



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date  
From 01 01 2023 To 31 12 2023  
Period end date

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Hampshire Ornithological Society

Other names charity is known by HOS

Registered charity number (if any) 1042309

Charity's principal address 2 Dunmow Hill, Fleet, Hampshire

Postcode GU51 3AN

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Keith Betton	Chair		
2	Andy Mitchelmore	Treasurer	1/1/23 to 1/4/23	
3	David Brookes	Secretary	1/1/23 to 1/4/23	
4	Dave Palmer	Secretary	1/4/23 to 31/12/23	
5	David Brookes	Treasurer	1/4/23 to 31/12/23	
6	Andrew Colenutt			
7	Andy Lester			
8	Kay Shillitoe			
9	Marcus Ward			
10	Mike Chalmers			
11	Annette Clayson		1/1/23 to 1/4/23	
12	Barry Page			
13	Janice Beck			
14	Nicola Whitmarsh		1/1/23 to 1/4/23	
15	Jayne Chapman		1/1/23 to 31/8/23	
16	Carol Rawlings			
17	Helen Schneider			
18	Di Warner		1/4/23 to 31/12/23	
19	Tommy Saunders		1/4/23 to 31/12/23	
20	Martin Pitt		1/4/23 to 31/12/23	

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution detailed in the Society Rules document.
How the charity is constituted	The Society is a Charitable Unincorporated Organisation.
Trustee selection methods	Election by Society Members at the Annual General Meeting

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Trustees receiving grants from the Society are regarded as transactions with related parties and are required to be reported by SORP 15 FRS 102.

In 2023 there was one grant sought by, or made to, a Trustees of the Society. This was to contribute to the purchasing of climbing equipment by one of the Trustees (Tommy Saunders) to enable him to support the Society on a programme of monitoring raptor nests. Tommy was not present when the Committee took the decision to support this grant application.

## Section C Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

- The objects of the Society are within the county of Hampshire;
- To advance the education of the public in all aspects of ornithology.
  - To promote research into ornithology and to publish the useful results of such study.
  - To support and encourage the preservation and conservation of wild birds and places of ornithological interest.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

The main activities of the Society are;

To promote and record the study of bird life in Hampshire and to publish the results in the annual bird report.

To use these results to encourage and support the conservation of wild birds and their habitats within the county.

To foster a wider interest in the recording and preservation of Hampshire bird life by organising a programme of indoor and outdoor meetings, by publishing a magazine ( three issues each year) and other forms of publicity.

As set out by the Charity Commission in its Guidance on Public Benefit in respect of the public benefits requirement in running a charity and its reporting, in their opinion the Trustees consider that they have complied with their duty to have regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance are relevant.

#### **Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

In Section D – Achievements and performance, the Chair of the Society, in his report to members, outlines some of the activities of the Society during the past year, showing how they have helped meet the Society's objectives. Other activities (extracted from the reports of the Chairs of the Scientific and Membership Committees) which are also in support of the objectives, are also listed.

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

**HOS Chair's Report 2023**

HOS is big, as you can see, and we are getting bigger. 144 new members joined in 2023, that means we have recruited almost 600 new members in the last four years. Obviously we've lost a few through the natural course of events, but more join than leave, and that's great. Last year I talked about barriers to entry – and you'll know I am passionate about this. We want HOS to be very clear that if you care about birds you are welcome here. Our 80 Young Members are an inspiration to me and all the others who lead walks and events for them (1). When I was young, "junior" members in bird clubs (as we were known) were often ignored. I can assure you that you are not ignored. You are right at the heart of our plans for the future. I particularly want to thank the Cameron Bepolka Trust who were instrumental in helping to get our Young Member scheme where it is today – and they still help us so much. So, if you know of a young person from Hampshire at school or university and interested in birds let us know. We will support and help their interest.

Similarly our support group for female birders has continued to grow. We now have almost 100 in our Whatsapp Group (2) that allows female members to share birding experiences and indeed set up private birding trips. It's only open to female members of HOS. They call it the Ladybirders and if you want to be part of this group, please sign-up to join.

HOS undertook two bird surveys (3) in 2023 on Marsh Tits and Dartford Warblers. Next year we will be surveying Woodlarks in February and March. Thank you. HOS members will be surveying over 300 x 1km squares, and it took only a week to sign up the volunteers. That's citizen science at its very best. This is a survey which HOS was invited to bid for by Forestry England. We had to bid alongside other organisations and commercial companies. The fact that we put forward the winning bid will see £11,000 going into HOS's reserves. So again, thank you. And I want to comment on that, as the money you pay to be a member of HOS just about covers the cost of providing you with the newsletters, the bird report and the Members' Day/AGM (4). And that's how it should be; you get what you pay for. But on top of what you pay, we have been very successful at raising money; we have now bid for and won six major survey contracts in six years and that has brought in over £50,000. That money has significantly increased our reserves and while we do give several grants annually, we are in the enviable position of having enough in our reserves to spend on something big. Or maybe several not-so-big things. But we are not going to be hasty. We are not going to fritter it away just to look good on paper; we are waiting for the right opportunity and I hope you'd expect us to do that.

We have allocated money towards conservation and research projects (5) undertaken by organisations and individuals. We have helped Tommy Saunders with £500 towards him buying climbing equipment so that he can help us with the programme of monitoring raptors. Tommy is a HOS

trustee so let me assure you he was absent for that vote. We have given Hampshire Wildlife Trust £950 to pay for refurbishment of the Blashford Lakes tern rafts that we bought several years ago and we have given £540 to Hampshire Swifts to support their work in installing nest boxes, specifically at the Hospital of St Cross.

HOS is busy! Our bird surveys, the conservation work, our outings, our sales items, the Young Member programme, our Ladybirders Group, the Kingfisher magazine, the Bird Report, the people who collect the money and the people who spend it – all of them are volunteers. There are about 50 people that make this society run like clockwork. You don't always see these people but I do, and without them, quite simply, none of this would happen. So let's give them a huge thank you.

Keith Betton  
Chair, HOS  
December 2023

While not a complete list of all activities undertaken during the year, the items numbered in the report above, eg (1), are in support of the Society's objectives in Section C above, as follows;

- (1) in support of objective i and iii
- (2) in support of objective i and iii
- (3) in support of objective ii and iii
- (4) in support of objective i and iii
- (5) in support of objective ii and iii

Other activities documented in the sub-committee reports in the Society's AGM materials which support the objectives include;

Liaison with Conservation Organisations – supporting objective iii  
Continuation and development of the ten-year bird survey plan – supporting objective ii.

For details of Grant expenditure during 2023, please see the Treasurer's Report filed with this Report.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Society's reserves policy is to hold cash funds sufficient to meet one year's expenditure. As at 31 December 2023 the actual cash funds held were significantly in excess of this and the Trustees intend to use the surplus funds over the next two to three years to support research and conservation projects that meet the Society's objectives and also purchase additional capital equipment to expand and enhance research and education projects.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

## Section F


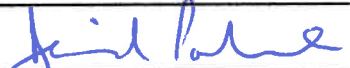

## Other optional information

## Section G

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Keith Findlay Betton	David Nicholas James Palmer
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Secretary
Date		

## **Hampshire Ornithological Society – Treasurer’s Report for the year ended 31 December 2023**

The Society’s independently examined accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 are available on the HOS Website.

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and a copy will be filed along with the Annual Return, as required within 10 months of the year end, with the Charity Commission.

**In summary, the Society’s receipts totalled £52,486 and expenditure was £36,575 resulting in a surplus for the year of £15,911.**

Set out below are my observations on the accounts.

### **Receipts**

Membership subscriptions increased significantly from 2022. This is due to a net increase in members of approximately 50 with the remainder being due to 2024 subscriptions being received prior to the year-end which resulted from the subscription reminders being sent out earlier than for 2022.

Donations include £985 from the “bid for an expert” auction that closed on the Members’ Day and £450 from a member’s 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday raffle.

Interest from bank deposits increased as a result of increased funds held on deposit over a longer period than the previous year and also a significant increase in interest rates on savings during the year.

Net receipts from the Rare Birds of Hampshire book over the two years are £395. This is after the purchase of an additional 150 copies from John Clark at the end of the year. There were 157 copies in stock at 31 December 2023 and sales from stock will further increase the net receipts during 2024.

Survey and data sales include £8,000 from Forestry England for the Dartford Warbler survey that was carried out during Spring and Summer and £3,160 from Hampshire County Council for the HOS/HBIC data exchange agreement.

Members’ Day/AGM receipts comprise £900 from the raffle, £300 from exhibitors and £50 for entrance fees. The 2022 receipts include a refund of £1,100 from St. Swithun’s School for catering charges for the 2020 Member’s Day.

### **Payments**

Grants and donations include a £5,000 donation to the BTO’s Avian Influenza Appeal and a grant of £1,052 to HLOWWT for the repair and refurbishment of the Tern rafts at Blashford Lakes. Also included is a grant of £500 to Tommy Saunders, a HOS Trustee, as a contribution towards tree climbing equipment. The grant application was reviewed and unanimously approved by the Trustees at the Management Committee on 23 November 2023. Tommy was absent from the meeting whilst the grant was reviewed and approved.

Kingfisher newsletter costs have reduced due to a change in printers, a change in paper and a better rate from the post office. The newsletter also has fewer pages (now 52 compared to 60 previously).

Members’ Day/AGM and Events payments have increased compared to 2022 due to the 2021 Member’s Day/AGM charges from St. Swithun’s School being carried forward to 2022 thus causing the 2022 payments to be artificially low.

Trustee expenses represent reimbursed mileage expenses for attendance at committee meetings and attending other meetings and events on behalf of the Society.

Equipment purchased during the year was a nest inspection camera and equipment. This was used for the Redstarts in the New Forest survey and is available for future surveys.

The Society paid no sums by way of remuneration to Trustees or committee members during the year.

### **Funds**

The Society’s funds are held in a one year bond with Charity Bank, a 100 day notice deposit account with Charity Bank, an instant access deposit account with Lloyds Bank and a Lloyds Bank current account.

The Trustees are conscious that the cash funds are significantly in excess of the Society’s reserves policy, which is to hold funds sufficient to meet one year’s expenditure. It is intended that the surplus funds are used over the next two to three



years to support research and conservation projects that meet the Society's objectives and also to purchase capital equipment to expand and enhance research and education projects.

I would like to thank Society member Joy Aubin, our Independent Examiner and a chartered accountant, who examined the accounts at no cost to the Society and also provided excellent support. I would also like to thank my predecessor, Andy Mitchelmore, for his advice and assistance and a smooth handover, the Experts who provided their expertise for the "Bid for an Expert" auction free of charge and all the volunteers who have given their time, free of charge, to the Society throughout the year.

**David Brookes**  
**Honorary Treasurer**  
**4 March 2023** *4*



# Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS)

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the period from 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023

	Total Funds (unrestricted) 2023	Total Funds (unrestricted) 2022
<b>Receipts</b>		
Membership subscriptions	£24,710.00	£22,248.99
Donations	£2,381.27	£292.69
Income Tax refund on Gift Aid subscriptions	£4,050.35	£4,152.06
Interest from deposit accounts	£2,406.47	£844.34
Publication sales	£950.32	£1,327.49
Rare Birds of Hampshire Book	£2,436.70	£12,355.26
Clothing and DVD sales	£1,101.00	£1,011.01
Surveys and data sales	£11,210.00	£2,850.70
Courses and Training Days	£1,215.00	£89.50
Bird Report Advertising	£775.00	£740.00
Members' Day/AGM	£1,250.00	£1,923.47
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>£52,486.11</b>	<b>£47,835.51</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Grants and donations	£6,630.49	£4,180.00
Bird Report	£11,519.98	£10,937.68
Kingfisher Newsletter	£9,039.40	£13,800.00
Rare Birds of Hampshire Book	£872.46	£13,525.00
Members' Day/AGM and events	£3,033.08	£633.17
Clothing and DVDs	£633.38	£1,426.52
Insurance	£472.31	£151.72
Cost of data sales/surveys	£610.33	£279.38
Postage, stationery and room hire	£1,738.61	£1,446.94
Trustee Expenses	£698.00	£352.64
Equipment	£1,327.44	£0.00
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£36,575.48</b>	<b>£46,733.05</b>
<b>Net receipts</b>	<b>£15,910.63</b>	<b>£1,102.46</b>
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>£106,975.47</b>	<b>£105,873.01</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>£122,886.10</b>	<b>£106,975.47</b>

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period to 31/12/2023

<b>Cash Funds:</b>		
Lloyds bank current account	£1,944.25	£1,938.09
Lloyds bank deposit account	£48,542.47	£13,995.98
Hampshire Trust Bank bond matured 17/1/23	Closed	£20,000.00
United Trust Bank bond matures 19/4/23	Closed	£20,000.00
Charity Bank 100 day notice account	£51,871.92	£31,041.40
Charity Bank one year bond matures 07/10/24	£20,527.46	£0.00
Charity Bank one year bond matured 05/10/23	£0.00	£20,000.00
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>£122,886.10</b>	<b>£106,975.47</b>

Other monetary assets	none	none
Liabilities	none	none

<b>Other assets</b>		
<b>Stock in hand – Clothing and publications</b>	<b>31/12/23</b>	<b>31/12/22</b>
Fleeces	21	22
Sweatshirts	15	17
Polo shirts	18	19
Baseball Caps	11	31
Bird reports three (2022:two) most recent issues	50	41
Keyhaven/Lymington checklists	64	68
Hampshire checklists	108	395
Rare Birds of Hampshire	157	86

**Independent Examiner's Report  
To the Trustees of the  
Hampshire Ornithological Society  
Registered Charity in England; Number 1042309**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Hampshire Ornithological Society (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect :

1. *The accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or*
2. *The accounts did not accord with those records; or*
3. *The accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.*

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name:

Mrs D J H Aubin, BA (Hons), FCA

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies:

Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address:

4 Old Barn Close  
Christchurch  
DORSET BH23 2QZ  
United Kingdom

Date:

6/3/2024