

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1053912**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020  
FOR  
GOWER BIRD HOSPITAL**

Bevan Buckland LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Langdon House  
Langdon Road  
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SA1 8QY

# **GOWER BIRD HOSPITAL**

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**GOWER BIRD HOSPITAL  
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020.

**Legal and administrative information**

Gower Bird Hospital is based at and operated from Valetta, Sandy Lane, Pennard, Swansea, SA3 2EW, the home of Simon Allen and Karen Kingsnorth.

Gower Bird Hospital was established by a Deed of Trust made on 8 March 1996. The objects of the charity are to relieve the suffering of birds and animals which are in need of care and attention, in particular by the provision of a hospital for the care and rehabilitation of such birds and animals; and to return to their natural habitat those which are fully cured. The trustees keep in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, with particular regard to the advancement of animal welfare, when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

**Trustees and governance**

The following trustees held office during the year ended 31 December 2020:

Simon Allen  
Keith Hogben  
Michelle Rees

The Deed of Trust requires a minimum of three trustees. Trustees are appointed by a resolution of the existing trustees who in making such appointment take into account the benefits of appointing a person who is able by virtue of his or her personal or professional qualifications to make a contribution to the pursuit of the objects or the management of the charity.

**Activities and achievements**

Gower Bird Hospital is managed by the trustees. Trustees meetings are arranged formally twice a year but with further meetings called to consider specific matters.

The day-to-day operation of the Hospital is in the hands of Simon Allen and Karen Kingsnorth

**Achievements in 2020:**

Our goals for 2020 were to replace one of our existing old wooden aviaries with a larger aviary using recycled plastic building materials and incorporating a water pool for aquatic species, to build another seven hedgehog rehabilitation pens using recycled plastic materials and to continue providing a high standard of treatment and rehabilitation for the wildlife admitted to our centre. All of these goals have been achieved.

The charity does not keep any disabled wild bred bird or animal in permanent captivity as we believe this causes unnecessary suffering and is not in the interest of the individual's welfare or best use of public funds.

Despite the Covid 19 pandemic, Gower Bird Hospital remained open and 1674 wildlife casualties were brought to Gower Bird Hospital in 2020 - a breakdown of admissions can be seen below.

#### Number of admissions in 2020 = 1674

Group	Family	Number	%
<b>Birds</b> <b>72%</b>	Laridae (gulls)	126	8 %
<b>1199</b>	Turdidae (thrushes, blackbirds, robins)	153	9 %
	Corvidae (crows, magpies, jackdaws, jays)	127	8 %
	Columbidae (doves and pigeons)	297	18 %
	Anatidae (ducks geese, swans)	30	1.5 %
	Birds of prey (owls, buzzards, kites, sparrowhawks)	52	3 %
	Paridae (tits)	45	2.5 %
	Others	369	22 %
<b>Mammals</b> <b>28%</b>	Erinaceidae (hedgehogs)	398	24 %
<b>475</b>	Vespertilionidae (bats)	45	2.5 %
	Others (other mammals, amphibians, reptiles)	32	1.5 %

43 domestic birds (racing pigeons and domestic doves) were brought to Gower Bird Hospital.

Domestic birds were reunited with their owners or referred to RSPCA approved facilities.

Allowing for birds and animals that did not survive the first 48 hours after admission, 73% of wildlife casualties were successfully released back into the wild.

#### Facilities:

We have replaced one of our existing old wooden aviaries with a larger aviary using recycled plastic building materials and incorporating a water pool for aquatic species.

We have also built another seven hedgehog rehabilitation pens using recycled plastic materials.

#### Research and Education

In 2019 we received a small grant from the **British Hedgehog Preservation Society** to fund our research into the nutritional value of mealworms (*Tenebrio molitor*) compared to hedgehog natural insect food. The work has been completed and the paper is in preparation for publication. A synopsis of the research was presented at Hartpury University Gloucester in February 2020 for their Hedgehog Rehabilitation: Sharing Best Practice conference.

Gower Bird Hospital was invited by **Born Free Foundation** to give a short Zoom presentation in July on the standard of veterinary care at private veterinary practices. This is part of the drive to raise welfare standards for displaced native wildlife amongst the veterinary profession. Gower Bird Hospital has been proactive in highlighting this area of concern by publishing a website of case studies.

Gower Bird Hospital was also invited by the **British Council for Wildlife Rehabilitation** symposium in November to give a Zoom presentation on why and how to engage with science to improve welfare standards as well as promoting a more professional image of wildlife rehabilitation.

Gower Bird Hospital has started collecting hedgehog DNA for a new project at **Swansea University** instigating gene flow between hedgehog populations. This will in part help us understand how these mammals move between various habitats, thus informing future conservation management.

### **Collaboration**

Gower Bird Hospital was approached by the **Sanger Institute** towards the end of the year to engage with the Tree of Life Project. The Sanger Institute is a research centre which uses genomics to improve our understanding of the world. The Tree of Life programme focuses on the use of full genome sequencing to improve the knowledge of biodiversity, and to use this expertise to scale up to a world-wide perspective.

#### **The Darwin Tree of Life Project:**

The Sanger team has a leading role in coordinating the project, and in helping to build the core informatics processes which support the project. Members of their group are involved in almost every stage of the endeavour. Their core laboratory team processes samples received from the Genome Acquisition Laboratories, extracts DNA and RNA, and prepares them for sequencing by their Scientific Operations team. Their bioinformatics teams are then responsible for the assembly and polishing of the genome sequences, and for submitting them to the European Nucleotide Archive (ENA). They then work with colleagues to analyse and understand the biology of the genomes in evolutionary and ecological contexts.

Gower Bird Hospital is supplying parasites of hedgehogs, mainly *Crenosoma striatum* and *Eucoleus aerophilus* for full genome sequencing.

#### **Animal Welfare Network Wales and the Codes of Best Practice:**

The Welsh Government published its Code of Best Practice for Animal Welfare Establishments, giving clear guidance to all animal welfare establishments in what they need to do to ensure they meet the standard of care the law requires on the welfare of vulnerable animals. Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 anyone responsible for an animal has a legal duty to take reasonable steps to ensure its welfare needs are met. An Animal Welfare Establishment is also responsible for the animals in its care and therefore is also liable for prosecution if it fails to meet the needs of an animal.

This has been a long journey which started in 2009 when Gower Bird Hospital gave a presentation in Llandudno for Animal Welfare Network Wales on the subject of regulation for animal welfare establishments and the wildlife rehabilitation perspective. Eight years later, the report outlining the case for the regulation of Animal Welfare Establishments in Wales was provided to the Welsh Government by the AWWN. This was the catalyst for the codes of practice document that the Welsh Government has now published.

Gower Bird Hospital are proud to have been a part of this from the beginning and provided the insight and experience required in the rescue, admission, welfare and rehabilitation of sick and injured wildlife. Indeed, it was necessary for Gower Bird Hospital to advise that "Compassion needs to be encouraged, but compassion without a sense of responsibility can lead to cruelty." In the past there were no safeguards to prevent people who lacked the

requisite knowledge, skills, resources, commitment, facilities and equipment, from operating an establishment dealing with wildlife. We understand that the rescue and attempted rehabilitation of wildlife comes with good intentions, but unfortunately without the species-specific knowledge, experience and resources, it can lead to animals suffering even more. These codes provide the necessary framework to ensure that wildlife get all their fundamental needs met when sick or injured, and that their wellbeing and successful rehabilitation back into their natural habitat is provided by compassionate, but also competent, experienced, dedicated and responsible individuals. We understand that these codes are voluntary and future legislation is the only way to safeguard animal welfare. This is a small step in the right direction and the first time wildlife sits alongside cats, dogs and horses in published codes.

### **Goals for 2021**

To benefit the public and wildlife welfare by providing advice and a wildlife rehabilitation service.

To continue providing a high standard of care for displaced wildlife, whether it is accidental, deliberate or natural.

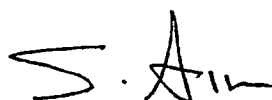
Gower Bird Hospital will also continue with its collaborations to improve working relationships in research, standards and education.

Update and amend our current constitution to better reflect the work carried out by the charity.

### **Reserves policy**

The trustees' policy is to maintain cash reserves sufficient to cover about 12 months of normal activity. At 31 December 2020 unrestricted cash reserves amounted to £73,471 and restricted reserves amounted to £2,500. The trustees have also designated £65,000 towards a new wildlife rehabilitation centre.

This report was approved by the trustees on .....18/10/2021..... and signed on their behalf by



.....  
Simon Allen - **Trustee**

**INDEPENDANT EXAMINERS REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES OF GOWER BIRD HOSPITAL**

I report on the accounts of Gower Bird Hospital (charity number 1053912) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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.

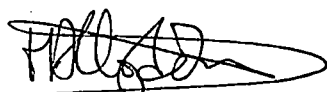
**Independent examiner's statement**

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

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- (a) To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- (b) To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Henry Lloyd Davies  
Bevan Buckland LLP  
Chartered Accountants

Date 18/10/2021 .....

Langdon House  
Langdon Road  
Swansea Waterfront  
Swansea  
SA1 8QY.

# GOWER BIRD HOSPITAL

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

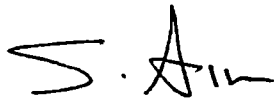
	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Donations and similar income	109,404	-	-	109,404	79,148
Fund raising	-	-	-	-	-
Fees for charitable services	7,841	-	-	7,841	6,502
Bank interest	266	-	-	266	84
Government Grants	3,190			3,190	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total receipts	120,701	-	-	120,701	85,734
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Payments</b>					
Cost of fund raising	-	-	-	-	652
Cost of charitable activities	16,156	-	-	16,156	11,391
Wages and salaries	44,386	-	-	44,386	55,642
Establishment costs	20,638	-	-	20,638	23,439
Administration expenses	2,869	-	-	2,869	5,003
Professional fees	870	-	-	870	840
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	84,918	-	-	84,918	96,967
Purchase of fixed assets	1,826	-	-	1,826	2,899
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total payments	86,745	-	-	86,745	99,866
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net receipts/(payments) for the year</b>	33,956	-	-	33,956	(14,132)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	39,515	65,000	2,500	107,015	121,147
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash funds this year end	73,471	65,000	2,500	140,971	107,015
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# GOWER BIRD HOSPITAL

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Cash funds</b>		
Bank Accounts	140,791	106,662
Cash in hand	180	353
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	140,971	107,015
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Other monetary assets</b>		
Debtors	434	379
Inland Revenue (Gift Aid)	7,000	7,000
Donations in advance	-	750
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,434	8,129
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Assets retained for charity's own use</b>		
Buildings, aviaries, pens, runs, CCTV systems, radio tracking, computers, cameras, research, surgical & sundry equipment, at a cost, including donated labour and materials of £56,106 (2019: £54,278)		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Suppliers	360	204
Professional fee for independent examination	885	860
PAYE & NI		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,245	1,064
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These accounts were approved by the trustees on.....18/10/2021..... and signed on their behalf by



Simon Allen  
Trustee

## **GOWER BIRD HOSPITAL**

### **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

#### **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Karen Kingsnorth, an employee, and Simon Allen, a trustee, are joint owners of the premises from which the charity operates. No rent is charged to the charity for the use of the accommodation but general expenses of £3,742 (2019: £3,768), initially met by Ms Kingsnorth and Mr Allen, are reclaimed. During the year a gross wage of £20,800 (2019: £20,455) was paid to Ms Kingsnorth.

None of the trustees received any remuneration nor expenses during the year.

#### **DESIGNATED FUNDS**

The charity has designated £65,000 towards a new wildlife rehabilitation centre.

#### **GOVERNMENT GRANTS**

During the year the following government support was received during the ongoing pandemic

<b>Grant Received</b>	<b>£</b>
Job Retention Scheme	3,190