to
www.ersvote.com/ca17

Postal Ballot and Proxy

I (Please print)
hereby cast my vote or appoint the Chairman
as my proxy to cast my vote at the Annual
General Meeting of the Countryside Alliance to
be held at 12.30pm on September 12 in Church
House Westminster, Deans Yard, Westminster,
London SW1P 3NZ. **(Please vote by marking with a
cross (x) in the box below)**

1 To approve the Report and Accounts of
the Countryside Alliance for the year
ended 31st December 2016

Approve Disapprove Proxy

2 To appoint Messers Saffery Champness
of Red Lion Street, London, WC1R 4GB as
Auditors of the Countryside Alliance.

Approve Disapprove Proxy

Signature

Date

Membership Number

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**Completed ballots must be returned to the
Independent Scrutineer, Electoral Reform Services,
London, N81 1ER by midnight on July 5 2017**



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VOTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR POSTAL & ONLINE BALLOT AND PROXY FORM

To cast your vote on the resolutions you must put a cross (x) in either the box marked Approve or in the box marked Disapprove. To appoint the Chairman as your proxy you must put a cross (x) in the box marked Proxy. Completed ballots must be returned to the independent Scrutineer at Electoral Reform Services, London N81 1ER by midnight on July 5 2017. If you appoint the Chairman as your proxy and do not mark either the Approve or Disapprove box, your Chairman will cast your vote in favour of the resolution.

If you would prefer to vote online, you can visit the website www.ersvotes.com/ca17. You will need your membership number which is printed on your

membership card or alternatively please call the membership team on 0207 840 9300.

Spoiled, multiple or late ballots and proxies will be disregarded. Once received by the independent Scrutineer all postal ballots are irrevocable.

PLEASE BE SURE TO PRINT OR TYPE YOUR NAME AT THE TOP AND SIGN, DATE AND INCLUDE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BALLOT CARD TO ALLOW THE INDEPENDENT SCRUTINEER TO CONFIRM YOUR VOTES.

Your membership number can be found on your membership card. If you have mislaid your card or are unable to locate it, please contact our membership team on 0207 840 9300.