

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

(Registered Charity No. 1040076)

www.murraydownlandtrust.org.uk

FIFTEENTH REPORT

For the Year ending 31 March 2009

The Trust is a Company Limited by Guarantee
(no. 2873432) incorporated on 19 November 1993

**The Trust's registered office is c/o
Messrs. Jones Avens, Piper House, 4 Dukes Court
Bognor Road, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 8FX**

The Trust's address for correspondence is:

UPPER CRANMORE, HEYSHOTT, WEST SUSSEX, GU29 0DL

The Trust is active in both Sussex and Hampshire.

THE OBJECTS OF THE TRUST

The objects are set out in Clause 3 of the Trust's Memorandum of Association as being:

'for the public benefit, the preservation, protection, development and improvement of areas of land of botanical, zoological, ecological, archaeological, historical or landscape interest or of natural beauty, by the acquisition by gift, purchase, or lease or management by arrangement of downland, grassland, fenland, woodlands, agricultural land, common land and any other land whatsoever.'

RESERVES

The Directors have set out their short and medium term objectives as managing small areas of chalk downland in Sussex and Hampshire, and so establishing a group or 'chain' of reserves. The five reserves under management at 31 March 2009 are at Buriton Down (Hampshire), 'Under Beacon', the 'Devil's Jumps', Heyshott Down and Heyshott Escarpment (West Sussex). The Heyshott sites comprise part of a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest. The Heyshott Down and the 'Devil's Jumps' sites contain Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

The Directors and Trustees who held office during the period of this report were:

Gerard Charles Ryan	Bayleaves, Bepton, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9RB. (Retired Barrister).
Arthur Stride	123, Sussex Road, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU31 4LB. (Retired Marine Geologist).
Simon Charles Ward	The Estate Office, West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0QZ. (Chartered Surveyor).
Claire Norwood	6, Pains Road, Southsea, Hampshire, PO5 1HE. (Chartered Accountant).
John Girdlestone Murray	Upper Cranmore, Heyshott, West Sussex, GU29 0DL. (Retired Director).
Michael Edwards	Lea-side, Carron Lane, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9LB. (Ecologist).
David Richard Petche	18, Kimbers, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 2JL. (Retired Consultant).

Mr. Gerard Ryan and Dr. Arthur Stride were re-appointed at the Annual General Meeting held on 12 October 2006.

Mr. Michael Edwards and Mrs. Claire Norwood were re-appointed at the Annual General Meeting held on 18 October 2007.

Mr. John Murray and Mr. Simon Ward were re-appointed at the Annual General Meeting held on 16 October 2008.

Mr. David Petche was appointed on 16 October 2008.

Company Secretary and Treasurer

Mrs. Claire Norwood (address as above).

PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

During the year, the Trust benefited from the knowledge and professional advice of the following specialists:

Miss Ann Griffiths BSc ALI MIEEM	Ecology
Mr. M. Heymann FRICS	Land Appraisal
Mr. Mark Taylor MA MIFA	Archaeology
Mr. Richard Williamson	Reserves Management
Honorary Solicitor Mr. Martin Asscher	Messrs. Johnson and Clarence, Market Place, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9NW.

Reporting Accountant

Goodale Mardle, Chartered Accountants, Grange House, Grange Road, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9LS, have kindly agreed to act as Reporting Accountant in relation to the Trust's financial affairs.

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank plc	5, The Square, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 3HL
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OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Membership Secretary

Mr. Martin Harbord	Instow, 110 Heath Road, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU31 4EL.
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Minutes Secretary

Mrs. Jacqui Middleton	4, Down Close, Heyshott, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 0DM.
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Annual Report Editor

Dr. Jack Izatt	39, Harberton Crescent, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 5NY.
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INTRODUCTION

It is fifteen years since the Murray Downland Trust was set up, a period of time which has allowed the Trust to make a significant impact on the condition of our five reserves. Their present state shows the value of sustained management using a combination of contractors, financed by the generosity of grant-giving bodies, and unpaid work by volunteers, who have continued to make vital contributions to the care of the reserves, gaining great satisfaction from their achievements while benefiting from the varied forms of exercise which are an inescapable part of their labours.

As the Chairman explains in his report, the Trustees have revised the management plans for the reserves to take account of present circumstances and the Trust's accumulated experience.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

John Murray

This year has seen a momentous change in the direction the Trust has taken over the management of our reserves. Following the talk at the previous year's Annual General Meeting by Mike Edwards, the Trustees took the decision to stop annual brush cutting of the reserves and to concentrate, instead, on grazing by sheep or cattle with the objective of improving the turf and reducing the re-growth of scrub. The resulting changes in the management and operation of the reserves are considerable and therefore are described in more detail in the following report.

A review of the last year's activities has shown the Trust to be in good health. At the last Annual General Meeting, Paul Toynton gave a very interesting talk on 'Tadpoles and Tank Traps' which demonstrated that military training on Salisbury Plain was not detrimental to wildlife and flowers and in fact was very beneficial. Our spring talk was given by James Power on 'The Work of the Sussex Wildlife Trust' and in particular their recent purchase of some 20 acres of Graffham Common. In May, a butterfly walk was arranged with Neil Hulme, Chairman of Butterfly Conservation, Sussex branch, on the Heyshott Escarpment to show the Duke of Burgundy, Green Hairstreak, Dingy and Grizzled Skippers. Some 40 people attended and were shown all four butterflies, which was very satisfying. In July, a party of members was conducted round Kingley Vale reserve by Richard Williamson with all his usual energy and enthusiasm.

The two major events, the three day plant sale and the West Dean Garden Event were again very successful. We are indebted to Gerard Ryan for his efforts in organising the very profitable plant sales and to Simon Ward and the Trustees of the Edward James Foundation for allowing us the opportunity of attracting new members to the Trust at West Dean.

I would like to thank Roger Mullenger for his work in managing the Under Beacon Reserve and Naomi Barnett for visiting and keeping the Trustees up to date with the state of the Devil's Jumps Reserve. The Trust is indebted to them for their enthusiasm and hard work. Also to be thanked are the 'back-room staff' – Jacqui Middleton, who has taken our minutes and distributed them to the Trustees, Martin Harbord, who keeps track of our membership and updates our web site, and Jack Izatt, our editor, who produces the Annual General Report. Without them, the job of the chairman would be so much more difficult.

It goes without saying that the Trust's affairs would fail without the support, advice and wisdom given by my fellow Trustees and Directors, Mike Edwards, Claire Norwood, Gerard Ryan and Simon Ward. A very big thank you is owed to them for seeing through the new management plan over this last year.

Finally, I would like to say a special thank you to Arthur Stride who has been a Trustee and Director since the Trust's inception. He has been our site manager for Buriton for the last fifteen years and also, very successfully, our fund and grant coordinator. Arthur has resigned from the Trust because he and his wife have now moved to Dorset; we wish them well in their new life.

David Petche has agreed to take over the reins of Arthur Stride and I would like to welcome him as a Trustee and Director.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW MANAGEMENT PLAN

John Murray

The first consequence of the Trustee's new management plan was that alternative means of funding would become available. With this in mind Bruce Middleton undertook to apply to Defra for Higher Level Entry Scheme grants for all our reserves. In this he was successful which gave us the means to approach possible sources of grazing animals. At the same time a decision was taken not to apply for organic status payments as this would have severely restricted our management plans for the control of land outside the grazing area. Bruce Middleton also applied for the Trust to take over the Single Farm Payment Grant for grazing the reserves. The Trust is indeed very grateful to him for taking on the very onerous task of obtaining Defra grants.

A second consequence of the new plan was that safe grazing required the removal of some yew trees. Therefore, the Trust applied for a grant of £5000 from the South Downs Society to remove a number of single yew trees from compartment 3 in Heyshott Escarpment reserve. The application by Arthur Stride was successful and we are indeed very grateful to the South Downs Society for their generous grant. The effect of removing these yew trees has been to increase the grazing area by approximately

25%. The remaining two groups of yew trees will be temporarily fenced during the period when the animals are grazing. A related requirement is water for the animals and so the next action is to connect a water supply and tank from the Cowdray main to the top of the Downs in compartment 3 so that water can be piped to that compartment and also to compartment 10 (both in Heyshott Escarpment Reserve).

To understand the grazing requirements of the Trust, it should be noted that we have two areas, Under Beacon and compartment 17 in Heyshott Down, which need to be grazed heavily in the summer months if we hope to bring back traditional downland turf. This will probably take at least five years to achieve. The remainder of the reserves, with the exception of the Devil's Jumps, will need conservation grazing to enhance the turf we already have. That means controlled winter grazing, in the main, with some early summer grazing in selected areas to keep scrub in check. In the case of the Devil's Jumps reserve, as a consequence of the proposal by the Edward James Foundation Trustees to fell the wood on the western edge and increase the site by approximately 4.5 acres, the objective is to manage a return to chalk heath habitat. This can also be achieved by grazing and we are in the process of making appropriate arrangements.

RESERVE REPORTS

Buriton Down Reserve

Arthur Stride

The annual clearance of scrub from the grassland, and recording of butterflies, occupied our volunteers for a total of 285 hours during the year. Much of the work was done by five people, with valuable help from five others.

Spring cinquefoil, white dead nettle and snowdrops were seen for the first time, while the colourful nettle-leaved bellflower is one of the more obvious plants to have become more widespread. The search for the clustered bellflower in mid-reserve needs to be continued, as well as for the round-headed rampion, known from both sides of the eastern fence near its southern end.

The pulling up of hemp agrimony plants from much of the grassland during the past three summers (as well as limited removals in earlier years) has reduced their dominance there. Those plants pulled up by the roots in June and July were noticeably short and thin, compared to the sturdy plants present along the southern and western edges of the grassland, where none has ever been pulled up. It seems likely that the short plants had probably grown from seeds, so that in subsequent years there should be progressively fewer to be removed.

The gradual reduction in the abundance of hemp agrimony plants and tall grasses has unfortunately allowed dewberry plants to grow taller and to spread (as commented in

the last year's report). Indeed, a patch of such plants located in mid-reserve was found to be so dense as to have almost suppressed the shorter and choicer underlying plants. This patch of dewberry was, therefore, cut in mid-June and cut again in mid-August (as a single summer cut had been found by previous experience to provide little long-term benefit). The arisings were removed. By late February there had been no obvious re-growth. For comparative purposes part of the dewberry patch had been wiped with Roundup in early to mid-May to good effect. In 2009 it will be seen whether the two summer cuts will suffice to control the dewberry. The preferred method will then be applied to two other sizeable patches of the plant (located further north in the grassland) that has been revealed by the winter cut. An alternative method of controlling the dewberry, by grazing the whole of the grassland in May, has not been tried because of the inevitable loss of flowers that make the grassland so colourful in summer.

In October the grassland was grazed for 360 sheep days by the Bray family's flock. The remaining growth was then cut by a contractor in November. Volunteers finished raking up and burning the arisings in February and they also removed a sizeable mass of blackthorn, bramble and old man's beard that had grown outwards from the spinney during the past fifteen years, as it was masking valuable grassland. Whether the removal of the bushes will be a disadvantage to the butterflies remains to be found out. The Bray family kindly removed two tree trunks that had fallen over the western fence.

As usual, scrub was removed from the narrow strips of grassland that lay just beyond the reserve's eastern fence, especially from around the two naturally-occurring junipers, which are rare in the western part of the South Downs.

The butterflies that were seen in 2008 included Meadow Brown, Common Blue, Brimstone, Comma, Small Copper, Dark Green Fritillary, Gatekeeper, Peacock, Red Admiral, Ringlet, Large and Small White, Marbled White, Large and Small Skipper and Speckled Wood. Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers were the most abundant of the 16 species recorded between April and August. Slow worms and rabbits were also seen.

I have enjoyed managing this reserve during its first 15 years in the company of such hard-working and enthusiastic volunteers. Overall 52 people have helped to turn a badly scrubbed-up piece of old downland into a flower-rich meadow that is a pleasure to see. The responsibility has now passed to Michael Jacobs, in conjunction with David Petche, both of whom are familiar with the reserve.

Butterfly Recorder: John Phillips

Under Beacon Reserve

Roger Mullenger

During the summer, volunteers from the South Downs Rangers helped with removal of ragwort and hemp agrimony. The ragwort has become much less of a problem, but still needs to be controlled to avoid re-infestation. Later, in March, a section of the scrub

was cut down and the brash used to protect the stumps with a view to gradual regeneration. This process will continue, on a shelter belt, over several years to provide high quality habitat. The photograph on page 16 shows both cattle and brushings.

For an extended period in the autumn and winter we had some Shetland cattle who browsed the remains of the summer grasses and trampled some of rougher areas. However, even with these measures, there will be an on-going challenge over the next few years to control some of the weed and bramble infestations.

The fence posts of the original part of the reserve need to be replaced and that will be done this year, as will the mowing of bramble so that sheep can be used for grazing to keep the grass short.

My thanks go to the South Downs Ranger Volunteers who have continued to provide great help at this reserve and to Mr. and Mrs. Chew whose cattle grazed the reserve.

The Devil's Jumps Reserve

Naomi Barnett

The season started off with the reserve in good condition, as sheep had grazed intensively during the previous winter. Two yew trees were cut down so that it was safe for cattle to graze in future as an alternative to sheep.

During the year a proposal was made by the South Downs Joint Committee to remove a number of trees including red cedars on the western side of the reserve, back to the open ride, to extend its open aspect and to return the area to its original chalk heath habitat. A recommendation for the removal of the trees was agreed between the West Dean Estate, the South Downs Joint Committee and the Murray Downland Trust to be implemented over a two to three year period. However, due to the worsening economic outlook, it was agreed to put the felling on hold. Subsequently the Estate gave its permission to commence the work in 2009.

Because it was such a wet summer, the reserve became very overgrown, and as previous attempts to curb the spread and density of bracken appeared to have failed, it was agreed with the South Downs Joint Committee that the bracken should be treated with Azulox, in July, to restrain its growth. Grazing was arranged for the winter of 2008-2009 but, unfortunately, due to reasons beyond the Trust's control, this did not take place. Therefore, a contractor was employed to cut down the vegetation and this was completed by the end of March. Further discussions are taking place to obtain a more reliable supplier of grazing animals.

During my regular visits, there have been more walkers and family groups visiting this reserve than I can ever remember. They were all enjoying the beautiful views as well as exploring this ancient tumuli site.

Heyshott Reserves (Heyshott Down and Heyshott Escarpment)

John Murray

The major task was to employ a contractor to increase the area behind the Camel's Humps for potential grazing as the task of cutting and raking the area is very labour intensive. This freed up extra time to tackle a much more important task during the winter.

Following the visit of Lynn Fomison and Neil Hulme, when a new site for Duke of Burgundy butterflies just off the chalky track above the second sign board and over the stile was identified, the Chichester Volunteers were given the task of cutting the scrub and hazel to form a wide avenue from Chalky Lane to the bowl. Volunteers then widened the footpath up to the stile to increase the sheltered area for flower growth, particularly as green fly orchids were found on the north side of the path. A further area of scrub was also cut back in the bowl area. As in previous years, John Glover with his chain saw helped the volunteers to cut the large scrub down so that it could be handled onto the bonfire. Further work will be done on the site to clear the northern side of the area of scrub. The South Downs Joint Committee very kindly opened up an old track to give us the potential for a vehicle and animal access from Chalky Lane.

Grazing of compartment 3 has been a problem to organise because of the presence of so many yew trees. Following consultation with Roger Matthews of Natural England, about 30 of these trees have been cut down and removed. Temporary fencing around the remaining yews will be erected so that animals can graze safely.

Because of the importance of the site, Dick Jones was contracted to carry out a spider survey comparing the numbers and range of different species found against previous records for the site. A most comprehensive and detailed report has been produced and an extract from the survey has been included in this annual report

We had a very interesting morning walk in May, with some 40 people in attendance, led by Neil Hulme. The objective was to find the Duke of Burgundy, Green Hair Streak, and Dingy and Grizzled Skippers on the escarpment. As remarked in the Chairman's report, all four were found in a very short time, together with a number of different wild bees found by Mike Edwards. Most of the party were totally unaware of the tremendous diversity to be found on this site.

We are indebted to our volunteers who put in 262 hours over twenty one working parties. Again the Chichester Volunteers have been supportive of our clearance plans which are designed to increase the attractiveness of the new area on this reserve for the Duke of Burgundy butterfly.

As noted in the Heyshott Report, a survey of the spiders in Heyshott Escarpment was carried out by Dick Jones in the summer of 2008. His full report is too long to include here but the following extract and the photographs on page 16 and 17 are intended to give an idea of its scope and detail.

The summers of 2006 and 2007 were cool, windy and wet; such adverse conditions have marked affects on both insects and spiders. Populations are reduced and animals are often smaller, and produce fewer offspring. 2008 followed a similar pattern, with a promising start (when most of my surveying was done), then a deterioration. The current list of spiders now stands at 101 species; 24 of which were added or confirmed by adults on this survey. One additional harvestman was added, making a total of 7 species, although only two specimens were actually seen during the survey. 41 spider species, two Pseudoscorpions (none was found in 2008), and five harvestmen were not re-discovered. It should be borne in mind that my previous records were made by mostly annual visits over a period of 22 years – not in a single year like the survey.

Since the latter years of the 20th century there has been a reduction of spider populations, drastic in some of the more conspicuous species. This has probably been the result of a series of extremely hot periods in the summer, as it has been most evident on exposed heaths. But recent extended periods of summer rain inhibit insect movement, and since spiders are 'sit and wait' predators, depending on an abundant supply of insects, they get few chances to feed. In the same period there has also been an abrupt surge in management on nearly all the sites familiar to me, resulting in many valuable habitats disappearing. Because my survey was confined to the open grassland and the isolated trees, the range of habitats was more restricted than the site offers in total, with its large proportion of woodland. However, more invertebrates occupy sunny tree foliage than they will on a similar tree buried deep in woodland. The north-facing aspect might also inhibit species diversity, as it remains in shade for the winter months. The possible advantage of the site in excessively hot summers will only exist if sufficient shade is provided, as the short turf can still heat up significantly.

I was not expecting an abundance of spiders following 2007, and the open areas confirmed this by the general scarcity of hunting and weaving spiders, as well as of insects, with the notable exception on 20 May of diverse spider species and of the many juvenile crickets in the 'Hazel Hollow'. I was puzzled to find this area much less well occupied in June, and that the Yews had almost emptied between 6 and 20 May. Spiders are quite tightly bound to a particular habitat, exemplified by ground, field, bush and tree layers, although I expect that a few birds foraging amongst the branches will cause arboreal species to drop to safety and possibly stay there briefly if they encounter prey. However, it was unusual to find so many arboreal species in the field layer, and on so many occasions. I suspect the windy weather in May and June may have been responsible for this.

A recent appraisal of arachnids associated with ancient woodland (Bee, 2008) suggests that trees in a wood pasture or parkland setting are more valuable than isolated trees. These terms are not defined, but I imagine 'isolated' means an ancient tree in the middle of a large agricultural field, and that Heyshott Escarpment might be considered as just outside 'wood pasture', but the isolated trees here are probably just close enough to allow invertebrate distribution.

MARTIN (TIM) HEYMANN (1926 – 2009)
Land Appraisal Adviser to the Murray Downland Trust

Simon Ward

Tim started life in a Hampshire village and went to school at West Meon and later to Charterhouse in Surrey. On leaving school he joined the Navy where he saw service in the Mediterranean on a Mine Sweeper, spent time in Malta and had the unpleasant task of trying to stop the landing of Jews in Palestine.

After demobilisation Tim joined a firm of Land Agents in Petersfield as an Articled Pupil. This work suited his love of the land, farming and forestry, and those three years laid the foundation of his career. In 1952 he flew to Uganda on a three year contract for a firm of Surveyors. After the contract expired he stayed on as an independent, and lived there for 16 years meeting, in 1958, his future wife, Angela, who had gone to Uganda on a year's contract for Uganda Shell. They married in Namirembe Cathedral and stayed for 10 years.

Tim returned to England in 1968, due to the unsettled political situation in Uganda, and at the age of 41 took up his position at West Dean as Agent to Edward James and the recently formed Edward James Foundation. His job as Agent was quite an undertaking. He was not only responsible for the then uncertain maintenance and finances of the Foundation and the West Dean Estate but also for the financial care of Edward James himself. The latter was probably the more demanding; Edward was wandering the world, forever running out of money. With Edward's chaotic financial history, he could not get a credit card and ignored the depleted balance of his current account! Tim somehow was expected to and did get money to Edward. Only Edward's death in 1984 brought relief from this aspect.

Tim's interests were wide and varied. He loved cricket and was an MCC member, visiting Lords every year until the last two years of his life. He also loved jazz, reading, walking, history, gardening, travelling and not least people. He was a 'People Person' who always said that his style of management was MBWA (Management By Walking About). He never engaged with computers and felt sorry for those who were obliged to do so.

He was a member of the Heyshott and Devil's Jumps Reserves Management Committee from the early days, then under the auspices of the Society of Sussex Downsmen and the chairmanship of the redoubtable Betty Murray, retaining a keen

interest in the Trust after his retirement from West Dean in 1991 and latterly supporting it as the Trust's Land Appraisal Adviser.

Tim had several other professional associations while working at West Dean; he was a founder member of the Land Trusts' Association, an Executive Committee member of the Charities' Property Association, and a long time supporter of the Royal Forestry Society. He spent many years as a Justice of the Peace, serving on local benches, was a member of the West Sussex Deer Management Committee (of which he was Chairman for several years) and served on both the West Dean Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council.

Tim was a kind, courteous and very professional man with considerable integrity. He will be very sadly missed by many.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Claire Norwood

I am pleased to report on the financial statements of the Murray Downland Trust for the year ended 31 March 2009.

The full statutory accounts show that the income for the year was £25,868 (£65,857:2008, which included a donation of £50,000) and expenditure totaled £14,821 (£14,956:2008). The breakdown of income and expenditure is shown on the Statement of Financial Activities on page 3 of the accounts and there is further detail in the supporting notes. As usual the large majority of expenditure related to work on the reserves and administrative expenses were kept to a minimum. In summary, the accounts show a deficit of £30,722, but this includes a decrease in the value of investments of £41,769, without which the surplus was £11,047.

The Trust was also fortunate to receive the following grants and donations in the year which were gratefully received:-

South Downs Society – Heyshott	£4,880
Four Winds Trust – Spider Survey	£ 400

The accounts were reviewed by Alain Mardle of Goodale Mardle, Chartered Accountants of Midhurst and we are grateful to them for not charging a fee for this review.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Trustees wish to thank the following for permission to publish photographs: Dick Jones (3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10), Roger Mullenger (1), K. MacLeod (7, 8) and Simon Ward (2).

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Figure 1: Cows on Under Beacon, brashings behind on right.

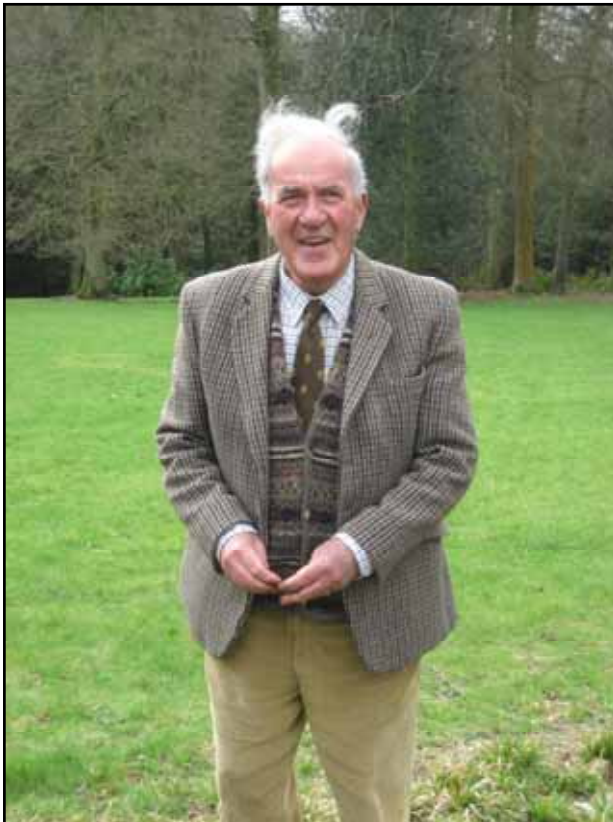


Figure 2: The late Martin Haymann

Figure 3: *Agelena labyrinthica*

Figure 4: *Amphaena accentuata*

Figure 5: *Misumena vatia*

Figure 6: *Pardosa nigriceps*





Figures 7 and 8: Richard Williamson and Members visiting Kingley Vale in August 2008.



Figure 9: *Stemonyphantes lineatus*

Figure 10: *Treganathida Metellina*

Figure 11: *Ceolotes terrestris*

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Trust is open to everyone who wants the satisfaction of making a personal contribution towards the preservation of these small but vital areas of traditional downland which are rich in plants and animals, but which are under the relentless threat of extinction. Sponsorship of particular sites or species would also be welcome, if feasible, and there is always practical work to be done in the countryside for members who wish to be more closely involved. No special knowledge is required.

It is possible to become a subscribing member or a working member, though there is nothing to prevent a subscribing member from working on the reserves! A working member pays a reduced subscription in return for a commitment to work for a limited period each year on one or other of the Trust's reserves. The simple basis of substituting work for funds is that for a reduction in subscription from £25 to £10 a member commits himself or herself to 15 hours work a year.

Members will be kept informed of the Trust's acquisitions, programmes and progress on a regular basis. Except when conservation needs require an area to remain temporarily undisturbed, access to the Trust's sites will be available at all times. Where land managed by the Trust remains in private hands, the Trust encourages owners to allow public access, if it is reasonable to do so.

WEBSITE

The Trust's website is: www.murraydownlandtrust.org.uk.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Individual, family, working and also corporate members are welcome.

Individual subscribing member	£25
Individual working member	£10
Individual working member under 25	£5
Family membership (please identify all those included)	£40
Family membership for two or more working members	£16
Corporate bodies and unincorporated associations	£50 minimum
Life membership, aged under 65	£600
Life membership, aged 65 and over	£300

Membership applications should be sent to Martin Harbord, Membership Secretary, Instow, 110 Heath Road, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU31 4EL, cheques made payable to The Murray Downland Trust.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

The Membership Secretary keeps contact and membership details of members on a database on his computer. This information is held solely for Murray Downland Trust purposes, and is not divulged to other organisations or individuals. Members who are happy to receive subscription information by e-mail should send their e-mail address to Martin Harbord at mjharbord@tiscali.co.uk. Any member who has any concerns about these arrangements should write to Martin Harbord at 110, Heath Road, Petersfield, Hampshire GU31 4EL.

Charity Registration No. 1040076

Company Registration No. 2873432 (England and Wales)

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

DIRECTORS' REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

**THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Directors	Gerard Charles Ryan Arthur Stride Simon Charles Ward Claire Norwood David Petche John G Murray Mike Edwards
Secretary	Claire Norwood
Charity number	1040076
Company number	2873432
Principal address	Upper Cranmore Heyshott West Sussex GU29 0DL
Registered office	Piper House 4 Dukes Court Bognor Road Chichester West Sussex PO19 8FX
Independent examiner	Alain Mardle FCA Greens Court West Street Midhurst West Sussex GU29 9NQ
Bankers	Lloyds TSB Bank plc 5 The Square Petersfield Hampshire GU32 3HL

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) CONTENTS

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Independent examiner's report	A2
Statement of financial activities	A3
Summary income and expenditure account	A4
Balance sheet	A5
Notes to the accounts	A6 - 11

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

The directors present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the trust's governing document, the Companies Act 1985 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005.

Structure, governance and management

The trust is a company limited by guarantee (no. 2873432) incorporated on 19 November 1993 and is a registered charity (no. 1040076). The trust's objects are the preservation, protection, development and improvement of land of specific interest or natural beauty. The trust achieves its objects with the help of volunteers and paid contractors as necessary.

The directors who served during the year were:

Gerard Charles Ryan

Arthur Stride

Simon Charles Ward

Claire Norwood

David Petché

(Appointed 16 October 2008)

John G Murray

Mike Edwards

None of the directors has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the directors are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The charity is administered by a board of 6 directors/trustees who meet approximately 8 times a year. Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charity has the power to make any investments which the trustees see fit.

The directors have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Objectives and activities

See Chairman's Report and reserve reports.

Achievements and performance

Financial review

See Treasurer's Report.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to six to twelve month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

Asset cover for funds

Note 16 sets out an analysis of the assets attributable to the various funds and a description of the trusts. These assets are sufficient to meet the charity's obligations on a fund by fund basis.

On behalf of the board of directors

John G Murray

Director

Dated: 18 June 2009

**THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST**

I report on the accounts of the trust for the year ended 31 March 2009, which are set out on pages 3 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of directors and examiner

The directors, who also act as trustees for the for the charitable activities of The Murray Downland Trust, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The directors consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1993, the 1993 Act, and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- (i) examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- (ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention :

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - (ii) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities;have not been met; or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Alain Mardle FCA

Greens Court
West Street
Midhurst
West Sussex
GU29 9NQ

Dated: 19 August 2009

**THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2009 £	Total 2008 £
<u>Incoming resources from generated funds</u>					
Voluntary income	2	4,871	400	5,271	53,836
Investment income	3	12,192	-	12,192	10,021
		<u>17,063</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>17,463</u>	<u>63,857</u>
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4	-	4,880	4,880	2,000
Other incoming resources	5	3,525	-	3,525	-
		<u>20,588</u>	<u>5,280</u>	<u>25,868</u>	<u>65,857</u>
<u>Resources expended</u>					
Charitable activities					
Conservation of chalk downland		8,273	6,298	14,571	14,691
Governance costs		250	-	250	265
		<u>8,523</u>	<u>6,298</u>	<u>14,821</u>	<u>14,956</u>
Total resources expended		8,523	6,298	14,821	14,956
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		12,065	(1,018)	11,047	50,901
Other recognised gains and losses (Losses)/gains on investment assets		(41,769)	-	(41,769)	(24,613)
Net movement in funds		(29,704)	(1,018)	(30,722)	26,288
Fund balances at 1 April 2008		<u>196,431</u>	<u>18,140</u>	<u>214,571</u>	188,283
Fund balances at 31 March 2009		<u>166,727</u>	<u>17,122</u>	<u>183,849</u>	<u>214,571</u>

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

**THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009**

	2009 £	2008 £
Gross income	25,868	65,857
Provision for loss in value of investments below cost	(35,812)	-
Total income	<u>(9,944)</u>	<u>65,857</u>
Total expenditure from income funds	(14,821)	(14,956)
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	<u>(24,765)</u>	<u>50,901</u>

The summary income and expenditure account is derived from the statement of financial activities on page 3 which, together with the notes on pages 6 to 11, provides full information on the movements during the year on all funds of the charity.

STATEMENT OF RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

Net (expenditure)/income for the year	(24,765)	50,901
Unrealised loss on investment assets held by income funds	(5,957)	(24,613)
	<u>(30,722)</u>	<u>26,288</u>

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2009

	Notes	2009		2008	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	10		2,760		-
Tangible assets	11		4,843		6,699
Investments	12		157,647		199,416
			<u>165,250</u>		<u>206,115</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	13	5,080		721	
Cash at bank and in hand		19,606		8,501	
			<u>24,686</u>	<u>9,222</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(6,087)</u>		<u>(766)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>18,599</u>		<u>8,456</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>183,849</u>		<u>214,571</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	15		17,122		18,140
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted income funds		166,727		190,474	
Revaluation reserve		-		5,957	
		<u>166,727</u>		<u>196,431</u>	
			<u>183,849</u>		<u>214,571</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 249A(2) of the Companies Act 1985, for the year ended 31 March 2009. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 249B(2), requiring an audit of these accounts.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 221 of the Act; and
- (b) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company at 31 March 2009 and of its profit for the year then ended in accordance with section 226, and otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The accounts were approved by the Board on 18 June 2009

John G Murray
Director

Claire Norwood
Director

**THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009**

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention modified to include the revaluation of certain fixed assets.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005 and the Companies Act 1985.

1.2 Incoming resources

All grants are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when the conditions for their receipt have been met and there is reasonable assurance that they will be received. Grants that are restricted to future accounting periods are deferred and recognised in those future accounting periods.

Turnover represents subscriptions, donations, grants and other income associated with the Charity.

1.3 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fencing	10% Straight line
Equipment	25% Reducing balance

1.4 Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at market value.

Realised gains or losses arising on the disposal of investments (together with provisions for diminution in value), are credited or debited to the Statement of Financial Activities and subsequently transferred to Unrestricted Funds or to Restricted Funds as appropriate. Investment income (including associated tax credits) is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. The amounts relating to funds held for restricted purposes are subsequently transferred to those funds.

1.5 Accumulated funds

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

1.6 Amortisation of Entitlement to Annual Payments

This asset will be written off over its useful life.

**THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009**

2 Voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2009 £	Total 2008 £
Donations and gifts	<u>4,871</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>5,271</u>	53,836
Donations and gifts				
Unrestricted funds:				
Donations			2,712	51,869
Subscriptions			2,159	1,937
Walks and talks			-	30
			<u>4,871</u>	<u>53,836</u>
Restricted funds:				
Donations and gifts			400	-
			<u>400</u>	<u>-</u>

3 Investment income

	2009 £	2008 £
Income from listed investments	11,992	9,424
Interest receivable	200	597
	<u>12,192</u>	<u>10,021</u>

4 Incoming resources from charitable activities

	2009 £	2008 £
Grants receivable	<u>4,880</u>	<u>2,000</u>

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

5 Other incoming resources

	2009	2008
	£	£
Annual payments	3,525	-

6 Total resources expended

	Depreciation	Other	Total	Total
	£	costs	2009	2008
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities				
<u>Conservation of chalk downland</u>				
Activities undertaken directly	1,856	12,715	14,571	14,691
Governance costs	-	250	250	265
	1,856	12,965	14,821	14,956

7 Activities undertaken directly

	2009	2008
	£	£
Other costs relating to conservation of chalk downland comprise:		
Nature reserve rents	213	213
Upkeep of reserves	11,120	10,095
Small tools	10	248
Insurance	549	518
Printing, postage and stationery	486	410
Sundry expenses	337	852
Legal & Professional	-	250
	12,715	12,586

8 Directors

None of the directors (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year, but 2 (2008: 3) of them were reimbursed a total of £242 (2008: £190) for postage, printing, stationery, and sundries.

**THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009**

9 Employees

There were no employees during the year.

10 Intangible fixed assets

	Entitlement to Annual Payments £
Cost	
At 1 April 2008	-
Additions	2,760
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2009	2,760
	<hr/> <hr/>

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Fencing £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2008 and at 31 March 2009	27,142	2,316	29,458
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2008	20,617	2,142	22,759
Charge for the year	1,812	44	1,856
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2009	22,429	2,186	24,615
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2009	4,713	130	4,843
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 March 2008	6,525	174	6,699
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009**

12 Fixed asset investments

	Quoted £
Market value at 1 April 2008	199,416
Change in value in the year	(41,769)
Market value at 31 March 2009	157,647
Historical cost:	
At 31 March 2009	193,459
At 31 March 2008	193,459

Investments exceeding 5% of total market value

79,670.76 (2008: 79,670.76) M&G Charibond Income Shares value £91,701 (2008: £94,888).
7,640.414 (2008: 7,640.414) M&G Charifund Equity Shares value £62,593 (2008: £100,083).

13 Debtors

	2009 £	2008 £
Other debtors	5,080	721

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2009 £	2008 £
Other creditors	6,087	766

**THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009**

15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2008	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2009
	£	Incoming resources	Resources expended	£
Gate at Heyshott Down	30	-	(22)	8
Vehicle Fund	7,550	-	-	7,550
Fencing grants	3,560	-	(996)	2,564
Heyshott - grassland	-	4,880	(4,880)	-
Warden	7,000	-	-	7,000
Spider survey	-	400	(400)	-
	<u>18,140</u>	<u>5,280</u>	<u>(6,298)</u>	<u>17,122</u>

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2009 are represented by:			
Intangible fixed assets	2,760	-	2,760
Tangible fixed assets	2,271	2,572	4,843
Investments	146,097	11,550	157,647
Current assets	19,406	5,280	24,686
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(3,807)	(2,280)	(6,087)
	<u>166,727</u>	<u>17,122</u>	<u>183,849</u>
Reconciliation of movements in unrealised gains			
Unrealised gains at 1 April 2008	5,957	-	5,957
Net loss on revaluations in year	(5,957)	-	(5,957)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Unrealised gains at 31 March 2009	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>