



Institute of
Chartered Foresters

ANNUAL REVIEW

2016



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

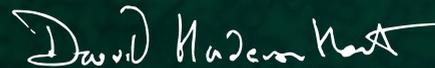
During 2016, the Institute has continued to increase its membership and develop its reputation as a professional body. By the year end, membership reached a record level of 1650 and, throughout the year, the Institute was actively engaged in working with a wide range of Parliamentary, Government and other advisory bodies in order to further a professional approach to the sustainable management of our trees, woods and forests.

Major events in 2016 included the National Conference on The Timber Supply Chain - Dynamics and Opportunities, with its clear message about the value of timber; and the autumn study tour in south London, which focused on the value of urban trees for community green space. In addition, the initiative of running a Young Professionals' Study Tour proved to be a great success.

The breadth of the Institute's activity is also reflected in its Regional events, whose subjects included ancient woodland classification; tree risk management; larch clearance, restocking and Continuous Cover Forestry; forestry economics; large-scale productive planting; and lessons

from the Grampian Forest Challenge Fund. In December, the Council held a joint brainstorming workshop with the Regional chairs to explore ways of further enhancing the contribution that Regional Groups make to the Institute. Meanwhile, the Professional and Educational Standards Committee, the Examinations Board and exam assessors have continued their excellent work. This year 8 Chartered Members were promoted to Fellowship and, following the interviews in November, 32 members were awarded chartered status. Warmest congratulations to them all.

As ever, the success of the Institute depends heavily on two things: the commitment of members who undertake so much voluntary work on our behalf, and the dedicated hard work of the Executive Director, Shireen Chambers, and her team – namely Dr Stuart Glen (Member Services Director), Allison Lock (Events & Publications Manager), Cheryl Simon (Finance & IT Manager) and Ben Summers-McKay (Member Services Administrator). We also welcome our new staff in 2017, as we thank Russell Horsey and Julie Thomson for all that they have done for the Institute in recent years.



David Henderson-Howat FICFor
President



2016 HIGHLIGHTS





EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC TRUST

Chris Inglis FICFor (Chair) and Anna Lawrence MICFor served as Trustees in addition to the President and Vice President. During the year the Trustees disbursed two grants totaling £900, one for research fieldwork in Mt Elgon National Park, Uganda, and one for an intensive course on tree science and tree identification.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The following top level KPI's have been chosen to reflect our strategy as set out in the Strategic Plan 2016-2018. KPI's are monitored on a regular basis and reported to Council.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH	Total number by end of 2018 (17% increase)	1860
MEMBER RETENTION	92%	96%
NET PROMOTER SCORE*	30%	36%
REVENUE	Growth of 22% by end 2018	£614,413

Our strategic intent is to:

- Increase member numbers
- Be a vibrant and successful association providing quality membership services and support
- Be the first choice of key decision-makers and influencers in providing advice and information on forestry and tree-related matters.

** The Net Promoter Score measures the willingness of customers to recommend a company's products or services to others, and is used to gauge a customer's overall satisfaction with a product or service and their loyalty.*

ICF REPRESENTATION

The Institute is represented by Chartered Members on the following groups:

Applicants Focus Group (England)

Arboriculture & Forestry Advisory Group

British Standards Technical Committee

Forestry Commission Scotland Customer Representative Group

Great Britain and Northern Ireland Tree Health Advisory Group

Glastir Woodland Stakeholders Group

Green Infrastructure Partnership

Joint Committee of the Landscape Institute Contracts Forum

National Forestry Learning & Development Working Group (England)

Natural Capital Committee Landowners Group

New Forest Consultative Panel

Scottish Tree Health Action Group

Society for the Environment

Trees and Design Action Group

Tree Health Policy Group

UK Woodland Assurance Standard

Wales Phytophthora operation Response Team

REGIONAL GROUPS

The Institute's Regional Groups play an important role in helping the Institute provide a range of CPD opportunities across the UK. The Institute is grateful to the dedication of members who volunteer to join their regional committee, particularly the chairs and secretaries, who make regional meetings possible.

Through the year, the topics addressed in regional group meetings expanded learning and challenged thinking. In East England, the interest at January's Annual Dinner in the work carried out by its former Chair Dr Gerry Barnes MBE FICFor on the ancient woodlands in Norfolk was such that it became focus of the summer field trip.

The South East England programme included a well-attended meeting on risk management for practitioners and business. It combined indoor presentations with a tour of Harcourt Arboretum, where delegates learned about biosecurity and world-wide plant sourcing challenges from its curator.

In South West England, the autumn meeting included talks on silviculture and deer ecology, and a tour of the Maiden Bradley Estate, Wiltshire. Delegates considered its geography, the imposed design of the clearfell, and the resultant ecology from the deer's-eye-view. As a result of this meeting, an article on non-metallic deer

management appeared in the winter issue of *Chartered Forester*, in addition to reports from across the Regional Group activities.

Under the direction of a new Chair and Secretary, the Midlands' meetings focused on grant implementation for parkland restoration and bird woodland, and forestry economics.

In Wales, a dual Spring Lunch day in April proved the talk of the year, with members in the north gathering in Dolgellau while those in the south met in Llandovery. These events offered great networking opportunities and introduced new members to the regional group.

The North Scotland programme included bat awareness training courses and meetings on the upland potential of plantation mixtures and the Grampian Challenge Fund 20 years on.

South Scotland members headed to the Ochill Hills (north of the Forth Valley) with hosts Tilhill Forestry to look at productive woodland new planting and natural flood management.

In December, the Regional Chairs met with the Institute's Council for a workshop in Edinburgh to explore ways of further enhancing the contribution that Regional Groups make to the Institute.





AWARDS & HONOURS

Excellence in Forestry

The Institute awarded two Excellence in Forestry awards for contributions to the forestry sector: Ian Ross OBE FICFor was awarded the prestigious Institute's Medal; James Hepburne Scott was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Institute.

The Silvicultural Prize

In January the Institute awarded Hans Pretzsch, Peter Biber, Enno Uhl and Erhard Dauber the 2015 Percy Stubbs, John Bolton King and Edward Garfitt Prize (The Silvicultural Prize) for their paper "Long-term stand dynamics of managed spruce-fir-beech mountain foresters in Central Europe: structure, productivity and regeneration success", published in *Forestry* (2015) 88 (4): 407-428.

Forest Economics Prize

The Institute awarded the Forest Economics Prize to Dr Wei-Yew Chang and Dr Chris Gaston from the University of British Columbia for their paper "A Trade Flow Analysis of The Global Softwood Log Market: Implications of Russian Log Export Tax Reduction and New Zealand Log Production Restriction", published in *Forestry* (2016) 89 (1): 20-35. We were delighted that Dr Chang travelled from British Columbia to accept his prize in person at our National Conference in Newcastle in April.

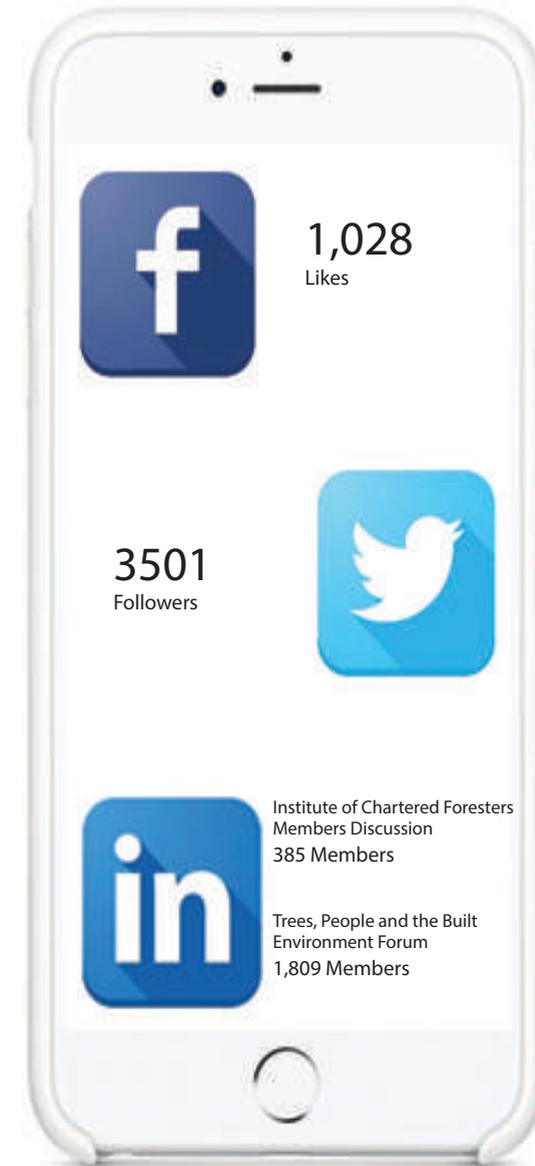
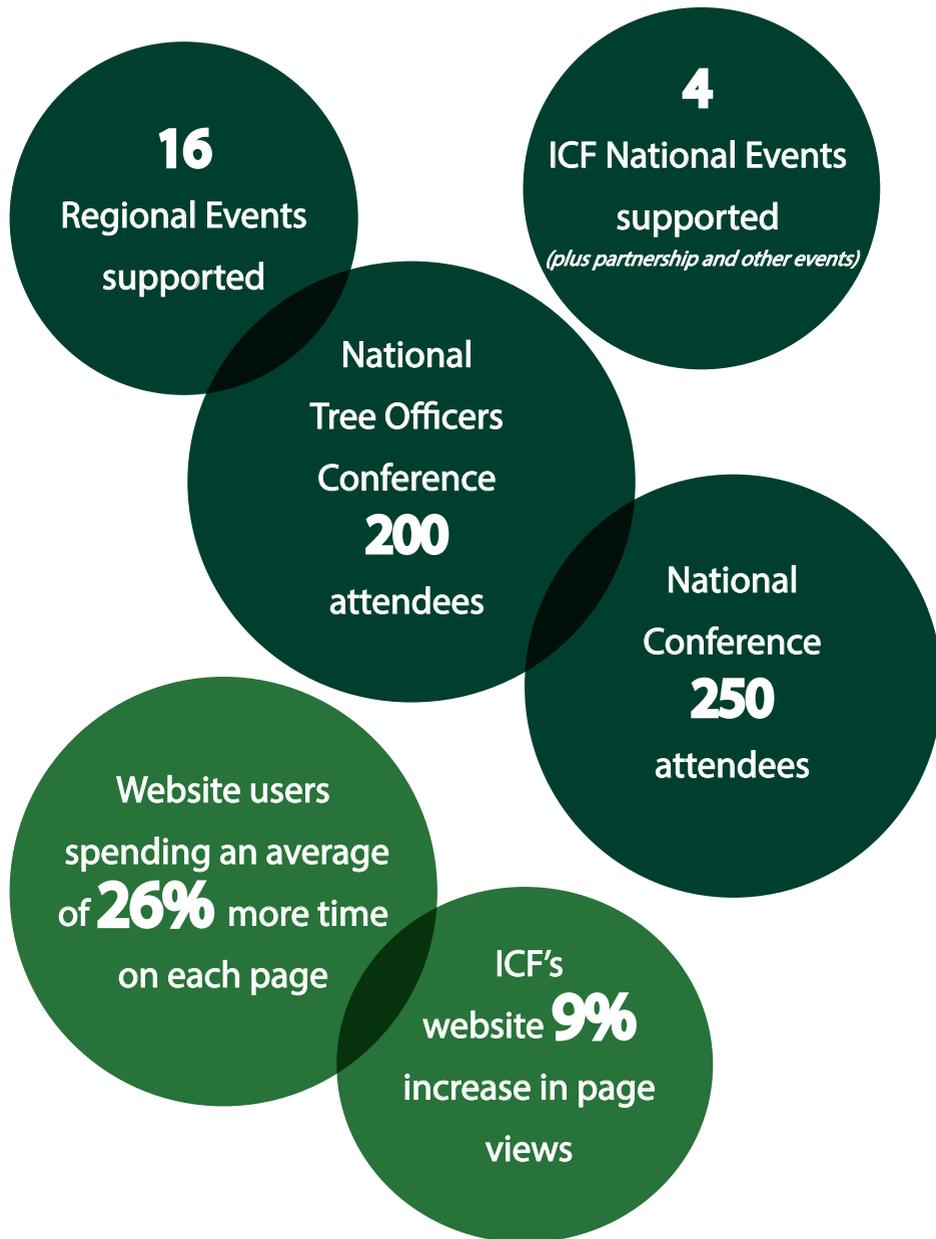
ICF Student Awards

The Institute continued to celebrate the best of the student talent in 2016 and presented Student Awards at graduations across the country during the summer and autumn months.

The winners included:

- Juan Alvarez, BSc (Hons) Arboriculture and Urban Forestry, Myerscough College
- Dean Bell, FdSc Arboriculture, Plumpton College
- Sam Huddleston, BSc (Hons) Forestry, Bangor University
- Annabel Martin, HND Forestry, Inverness College, UHI
- James Potts, BSc (Hons) Arboriculture & Tree Management, Pershore College
- Alexander Wilkinson, BSc (Hons) Forestry, University of Aberdeen
- Daniel Smart, BSc (Hons) Countryside & Environmental Management, Harper Adams University
- Richard Daniels, BSc (Hons) Forest & Woodland Management, University of Cumbria

MARKETING STATISTICS 2016





Institute Boosts User Experience

The Institute re-launched its website to deliver a modern and user-friendly experience with a clear focus on delivering an enhanced and mobile friendly site – helping the user to find information more easily. The new image-led site will strengthen the public’s understanding of the benefits of the Institute’s chartered status in relation to the forestry and arboriculture sectors. This is an evolving project and we plan to unveil additional features this year. Since the launch, the reported use of the site shows an increase in user engagement: an increase of 9% in page views, and an increase of 26% time spent on each page. This demonstrates an ongoing progress of improved functionality and simpler navigation to find rich, relevant content.

Forestry Careers in 60 Seconds

‘Forestry Careers in 60 Seconds’ video, produced by the Institute and sponsored by Forestry Commission Scotland, proved a popular campaign and achieved more than 7,000 video views. The video, which features strong female role models, was commissioned to demonstrate the diversity of roles in the forestry sector to a young audience considering their career options.

Marketing Support

During the year marketing staff supported the Institute’s 16 regional events, 4 national events, partnership activities and ensured it was represented at key sector events.

Honorary Officers and staff represented the Institute at many events throughout the year. These included the formal opening of the new facility for the Scottish School of Forestry at Balloch and Forestry Commission Scotland’s parliamentary reception at The Scottish Parliament in January.

The Institute continued to partner The Prince of Wales’ Duchy of Cornwall and the Canadian Institute of Forestry for the second year of The Prince of Wales Forest Leadership Award. With funding from TD Bank, the Award - which is open to student and graduate applicants who are actively engaged in forestry, natural resource management, and who are passionate about the environment - upheld its offer of overseas work placements and bursaries for the four recipients, two each from the UK and Canada. The Institute congratulates them all - Ellinor Dobie and Nicholas Hill (UK), and Clement Sofalne and Sarah Townson (Canada) on their selection.

In October, the Executive Director chaired a Woodland Trust Conference with practitioners and policy makers on the restoration of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites in Wales. As judge of Scotland’s Tree of the Year, she also attended the Woodland Trust’s reception at The Scottish Parliament.

The President and the Executive Director were guests at The Queen’s Commonwealth Canopy first anniversary at Buckingham Palace, on 15 November.

The Institute’s stand at the APF Show, the UK’s largest forestry, woodland and arboriculture show, in September, served as an important hub for members to meet and network, and for staff and members alike to talk to non-members about the benefits of joining and beginning the journey to becoming chartered.



NATIONAL & PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

Charged with delivering the 2016 National Conference, chair Roger Coppock FICFor was clear on the theme: The Timber Supply Chain - Dynamics and Opportunities. He drew on the rapid changes of recent years to show members' the evolution of our timber supply before looking ahead to see what opportunities there will be and what challenges we'll have to overcome - from growing the right material to processing in profitable ways.

The first-class programme and choice of a single venue for both the conference and dinner in Newcastle, plus an exhibition which showcased latest developments and projects, ensured that targets were exceeded with 250 attendees. The Institute thanks everyone involved, particularly Scottish Woodlands and Tilhill Forestry, our Headline Sponsors, and conference chair Roger Coppock FICFor.

The National Study Tour took to the streets of London in October to show the resilience of people and place in terms of urban green infrastructure. Chair Sharon Hosegood FICFor set out an itinerary around the broad role of trees in green infrastructure. It focused on breaking down barriers between government, developers and communities, who are now recognised as

an essential part of future developments. Visits to Newington Gardens and Salisbury Row Park (Southwark) and Ruskin Park (Lambeth) preceded a 'behind the scenes' view of Elephant Park and the former Heygate Estate, hosted by Lendlease. The tour concluded with a visit to the Cross Bones Graveyard to demonstrate how timber from the Heygate Estate was benefitting local projects.

The Institute collaborated with a variety of partners to expand its provision of CPD opportunities for its members. After working with Forestry Commission England and Forest Research in 2015, the Institute partnered with Forestry Commission Scotland to run four Long Term Forest Planning Essentials autumn workshops in Dumfries, Inverness, Lanark and Perth.

The Institute also collaborated with the London Tree Officers Association and the Municipal Tree Officers Association in November, in its first joint initiative with these organisations. The ensuing one-day National Tree Officers Conference in Telford presented a relevant and current programme and a valuable CPD opportunity for the 200 delegates.



INSTITUTE MAGAZINE

There were two valuable developments for Institute's quarterly members' magazine. First, the input from the editorial panel, comprising members from a broad spread of disciplines, helped shape technical content. Second, the introduction of an electronic 'page-turning' version of the magazine, was introduced to the Members' Area Library and is now used for overseas Student members and also overseas members on request to speed up receipt.

Magazine 'regulars' continued to be popular - industry news, people pages, ICF Representatives' reports, tree health, national event summaries, and so on, but it was the feature articles that scratched the surface of deeper arboriculture and forestry issues. Topics included: green

infrastructure resilience and the pivotal role of trees in improving our urban landscapes and our health; timber supply and harvesting; future opportunities within the processing sector and the many facets of climate change analysis. There were articles on: filling the skills gap and apprenticeships, the Law Commission's Draft Wildlife Bill and, naturally, opinion pieces on Brexit. To support member development, *Chartered Forester* reminded readers what professional conduct means, guided on CPD, and showcased a company's graduate scheme.

The Institute welcomes the contribution of ideas and content for *Chartered Forester* magazine, and encourages member too get in touch with news ideas and feedback.

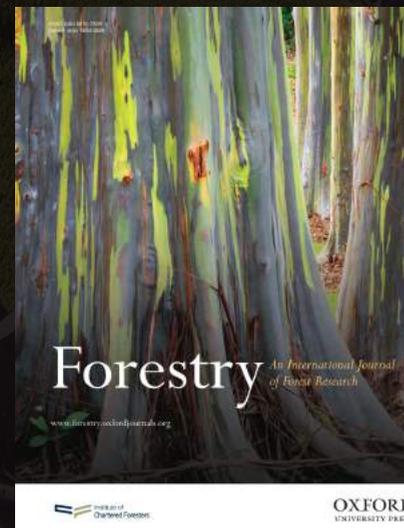




FORESTRY: AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

During 2016, the editors have been busy consolidating the reputation of the journal as being the best place to publish quality papers on all aspects of research, practice and policy that promote the sustainable management of forests and trees. We have agreed a new strategic plan for the period 2017-19; launched a new website working with our publisher Oxford University Press; started an active social media campaign on Twitter; and reviewed 232 submitted papers from 44 countries. A particular highlight for me was the award of the 2016 Silvicultural Prize to Professor Kevin O' Hara from the University of California, Berkeley. Kevin's paper, 'What is close-to-nature silviculture in a changing world?', has important messages for forestry in the UK and I encourage all members of the Institute to read it (see bit.ly/2lqEVPF). Please let me know your thoughts if you do; it would be great to hear views from members about this article and our work on the journal (gary.kerr@forestry.gsi.gov.uk).

The journal continues to make a significant financial contribution to ICF. In 2016 the income from the journal was £73,099 - 13% of the Institute's total income.

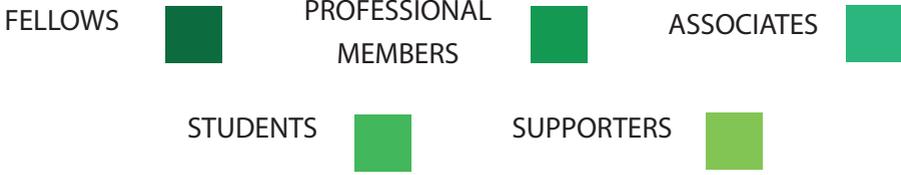
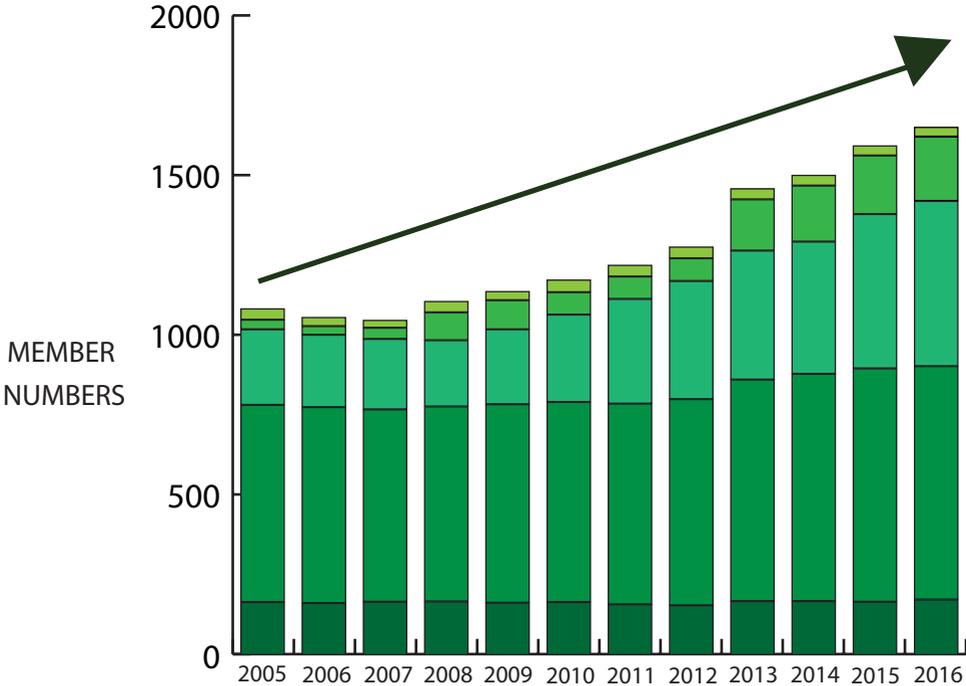


Gary Kerr

Dr Gary Kerr FICFor
Editor in Chief

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS 2016

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH 2005 - 2016



Figures correct at 31 December 2016

- 1649** Total members at the end of 2016
- 729** Professional Members
- 516** Associates
- 201** Students
- 173** Fellows
- 30** Supporters
- 92%** of members were CPD compliant
- 94%** Membership retention rate

Mission

The Institute's Mission is to raise professional standards in forestry and arboriculture in order to promote the sustainable manage of trees and woodlands throughout the UK.

Vision

Our vision is that chartered status is seen as the goal for all professional foresters and arboriculturists in the UK, is demanded by employers, with our members recognised as experts and sought for their advice and expertise.

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