CHAIRMAN’S FOREWORD

I would like to begin by thanking Mike Fox, my predecessor as Chairman. I am particularly grateful because, on the same day that I took over from Mike, the Conservation Board adopted the new Management Plan for the Chilterns AONB for 2014-19, which had been prepared during his tenure. This Plan is vital as it guides our work and that of everybody else who cares for the Chilterns. It provides a vision for the AONB; an analysis of those issues and trends which need to be addressed; and identifies what we need to do, together, in the years ahead.

It is no surprise that the big issues remain largely those which have concerned us for many years but, with the unpredictable weather patterns, the rise of new pests and diseases presents new challenges to us all.

The world in which we live, in our case greatly dependent upon public funding, is changing fast and we have had to constantly revisit what we do and how. We have had to make difficult adjustments as a result of declining grant in aid from the government; but thankfully 12 out of the 13 local councils have maintained their support. We cannot thank them enough when they too are having to make many hard choices. Undoubtedly this shows just how important it is to local people that we should take care of the unique Chilterns landscape. It is, after all, the reason why so many of us have made the Chilterns our home and place of work, and why every year so many millions come here in their leisure time.

The Board has a close working relationship with the business sector as well. This is perhaps something we don’t say enough about. We have worked with them in many ways: they provide donations and sponsorship, they take out advertising in our magazine and on our website, they give advice and support for all sorts of activities. When we talk of working with local communities it is important that we understand that that includes local businesses and landowners as well.

Against the backdrop of declining public funding we have striven, successfully, to generate more income from alternative sources and have managed to maintain our work programme - there have been plenty of highlights as well as the vital day to day work. The Board’s staff deserve immense praise for maintaining their enthusiasm, commitment and passion in such challenging times.

I would like to conclude by giving special thanks to those Board members who stood down during this past year, in addition to Mike Fox: Cllr Bill Storey, for many years a loyal and hard-working Vice-Chairman, Cllr Brian Norman, Cllr Margaret Jarrett, Bettina Kirkham and John Willson. Finally, with both sadness and fondness, I would like to remember the immense contributions made by two long serving members of the Board who passed away recently: Roger Emmett, a farmer and countryman; and Shirley Judges, historian and passionate community champion. The Chilterns is a poorer place without them.

Ian Reay, Chairman

Cow Common at Ewelme near Wallingford
Issues and Trends

Every year seems to have unusual weather these days. A dry winter (2012-13) was followed by a cold, wet spring and early summer. In June that gave way to a welcome, warm sunny summer and autumn followed by an unending deluge.

The severe weather didn’t just have an immense impact on wildlife, but on roads, houses, even the way we live. If this is what climate change looks and feels like then the one in a hundred year event is now happening every other year; and we will have to get used to it. The language, too, has changed. There is less talk of mitigation and adaptation - they’re still vital - and more about resilience.

It is easier for humans than wildlife to make such adjustment, but most species common to the Chilterns have very wide natural ranges and so can cope with what our, still moderate, climate can throw at them. But the rare species tend to be at the edge of their range or tolerance and are more susceptible to severe weather, especially when the changes are great and frequent. However, we tend to underestimate the ability of nature to adapt and survive. Natural systems have built in resilience, but only if left unfettered by man and given time. We’re not very good at either. Our challenge is to give nature both the space and time it needs to thrive.

It seems that, on the whole, the natural and built environment of the Chilterns is in reasonably good shape and, for the most part, improving. That is no accident - it has taken a great deal of effort over a long period to make it happen. In these financially and climatically challenging times we need to play the long game as there are going to be many ups and downs in the next few years. We also need to avoid self-inflicted injuries by preventing unwanted pests and diseases from arriving and thriving.

During the last 12 months the challenge of avoiding or minimising the immense damage that would be caused by High Speed 2 went on apace. It seems it is the will of Parliament that it will go ahead, and despite the efforts of the Board and many other environmental and community bodies, a highly damaging design will be used. The Parliamentary Select Committee received hundreds of petitions for a longer bored tunnel through the Chilterns - we must hope they and Parliament agree.

Despite our fears ash dieback has still not arrived in the Chilterns, but it is a case of when not if - we must use the short respite to prepare ourselves. It is rather ironic that as the economic fortunes of our woodlands improve due to the increasing demand for wood fuel, they are plagued by more pests and diseases than ever.

As I write this in early summer it is delightful to see so many of our streams still flowing - there are some upsides to one of the wettest and gloomiest winters on record.

Steve Rodrick, Chief Officer
Conservation and Land Use

The Hybrid Bill for HS2 had its second reading in Parliament and the much criticised Environmental Statement was released. The Board continues to challenge government to meet its obligations for this nationally-protected landscape.

An increasing number of pests and diseases affecting woodland are present or advancing towards the Chilterns. While a changing climate might be encouraging the spread of diseases, it is also clear that the range of many species is rapidly expanding. The mosaic of varied habitats found within the Chilterns, from the Thames in the south to the chalk hills north of Luton, means that the AONB is ideally placed to meet Lawton principles of linking and extending habitats to accommodate the movement of these species.

Proposals for the New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS) - replacing existing agri-environment and woodland grant schemes - have continued to be developed this year. There is real concern about the expected reduction in available funding for such schemes and the implications of reduced scheme coverage.

- The Chilterns Farm Advice Project, a joint initiative between the Board and the Environment Agency, was launched. It is helping farmers to achieve more sustainable land management practices that will assist their business and improve soil and water quality. Over 60 farmers attended two workshops and 12 farms received advisory visits from ADAS.

- Chilterns Commons Network activity - the Commons Day at Chorleywood Common was attended by over 40 people. The HLF-supported Commons Project funded practical work at sites including Galley and Warden Hills near Luton and Watlington Chalk Pit and ran 12 training workshops attended by 204 people.

- Over 40 people attended the Chalk Grassland Managers’ Day in July with a tour of sites in the Radnage Valley and a visit to Lodge Hill SSSI.

- Eight chalk grassland sites across the AONB benefited from a programme of practical scrub management.

- The National Trust hosted the annual Chilterns’ scrub bash at Watlington Hill in March, welcoming over 50 professionals and volunteers representing many organisations and groups from across the AONB. Significant areas of scrub were cleared to increase the area of open grassland.

- Open Farm Sunday on 9th June again proved very popular. Four events were promoted via the AONB website and supplied with AONB literature. The Conservation and Landscape Officer assisted with guided trailer rides at a very busy Shiplake Farm near Henley.

- Two hedge-laying training courses were held during the winter. Despite very wet conditions in January, the 11 trainees showed great tenacity to complete a 50m section at Sedges Farm near Great Missenden. A further 11 trainees laid 63m of hedge at Bosmore Farm near Henley in February. Our thanks to our expert trainers: Nigel Adams, John Blithe and Martin Wise.
Woodlands

The worst winter storms for 20 years caused damage to some Chiltern woodlands. The most serious impact was the loss of some large old landmark trees, such as oak and beech. This may be a sign of things to come as the impact of tree diseases, including ash dieback and acute oak decline, is yet to be felt in the Chilterns. The problem is made worse by the difficulty in establishing replacement young trees due to the pressures of increasing deer numbers and cumulative bark damage by grey squirrels which deforms or even kills the stripped tree. Young ash are probably the main healthy tree species in many woods, which makes the threat of ash dieback even more significant.

The Board’s primary means of promoting woodland management was by providing office accommodation and financial support to the Chiltern Woodlands Project. With this support the Project:

- Gave advice and assistance to 55 woodland owners covering 598ha of woodland. Developed long term woodland management plans and helped owners to organise practical work in their woods with contractors and volunteers.
- Reviewed National Trust management plans from 2002 for six groups of woodlands in the Chilterns covering 184ha and made suggestions for the future.
- Held five training days and guided walks on woodland archaeology attended by nearly 100 trainees.
- Gave guided walks in Bottom Wood and talks to other groups.
- Published one edition of News of the Woods which included the annual report.
- Organised the Chilterns Woodland Conference with 60 participants.
- Through the Leader LAG and Wood Fuel East steering group supported grants to woodland owners and businesses.
- Gave a presentation on the Chilterns Ancient Woodland Inventory at a Natural England workshop.

Box Woodland

The Chilterns is one of the few places in the country where the native box tree (*Buxus sempervirens*) grows wild in the countryside. The largest native box woodland in the country lies on the Chilterns escarpment above Great Kimble, Buckinghamshire. Since January 2013, the Chilterns Box Woodland Project has been working with local volunteers, landowners and others to improve the conservation and appreciation of box heritage. The Conservation Board secured a grant of nearly £80,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund for this project.

- Over 70 individuals assisted the project. A broad range of organisations are working with the project, including the Forestry Commission, European Box and Topiary Society, Society of Woodengravers, Chiltern Society, Royal Horticultural Society, National Trust and Kew Gardens. Volunteers contributed over 300 hours of their time in field survey, historic research and events.
- Two large box woodlands have been highlighted for the first time through field survey and, as a result, will benefit from conservation action. Over 300 records of box located in the Chilterns were gathered together into one dataset and detailed information is being developed for significant locations. Volunteers looked through historic maps, herbarium collections, diaries, newspapers and more to trace the history of box in the Chilterns landscape.
- Resources to help people carry out field survey and historic research were put onto new pages about box woodland on the AONB website.
- 300 people enjoyed ten events, including guided walks through box woodlands, a historic research workshop and music from a woodwind ensemble.
- In partnership with the Forestry Commission, Wendover Woods is being developed as a national demonstration site for box management.
- Research into the uses of box timber brought to light a varied and interesting cultural heritage relating to lace-making, printing, musical instruments, measuring instruments and more. There is a demand for Chilterns-grown box timber as craftspeople from the Chilterns and beyond are getting in touch. In partnership with landowners, foresters and woodworkers, the Project is developing guidance around sustainably managing Chilterns box for timber.

Musician Katherine Spencer playing a boxwood instrument in a grove of old box trees at Tring
2013-14 was a year of plenty, from the water perspective. The year began with many of the area’s rivers flowing better than they had since 2001. Indeed, some rivers like the R. Wye rose some way above their recognised sources. Although summer brought more typical conditions, the wet weather soon returned with a vengeance as a series of storms gripped the UK throughout December and January. The winter turned out to be the wettest on record for much of the UK and led to record groundwater levels, flooding and pollution from overloading of sewerage systems across the area.

- The Chilterns Chalk Streams Project (CCSP) was awarded The Bowland Award from the National Association of Areas of Outstanding Beauty. The Award is given annually to the project which has done most to demonstrate how Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty can be cared for.
- The CCSP supported the Wild Trout Trust and Environment Agency in holding a series of six habitat enhancement workshops in April and May on the rivers Ver, Gade, and Colne.
- In November, the CCSP, working with the Environment Agency and partners of Revive the Wye, held three habitat enhancement workshops on the R. Wye as part of Rivers Week. The workshops were sponsored by Thames Water. Over the three days 38 people received training and 320m of river was enhanced.
- Working with Bucks, Berks & Oxon Wildlife Trust, Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and the River Chess Association (RCA), the CCSP held a water vole surveying workshop for 40 volunteers in April. The CCSP supported the RCA in carrying out a survey of the R. Chess as part of the ongoing Water Vole Recovery Project on the river. The results revealed a decline in the population of 32%.
- With funding support from the Thames Rivers Trust, a riparian landowner advice leaflet for the River Chess was published by the CCSP in September.
- Working in partnership with the RCA the successful Trout in the Classroom project was expanded to five schools in the Chess Valley in 2014. All schools successfully reared trout from eggs, releasing them into the Chess between March and July.
- The CCSP, working with the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust’s Hertfordshire Living Rivers Project, secured £11,000 to set up a Riverfly training hub in 2014. Volunteers and professionals will be trained in monitoring river fly species to assess the health of chalk rivers.
- Seven visits were made to sites along four of the Chilterns’ rivers to give advice on river and riparian management and to assist with the development of enhancement schemes. Three talks were given to local groups.
- The Annual Forum of the CCSP was held on 28th September 2013 at Wooburn Green in the Wye Valley. 40 delegates attended. Speakers included writer and broadcaster Charles Rangeley Wilson, who talked about his book on the R. Wye: Silt Road: The Story of a Lost River.
- The Project participated in the launch of the Charter for Chalk Streams which was held on the banks of the R. Beane in Hertfordshire in May. Developed by the Angling Trust and the Salmon & Trout Association, the Charter calls for greater protection of England’s chalk streams and for an end to damaging levels of abstraction.

Habitat workshop on the River Ver
Commons

There are about 200 commons in the Chilterns, covering over 2,000 hectares, or 2.5% of the Chilterns AONB. 75% of them are smaller than 5ha, now often fragments of a once-larger common. Since its launch in September 2011, the Chilterns Commons Project has been reconnecting people with their local common. This £500,000, four-year project receives 75% of its funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, with volunteer time and contributions from 19 financial partners, including the Chiltern Society, making up the balance.

- The Commons Project funded practical work to restore valuable habitats and the enhancement of historic features on 11 commons. Repairing erosion scars on the Five Knolls Scheduled Monument at Dunstable Downs was the largest of these works, costing £17,500.
- The Project provided £29,500 in small grants to parish councils, volunteers and friends groups to purchase tools, fund practical work and run events about their common for the local community.
- The Project ran 12 training workshops which provided 204 training places for those who own and/or manage commons in the Chilterns, usually on a voluntary basis. Topics ranged from habitat management and species identification to providing ideas and tips for running family events on commons.
- In June, the project turned the Chiltern Open Air Museum into a common for a day and 1,400 people came to learn about the lives of Chiltern commoners. Visitors to Bricks, Bodgers and Broomsticks helped build a makeshift home by bashing chalk for the floor and enthusiastically daubing the wattle walls. They crafted willow hurdles, lace, candles, bodged broomstick handles, and made bricks. They auctioned off their family at the hiring fair, watched sheepdog demonstrations and listened to the wandering minstrel and storytellers.
- Children from West Wycombe Combined School made a film called West Wycombe Hill and Common - Past, Present and Future. The film discusses how use of West Wycombe Hill has changed over the centuries to meet the needs of local people. The children re-enacted dramatic events from the past, interviewed local experts and put forward their suggestions for potential future uses of the common. Local professional film makers Turtle Canyon Media and Alistair Will of Outdoor Culture helped with the project.
- Volunteers contributed more than 170 days of their time, worth over £20,000, on local projects instigated by the Commons Project. They researched local history and recorded oral histories; cleared scrub, restored ponds and improved access; surveyed wildlife; took photos of commons and much more.
- Working in partnership with local experts, the Project funded archaeological and invertebrate surveys at Moorend (a Site of Special Scientific Interest), a geological survey of Naphill common, and pond surveys on commons on the Ashridge Estate, at Cadmore End, Ibstone, Naphill and Nettlebed.
- Over 400 people attended 11 evening talks and guided walks about commons which were given to local groups across the Chilterns.
An increased number of planning applications for larger-scale renewable energy installations, particularly in the setting of the AONB, prompted the production of the Board's position statement on renewable energy, which was adopted in January 2014. This issue was also the focus of attention during the preparation of the new AONB Management Plan for 2014-2019.

The overall winner of the Chilterns Buildings Design Awards, offered jointly with the Chiltern Society, was a new dance studio at the Tring Park School for the Performing Arts in Hertfordshire. A highly commended award was given for a new build office at The Sawmills, Henley-on-Thames. A new boathouse, boatyard and two dwellings at Castle Wharf, Berkhamsted and a new house at Common Lane, Kings Langley each received commended awards. The Awards have been organised annually for the last 15 years.

Formal comments were submitted by the Board on 26 development plans and other documents ranging from national policy consultations to local development plan documents. 17 of the representations were in connection with documents prepared by planning authorities within the Chilterns AONB. Four submissions related to Neighbourhood Development Plans within the Chilterns and these are now starting to represent a significant additional level of engagement for the Board.

The Board was consulted on 133 planning applications and detailed comments were submitted on 25. The number of applications for renewable energy installations represented about 10% of those in connection with which the Board's comments were sought. Of those applications where decisions have been made 68% were determined in line with the Board's comments. This represents a decrease when compared to the long-term average rate of about 77% over the previous 12 years, though is an improvement on the previous year. The Board continues to monitor this.

The Board was involved in the provision of training and advice for local authorities, professional and educational bodies at events attended by 160 people. Four of the events attended focussed solely on the production of Neighbourhood Development Plans, and the production of these was also discussed at the two AONB Planning Forums held in the year.

The 11th annual Chilterns Planning Conference was held in Saunderton Lee near Princes Risborough and attended by 70 delegates from 38 different organisations. The theme was ‘A focus on recent changes in planning – what are the implications for the Chilterns?’ Delegates considered a number of issues including: planning law reform; Government plans for growth and the expected role of local enterprise partnerships; the experience of neighbourhood plans at a local level, and the pressures that are faced at a local level.

Planning and Development

New dance studios, Tring Park School for the Performing Arts, winner of the 2013 Chilterns Buildings Design Awards
Activities and Learning

The partnership with Natural England at the Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve and Field Farm in Lewknor continues to be very successful, with an increase in the number of visits by schools to learn more about farming and wildlife.

- The Board's work to provide public and educational events with Natural England's Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve and Field Farm in Lewknor continued. 17 schools enjoyed joint visits to the nature reserve and farm. Night-time events also proved popular: three summer evening glow worm walks attracted over 60 people while more than 200 visitors came to the Lantern Walk in October. These events brought the Board an income of over £650.

- Education activities were delivered at whole-day school events at Englefield Estate near Reading (two days) and Ewelme Park Estate near Henley (one day). Education consultancy work with primary schools and further / higher education establishments brought the Board a total of £405.

- The seventh Chilterns Countryside Festival at the Ashridge Estate, jointly organised by the Board and the National Trust, had over 140 stands promoting locally-produced food and crafts and local environmental organisations. Despite wet and windy weather, around 3,000 visitors attended, and a net income of over £4,000 was generated.

- 19 ‘Wildlife on the Move’ events were held in conjunction with Hobbs of Henley Ltd and Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway. Two new volunteer guides were trained.

- Red kite-related work included liaising with BBC Springwatch who filmed several red kite nests in Chinnor. The range of red kite-themed merchandise generated a net income of over £1,700 which was invested in wildlife awareness-raising work. Volunteer talks on red kites raised nearly £1,150.

Historic Environment

The Chilterns has a wealth of hillforts, with 20 known sites which include the prominent Ivinghoe Beacon and more hidden sites in wooded areas. There is huge interest in discovering more about these prehistoric features, partly prompted by the current national project to create an atlas of hillforts in the UK and Ireland. The Board set up a working group to put together a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for a project to research, conserve and raise awareness of hillforts in the Chilterns.

- A conference on the hillforts of the Chilterns was held in November 2013, which attracted over 80 delegates.

- The Chilterns Commons Project supported work to research, protect and promote historic features on many commons.

- The Board published Chilternsaeotna, a newsletter about the historic environment of the Chilterns in January 2014, with a special feature on hillforts.

- 322 copies of the booklet Famous People of the Chilterns were sold.

- A set of downloadable documents was added to the website highlighting the many links to royalty in the Chilterns.

- A grant from the Chilterns AONB Small Grants Fund supported a geophysics survey of parts of Coleman's Wood, an ancient woodland near Holmer Green.

Remains of Medmenham hillfort
Recreation and Access

The Cycle Chilterns project, which is a partnership project with the CTC, has made great progress, improving cycle facilities and encouraging both residents and visitors to use bicycles to get around. Its work to offer more to tourists tied in neatly with the activities of the Chilterns Tourism Network to increase the profile of the area as a short-break destination.

- The Cycle Chilterns project, led by Sara Randle, achieved the following:
  - An Electric Bike Network was developed in the Henley and Hambleden Valley area, with four hire points and five charge points. A launch was held at the Chiltern Valley Winery, one of the hire points, attended by tourism businesses, cycle clubs and the press.
  - An off-road children's cycle track was developed at Aston Hill, providing a much needed stepping-stone for beginners and young riders to get started.
  - A regular programme of led rides was offered at the six Chilterns gateway towns, aimed at beginners and families.
  - A series of self-guided brewery rides was held, starting at Great Missenden and Henley railway stations, linking in with the Chiltern Brewery and Lovibonds.
  - 37 children participated in cycle skills training.
  - 700 riders had fun on a portable cycle track which was taken to three County Shows.
  - Signage linking Henley-on-Thames, Great Missenden, Amersham and Chesham train stations to the Chilterns Cycleway was installed.

- The Chilterns Tourism Network (CTN) became formally constituted in January 2014, as a not-for-profit company, to secure its future and enable it to attract more funding. It has increased its membership to over 150 tourism businesses. The CTN's activities included:
  - Organised the Chilterns Big Weekend in March 2013, with over 20 businesses participating.
  - Helped organise the Chilterns Christmas Food Fair in December 2013 in partnership with the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre.
  - A networking event for tourism businesses, with updates on the various tourism initiatives taking place including Our Land. Hosted by De Vere in Latimer, attended by 35 businesses.
  - The popularity of the Chilterns Cycleway showed no sign of abating with 530 guidebooks sold and nearly 7,000 downloads of route maps.
  - A number of Chilterns Country Walks were updated and reprinted, including the Ashridge Drovers Walk and the Beacon View Walk.
  - The Board is an active member of The Ridgeway and Thames Path Management Group, and made a substantial contribution to shaping how the Ridgeway National Trail is managed in the future. In addition to this, the Board set up a Ridgeway Working Group focusing on the Chilterns Ridgeway, surveying the route and identifying what could be done to develop and promote The Ridgeway more actively in the Chilterns.
Information and Interpretation

Increasingly, information produced by the Board is made available in electronic form only. There is still a place for printed publications though, and this year saw the launch of a new booklet on famous people of the area which is a colourful and engaging addition to the Board’s range of retail products.

- There were 182,508 visits to the AONB website during the year, an average of 15,209 per month which was 17% up on the previous year. Over 54,000 leaflets and other publications were downloaded.
- The AONB Twitter and Facebook accounts were frequently updated and increased in popularity by over 60%, with 2,049 Twitter followers and 358 Facebook likes by the end of the year.
- A new booklet on Famous People of the Chilterns was published and promoted.
- 13,000 each of two editions of the Board’s magazine Chalk and Trees were distributed.
- 92 delegates representing 34 organisations attended the Chilterns Annual Forum in November 2013 at Radnage Village Hall near Stokenchurch.
- Over 34,000 walking, cycling and general information leaflets were distributed via libraries, information centres, visitor attractions and at events.
- The Board had a stand at four major local shows during the summer.
- 25 press releases and two letters were sent to the local media, generating at least 100 press articles and mentions and nine radio interviews. Nine articles written by the Board were published in local and national media.
- Eight electronic Board newsletters were circulated.
- The number of visits to the Visit Chilterns website, launched in 2012, more than doubled, reaching 5,000 per month by March.
- 50 Chilterns businesses joined the South East Protected Landscapes Sustainable Tourism Project, titled Our Land. Nine of them attended two workshops on photography and writing in November 2014.
- The Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2014-2019 was finalised and designed.
- The Board continued to support the National Association for AONBs.

Horse riders on the Ridgeway National Trail near Ivinghoe
**Financial Statement 2013/2014**

This report is based on the Financial Statement approved by the Board on 26th June 2014. The Audit Commission had not completed its audit at the time of publication of this Annual Review. A copy of the auditor’s report will be available from the Board when it is published and will be posted on the Board’s website.

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<td>Recreation and Access</td>
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The expenditure includes VAT which the Board is not able to reclaim.

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<td>(1) Includes members’ allowances, personnel and legal costs</td>
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<td>(2) Includes premises, office costs, IT, and finance charges</td>
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<tr>
<td>(3) Local authority contributions to core costs</td>
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<td>(4) Includes local authority and others contributions to project</td>
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**Small Grants**

The Conservation Board no longer operates a Sustainable Development Fund but it is still keen to support high quality projects which enhance the Chilterns and people’s enjoyment and understanding of the area. It distributed a number of small grants in 2013-14 to projects across the area.

Examples of projects that received grants include:

- £1,000 to Bedford Creative Arts for a community project to build a large kite to celebrate the power of the elements up on Dunstable Downs.
- £682 to Tolhurst Organic near Whitchurch-on-Thames for a local food festival.
- £300 for a survey of Cockpit Hole pond in Great Kingshill to assess its condition as a home for aquatic plants and animals several years after a major restoration project.
- £1,000 towards the planting of nearly 1km of hedgerow at Wentworth Fields County Wildlife site near Whipsnade to encourage native wildlife including the hazel dormouse.

*A scarecrow at Tolhurst Organic’s Squash and Pumpkin Festival near Whitchurch*
Board member John Willson outside the hovel built at the Commons Project’s ‘Bricks Bodgers and Broomsticks’ event at the Chiltern Open Air Museum in June 2013

CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2013/2014

**Chairman**
Mr Mike Fox
Cllr Mr I Reay

**Vice Chairman**
Nominated by Local Authorities
Cllr Mr B Bendyshe-Brown
Cllr Mr I Reay*
Cllr Mr D Nimmo-Smith*
Cllr Mr C Richards+
Cllr Mr J Ryman+*
Cllr Mr D Collins
Cllr Mr D Taylor
Cllr Mr D Barnard+
Cllr Mrs M Mustoe*
Cllr Mr A Walters+*
Cllr Mrs L Lloyd
Cllr Mr B Norman+
Cllr Mr R Metcalfe

Appointed by the Secretary of State
Dr H Barrett-Mold*  Mr Mike Fox*+* 
Mrs B Kirkham+ Dr S Mortimer
Mr R Payne*  Mr J Willson+ 
Mrs H Tuffs*+

Elected by Parish Councils
Mrs M Goldsmith  Buckinghamshire
Mrs S Judges*  Buckinghamshire
Mrs B Wallis+  Buckinghamshire
Mrs M Jarrett+  Hertfordshire
Mr J Griffin*  Oxfordshire
Mrs J Wells  Oxfordshire

Executive Committee
Board members marked with an asterisk *
Mike Stubbs (National Trust) and Gill Gowing (Advisor to the Chiltern Society) were co-opted.

Planning Committee
Board members marked with a +

**OFFICERS**

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<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<td>Chief Officer</td>
<td>Steve Rodrick</td>
<td>Conservation and Landscape Officer</td>
<td>Neil Jackson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance Officer</td>
<td>Chris Smith</td>
<td>Chalk Streams Officer</td>
<td>Allen Beechey</td>
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<td>Planning Officer</td>
<td>Colin White</td>
<td>Commons Project Officer</td>
<td>Rachel Sanderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Countryside Officer</td>
<td>Kath Daly</td>
<td>Box Woodland Project Officer</td>
<td>Sarah Wright</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities and Learning Officer</td>
<td>Cathy Rose</td>
<td>Administration Officer</td>
<td>Donna Webb</td>
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<td>Information and Interpretation Officer</td>
<td>Claire Forrest</td>
<td>H R Advisor</td>
<td>Sally Chapman</td>
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<td>Strategic Access Officer</td>
<td>Annette Venters</td>
<td>Clerk to the Board</td>
<td>Deirdre Hansen</td>
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Caring for the Chilterns
There are 46 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the UK and they show huge diversity, from the Isles of Scilly to the extensive moors of the North Pennines. The National Association for AONBs is an independent body which promotes the family of AONBs in England and Wales.

**THE CHILTERN - AN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

The Chilterns was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1965, in recognition of its beautiful landscape which is amongst the finest in the country. The Chilterns AONB covers 833 sq kms and stretches from Goring in south Oxfordshire through Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire to Hitchin in Hertfordshire. It has a population of 80,000.

The primary duties of the Chilterns Conservation Board are to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB and, in so doing, to increase the understanding and enjoyment by the public of its special qualities and to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities.

**Chilterns Conservation Board**

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Photos supplied by: © Conservation Board, Chris Smith, Clive Ormonde and John Morris.
Cover photos (front) - Cricket at Bradenham. Bricks, bodgers and broomsticks event. Conservation work on River Wye.

**Acknowledgements**
The Board would like to thank all the volunteers that contributed to its work during 2013/2014.