

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date

Period end date

From

Day 1 Month 1 Year 2024

To

Day 31 Month 12 Year 2024

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Hampshire Ornithological Society

Other names charity is known by

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	David Brookes	Treasurer		
3	Dave Palmer	Secretary		
4	Andrew Colenutt		1/1/24 to 6/4/24	
5	Andy Lester		1/1/24 to 6/4/24	
6	Kay Shillitoe			
7	Marcus Ward		1/1/24 to 6/4/24	
8	Mike Chalmers			
9	Barry Page			
10	Janice Beck		1/1/24 to 6/4/24	
11	Carol Rawlings			
12	Helen Schneider			
13	Di Warner			
14	Tommy Saunders			
15	Martin Pitt			
16	Roger Dickey		6/4/24 to 31/12/24	
17	George Baker		6/4/24 to 31/12/24	
18	George Batho		6/4/24 to 31/12/24	
19				
20				

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)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg trust deed constitution)	Constitution detailed in the Society Rules document.
How the charity is constituted (eg trust association company)	The Society is a Charitable Unincorporated Organisation.
Trustee selection methods (eg appointed by elected by)	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.

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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 is 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 2024

Having started last year's report saying that 370 people at the 2023 HOS Members Day broke all records, I can now tell you that 430 attended the 2024 event! It was terrific to see so many of you there. Thanks to all the HOS team who worked hard to make the event work seamlessly. If you want to break the record again, Saturday 29 March is the date - but please car share if you can.

We saw 119 new members join in 2024, and we particularly welcome them. If you are new to birding, or you want to brush up your skills, we will again be running bird song training events in the Spring (1). Our Young Members number around 80 and are aged from seven to 22, and we ran 18 events just for them this year (2). We widened the range of topics to include mammals, reptiles and fungi, which drew much support.

As always, we are grateful to the Cameron Bepolka Trust for their support for our Young Member programme. Also, our female birding friendship group broke the 100 mark in 2024 - a great result, and we are proud to be leading the way in opening up additional birding opportunities in this way (3). We are also delighted that other counties are following our example.

We were pleased to approve more projects for financial support, and in 2025 there will be HOS-funded initiatives to help breeding Starlings and Swifts, plus House and Sand Martins. We have also funded PhD studies of wintering Jack Snipe (4).

A major survey of Woodlarks was carried out in the New Forest as part of the HLS breeding monitoring (5). This saw members out in force visiting 293 one-kilometre squares within the SPA between mid-February and May. Analysis of survey data indicated a total of 260 Woodlark breeding territories within the SPA, plus a further 64 territories reported outside of the survey methodology. This is citizen science at its best and the contract income will be used to support conservation and research. You'll be able to hear about the results of these surveys at the Members Day.

Once again, the Hampshire Bird Report team created a fantastic record of what was seen in 2024 (6). In addition to the 254 species recorded, papers included results of the key survey work by HOS members on Marsh Tits and Dartford Warblers (7). The report included the results of the HOS-funded Lapwing Recovery Project at Selbourne and an assessment of breeding gulls on buildings at New Milton using the HOS drone (8).

At the last AGM I told you that the cost of providing all that you get as part of your HOS membership (Kingfisher newsletters, Hampshire Bird Report and the Members Day) was now about to exceed the income from memberships. Responding to members who asked to receive our publications digitally, I announced that in 2024 we were going to ask most of you to take Kingfisher digitally rather than as a hard copy, and I want to thank all the members (almost 90%) who have agreed to do that. Apart from saving on paper, the reduction in our postal bill is significant. Of course, to produce a small number of hard copy newsletters now costs us a lot more per individual copy (almost £5 per person each time), but we thank those people who have kindly made donations to offset that. We know that a small number of you would like us to offer the Hampshire

Bird Report digitally as well and we will be in touch later to offer you the choice.

Helen Schneider is standing down as a trustee in 2025 and we are grateful for her time and input over the last three years. I would also like to thank everyone who has helped the Society to achieve so much in 2024. If you are reading this and think you can spare time to help HOS, please drop me a line.

I wish you a good birding year ahead.

Keith Betton
Chair, HOS
December 2024

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
- (2) in support of objective i and iii
- (3) in support of objective i and iii
- (4) in support of objective ii
- (5) in support of objective ii and iii
- (6) in support of objective iii
- (7) in support of objective ii and iii
- (8) 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 2024, 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 2024 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)


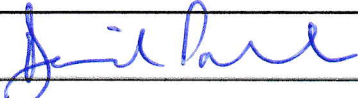
You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- 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

07/10/2025

Hampshire Ornithological Society – Treasurer’s Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

The Society’s independently examined accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 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 £45,876 and expenditure was £49,319 resulting in a deficit for the year of £(3,443).

Set out below are my observations on the accounts.

Receipts

Membership subscription receipts decreased from 2023. This is due principally to 2025 subscriptions received in December 2024 being significantly less than 2024 subscriptions received in December 2023. Membership numbers increased by 22 in 2024.

Donations include £1,385 from the “bid for an expert” and Audubon print auctions that closed on the Members’ Day and a £1,000 from a legacy.

Interest from bank deposits increased as a result of increased funds held on deposit.

Survey and data sales represent £3,200 from Hampshire County Council for the HOS/HBIC data exchange agreement. A Woodlark Survey carried out on behalf of Forestry England was completed during the year, however, £11,000 invoiced for the survey was not received until January 2025.

Members’ Day/AGM receipts comprise £1,299 from the raffle, £300 from exhibitors and £75 for entrance fees.

Payments

Grants and donations include £5,100 and £4,100 grants to HIOWWT for a Sand Martin nesting bank at Testwood Lakes and a Swift and House Martin tower at Blashford Lakes, a grant of £5,772 to Sparsholt College for a study on overwintering and migration behaviours of Jack Snipe and a grant of £4,705 to the BTO for call monitoring of Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers and Hawfinches at sites in Hampshire.

The increase in the Hampshire Bird Report costs compared to the prior year is due to increased postage charges. In future postal charges will reduce as more members will be encouraged to receive HOS publications digitally.

The Society paid no sums by way of remuneration to Trustees or committee members during the year. Trustee expenses represent reimbursed mileage expenses for attendance at committee meetings and other meetings and events on behalf of the Society.

Equipment purchased during the year was three song meters purchased for the BTO call monitoring survey referred to above and any future call monitoring projects carried out by the Society.

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. It is the intention to change bankers from Lloyds Bank to The Co-operative Bank early in 2025.

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 will continue to be 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,, 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

3 February 2025

Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS)

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the period from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024

	Total Funds (unrestricted) 2024	Total Funds (unrestricted) 2023
Receipts		
Membership subscriptions	£23,158.00	£24,710.00
Donations	£3,466.32	£2,381.27
Income Tax refund on Gift Aid subscriptions	£4,762.93	£4,050.35
Interest from deposit accounts	£3,657.34	£2,406.47
Publication sales	£1,369.87	£950.32
Rare Birds of Hampshire Book	£585.18	£2,436.70
Clothing and accessory sales	£1,572.31	£1,101.00
Surveys and data sales	£3,200.00	£11,210.00
Courses and training days	£1,280.00	£1,215.00
Bird Report and Kingfisher Advertising	£1,150.00	£775.00
Members' Day/AGM	£1,674.40	£1,250.00
Total receipts	£45,876.35	£52,486.11
Payments		
Grants and donations	£21,581.92	£6,630.49
Hampshire Bird Report	£12,264.87	£11,519.98
Kingfisher Newsletter	£7,286.50	£9,039.40
Rare Birds of Hampshire Book	£0.00	£872.46
Members' Day/AGM and events	£2,206.07	£3,033.08
Clothing and accessories	£1,820.70	£633.38
Insurance	£490.00	£472.31
Cost of data sales/surveys	£488.48	£610.33
Postage, stationery and room hire	£1,034.09	£1,738.61
Trustee expenses	£671.15	£698.00
Equipment	£1,475.73	£1,327.44
Total payments	£49,319.51	£36,575.48
Net receipts	£3,443.16	£15,910.63
Cash funds last year end	£122,886.10	£106,975.47
Cash funds this year end	£119,442.94	£122,886.10

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period to 31/12/2024

Cash Funds:		
Lloyds bank current account	£931.37	£1,944.25
Lloyds bank deposit account	£43,326.72	£48,542.47
Charity Bank 100 day notice account	£53,599.67	£51,871.92
Charity Bank one year bond matures 07/10/25	£21,585.18	£0.00
Charity Bank one year bond matured 07/10/24	£0.00	£20,527.46
Total cash funds	£119,442.94	£122,886.10
Other monetary assets	none	none
Liabilities	none	none
Other assets		
Stock in hand – Clothing and publications	31/12/24	31/12/23
Fleeces	24	21
Sweatshirts	17	15
Polo shirts	22	18
Baseball Caps	30	11
Woolly hats/Beanies	4	0
Microfibre cloths	204	0
Bird reports - three most recent issues	42	50
Keyhaven/Lymington checklists	53	64
Hampshire checklists	77	108
Rare Birds of Hampshire	123	157

**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 2024.

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.

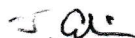
Independent examiner's statement

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:

15/2/2025

**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 2024.

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: 15/2/2025