

Chairman's Report for year 2021/2022

Covid 19 has still impacted on the work of the Trust, particularly in 2021 with, thankfully, restrictions easing in the later part of that year. For various reasons the costs of contractors and materials have risen exponentially and it has also proved difficult getting contractors on site. The work programme has consequently been affected by both the restrictions and the timely availability of contractors, more on this later in the report.

Visitor pressure has again been high but, thankfully, without the misuse by a minority of the public as seen in the previous year. However, sheep worrying and lamb deaths have again been higher than we would have wished for. One of the causes is that visitors are not used to the countryside and see little difference between a recreational park and farm land; this of course is an issue for the Trust to educate our visitors on, and is an on-going task.

As reported in the previous year's report the Trust has been offered a 5 year mirror agreement which will commence in 2022. We are led to believe that payments may increase, which will assist with the tapering of income from the Basic Payment scheme and help bridge the gap between these two funding streams and the new Environmental Land Management scheme (ELMs).

This has been the second year in the five year transition from direct payments from the Countryside Stewardship scheme (CS) to the ELMs. CS had requested that we reduce the amount of fertiliser used on the estate, which has resulted in a lower grass yield and consequently reduced income. The Board has expressed a wish to find a way to create a more species-rich grassland to benefit wildlife and biodiversity.

In response to the Board's desire to give archaeology a higher priority, Board members Kim Biddulph and Sandy Kidd invited Aylesbury Young Archaeologists Club (YAC) on site in October to complete a geophysical survey of the Moat and Moat Island, a small but key area near the Manor House, with a follow-up planned summer 2022.

Subsequently a meeting facilitated by Sandy Kidd was held between Bucks Archaeological Society (BAS), Active Archaeology (AA) and YAC with a view to putting a proposal for further exploration of the site to Historic England with the possible inclusion of Dig Ventures. Sandy Kidd is still actively engaged in finding expert advice to help with the proposal.

Early in the year Historic England made an experimental drone flight to photograph the site with live commentary by Sandy Kidd, which we all enjoyed.

Richard Gem and Garry Marshall have both published written accounts of the history of Quarrendon Leas researched from original sources.

This year has seen a catch-up on overdue countryside management tasks, halted by the constraints of the pandemic. This had an adverse effect on the budget, but the additional spending was met from last year's underspend, so expenditure has evened out over the two years.

The board has also discussed participating in the DEFRA England Trees Action in partnership with the River Thames Society, with whom we are in contact.

In September the board met on site and walked the route of the Aylesbury Garden Town Greenway. The Quarrendon Leas section around the north-east quadrant of Aylesbury town is fully funded and ready to go in early June, bar the completion of planning permission

The preparation of the route has been completed with fencing gates and clearance of 'the wilderness', a small parcel of land linking Quarrendon Leas with Buckingham Park to be gifted to the Trust from Taylor Wimpey.

The offer of the wilderness was accepted in principle, but with the proviso there was to be no cost to the Trust. We are delighted that the Buckinghamshire Council has since offered to meet the legal costs. The Trust was also surprised and delighted to be offered £10,000 from Barratt/David Wilson Homes (B/DW), developers of Kingsbrook in the south east of Aylesbury. We marked the event by meeting directors of Barratt on site for a photo opportunity with some of our volunteers. We were fortunate that the photographer used a drone and took a number of aerial images of the area around St.Peters. The Trust hopes to continue a close working relationship with B/DW and provide them with volunteering and team building opportunities.

We appointed a part time ranger for one visit per month to be our eyes and ears on site, liaising with the public, farmer and especially our volunteers. Jamie Woods was already a staff member of Woods Countryside and Leisure Ltd and familiar with the site and the aspirations of the Trust.

The Board welcomed Anne Davies to its last meeting. She was formerly head of legal services at Buckinghamshire County Council, and we are delighted to be able to call on her expertise as well as her interest.

Avril Davies

Chairman of the Trustees 9 June 2022

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
CONSERVATION TRUST**

ACCOUNTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st March 2022**

[illegible]

Date	Expenditure		Total Bank	100 Total Petty Cash	200 Professional Fees	300 Site Management	400 Site Security	500 Maint. & Materials	600 Conservation /Restoration	700 Equipment & Tools	800 Marketing & Interpretation	900 C'side Stewardship	1000 Bank Charges	1001 Companies House	1002 Insurance	1003 Misc	IT	Projects	
					D	E	F	G	H	J	K	I	L	N	M	O	P	Q	
08/04/21		DD	43.06														43.06		
13/04/21			1,008.00	100049		1,008.00													
20/04/21		100050	3,600.00		3,000.00												150.00	450	
20/04/21		DR	6.85										6.85						
21/04/21	Petty cash		262.53													262.53			
22/04/21		DD	28.78														28.78		
10/05/21		DD	53.06														43.06		
21/05/21			11.73										11.73			10.00			
20/06/21			7.04										7.04						
08/07/21		DD	81.86													10.00	71.86		
21/07/21			6.69										6.69						
28/07/21	Petty cash		230.27													230.27			
28/07/21			10.00													10.00			
04/08/21		100054	3,626.00		3,000.00										626.00				
20/08/21			9.70										9.70						
08/09/21			768.16			755.16								13.00					
20/09/21			7.30										7.30						
11/10/21			745.16			491.16									254.00				
12/10/21		100055	3,000.00		3,000.00														
21/10/21			6.85										6.85						
08/11/21			10.00													10.00			
20/11/21			7.65										7.65						
21/12/21			6.85										6.85						
11/01/22		100057	3,400.00		3,000.00											400.00			
12/01/22			10.00													10.00			
12/01/22		100056	235.70													235.70			
20/01/22			5.00										5.00						
04/02/22		100058	17,551.14			17,551.14													
20/02/22			6.74										6.74						
08/03/22		DD	32.00										32.00						
21/03/22		DR	5.40										5.40						
28/03/22		DD	28.78														28.78		
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FIXED ASSET SUMMARY

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

EQUIPMENT

[illegible]

Forward

<u>Dep'n</u>	<u>Net</u>
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
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	Current	P/cash
Balance as at 1st April 2021	113,079.22	300.00
plus income 2021-22	40,164.97	-
less expenditure 2020-21	- 34,812.30	-
Transfers 2021-22	-	-
Balance as at 31st March 2022	118,431.89	300.00
	-	-
Statement as at 31st March 2022	-	300.00
less unpresented cheques		
	-	300.00

Buckinghamshire Conservation Trust

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2022

£	2021 £		£	2022 £
		INCOME		
-		Grants	278	
16,622		RPA Farm payments	15,210	
13,401		Countryside stewardship	13,400	
-		Fundraising donations	10,000	
1,073		Rents & wayleaves	1,072	
505		Other income		
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	31,601			39,960
		EXPENDITURE		
12,000		Professional fees	12,000	
3,584		Site management	18,797	
388		Site security	220	
-		Countryside stewardship		
-		Conservation / restoration		
593		IT related expenses	515	
-		Marketing & interpretation		
-		Maintenance & materials		
		Equipment & tools		
450		Project expenditure		
170		Bank charges	120	
697		Insurance	880	
13		Companies House	13	
1,247		Miscellaneous	1,216	
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	19,142			33,761
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	12,459	Suplus / (deficit) for the year		6,199

Buckinghamshire Conservation Trust

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2022

	£	2021 £	£	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS				
Equipment at cost	-		-	
less depreciation	<u>-</u>	-	<u>-</u>	-
CURRENT ASSETS				
Bank current account	113,079		118,432	
Petty cash	<u>300</u>	113,379	<u>300</u>	118,732
Sundry debtors and prepayments				
	204	<u>204</u>	-	<u>-</u>
		113,583		118,732
less CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Sundry creditors and accruals		4,877		3,827
NET ASSETS		<u>108,706</u>		<u>114,905</u>
FINANCED BY:				
General funds at 1st April	96,247		108,706	
Add surplus / (deficit) for the year	<u>12,459</u>		<u>6,199</u>	
General funds at 31st March		108,706		114,905
		<u>108,706</u>		<u>114,905</u>

..... Chairman

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