

THE ALDE AND ORE ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1154583

Details

Other names	THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2013-11-14
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	19 Lee Road Aldeburgh IP15 5HG
Phone	01728 452660
Email	info@aldeandore.org
Website	aldeandore.org

Activities

Objects: TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT THE ALDE, ORE AND BUTLEY CREEK RIVERS AND THEIR BANKS FROM SHINGLE STREET TO THEIR TIDAL LIMITS AND SUCH OF THE LAND ADJOINING THEM OR UPSTREAM AS MAY BE CONSIDERED TO AFFECT THEM TOGETHER WITH THE FEATURES OF BEAUTY AND OF HISTORIC OR PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE AREA.

Activities: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WITH GUEST SPEAKERWINTER LECTUREMEMBERS SUMMER BARBECUE MEMBERS WALKS AROUND THE ESTUARY STANDS AT LOCAL EVENTS FOR FLOOD DEFENCE PUBLICITY AND MEMBERSHIP PRODUCTION OF NEWSLETTERS AND WALKS BOOKLETSSUPPORT OF ALDE/ORE ESTUARY PARTNERSHIPMONITORING AND ADVOCACY, LOCAL PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONSCONTRIBUTING TO CONSULTATIONS WHICH MAY AFFECT THE ESTUARY

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Suffolk

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£52,553	£34,784	-	-
2023-12-31	£57,321	£29,236	-	-
2022-12-31	£28,392	£14,931	-	-
2021-12-31	£15,647	£15,506	-	-
2020-12-31	£16,770	£7,316	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
LADY ALISON MARGARET ANDREWS OBE	Chair	2013-09-24
Bernadette Gilbert		2024-04-20
COLIN ELLIS CHAMBERLAIN		2013-09-24
EDWARD MARK GOYDER		2021-01-25
Keith Richard Martin		2014-01-31
Kim Lara Puttock		2025-01-16
Mervyn Patrick Hall		2024-04-20
Monica Anne Allen		2022-03-10
Roy Truman		2018-04-07

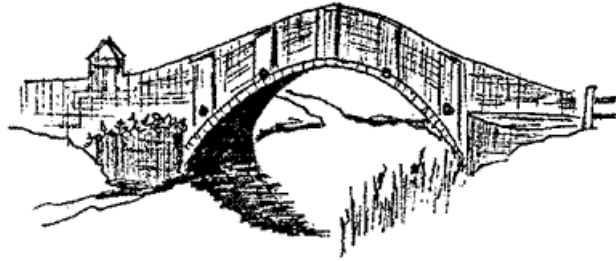
THE ALDE AND ORE ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1154583

Accounts

THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

Your Voice – Your Estuary



The Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31st December 2024

The Association, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, exists to preserve for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them, together with the features of beauty and or historic or public interest in that area.

Registered Charity No. 1154583

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees present their Report and the Accounts of the Charity for the year to 31st December 2024.

A. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

The Alde and Ore Association

Charity Registration No 1154583

Correspondence Address

19 Lee Road, Aldeburgh, IP15 5HG

Email address

info@aldeandore.org

Names of Charity Trustees

THE COMMITTEE at 31st December 2024

Officers

Alison Andrews	Chairman
Bernadette Gilbert	Treasurer

Other Trustees

Colin Chamberlain	Legal Adviser
Mark Goyder	Outreach
Keith Martin	Planning, SCAR
Roy Truman	Butley Ferry
Monica Allen	Newsletter Editor

Co-opted members

Roger Baxter	River Defence Committee
Sholto Lindsay-Smith	Marketing
Kim Puttock	Membership Secretary & Webmaster
Susie Rixon	Honorary Secretary (until 8 November 2024)

B. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Alde and Ore Association (The Association) was founded in 1991. On 1st January 2014, the charitable status was changed to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which assumed all the assets and liabilities of The Association.

Organisational structure

The Charity Trustees constitute a committee which manages the affairs of the CIO and for that purpose exercises the powers of the CIO.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting of The Association, in accordance with Clause 13 of the Constitution. One third of the Trustees must retire each year but are eligible for re-election, those to retire being the ones who have been longest in office.

C. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The objects of The Association are to preserve and protect for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them together with the features of beauty and historic or public interest in the area.

We confirm that the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Activities

The main activities undertaken towards achieving The Association's objectives during the year have been to:

- continue to help to ensure that river defences are upgraded in order to sustain the Alde and Ore and Butley rivers within their landscape to safeguard all the activities, places of interest and wildlife habitats contained within this unique area. This includes very active participation in the work of The Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOCP).
- work to safeguard the estuary by commenting on planning developments or other proposals which might either detract from or enhance the area.
- assess, photograph and report on the state of the river walls. This has been done through The Association's River Defence Committee.
- monitor the water quality of the estuary to provide baseline data on specific parameters which may affect the enjoyment of the estuary by the public.
- provide activities to encourage enjoyment or use of the area through the provision of the Butley Ferry. Other activities including organised walks and the annual barbecue.
- consider initiatives and support research relating to projects dealing with the river defences and the natural landscape, including commissioning and conducting the third ten yearly economic study of the Alde-Ore area.

Annual Report of the Alde and Ore Association including accounts for the year ending 31st December 2024

- promote communication with members: two Newsletters have been published and circulated to members and members are kept up to date by emails and through the website.
- work on encouraging a broader membership and, critically, the recruitment of new trustees and volunteers including by conducting a members' survey.
- members' survey conducted in 2023.

Contributions

Donations and legacies of £450 were received.

D. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The role of The Association

The Association continued to work to achieve its aim to preserve the rivers and adjoining land which may affect the estuary for the public benefit. The Trustees continued to meet regularly, both in person and by Zoom and email correspondence. The Association seeks to keep track of proposals and ideas which may affect the estuary and its banks either positively or adversely, and to act in the interest of the continued life of the estuary. It provides a voice on the Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOCP) and seeks to inform members of matters affecting the estuary overall. In carrying out its work to take care of the rivers and surrounding landscape to preserve their unique natural beauty, heritage and biodiversity, The Association has over the years, contributed significantly to the preservation, protection and enjoyment of the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers area.

The estuary needs the support and involvement of all who live and work in and visit the area, now more than ever.

Working with the Alde and Ore Community Partnership on the river defences

Sound river defences are an integral part of maintaining the homes, economy, recreation and environment with its large range of flora and fauna in the Alde and Ore area. Approval and a funding grant were announced in January 2023 for the First Phase of the work to improve the estuary embankments beginning in the Upper Alde Estuary which was to take four years once the preliminary preparatory work was completed.

During the year The Association has continued to work within the Alde and Ore Community Partnership and with the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust to seek to ensure that the preparatory plans for work starting on the ground in the spring of 2024 were on course and that the further work for the outline business case to secure permissions and a funding grant for Phase 2, the Lower Estuary, was progressed. A great deal was achieved in the form of necessary environmental and structural surveys and detailed designs taking account of these surveys and at the end of the year stock was being taken of what more needed to be done and revised costings.

The Association continued to keep members informed about the estuary plans through its newsletters and, where members have given permission to The Association to use their emails, via email.

Protection of the landscape

As part of The Association's role is to protect the landscape surrounding the estuary, we continue to monitor planning applications on a weekly basis. During 2024 we commented on two applications submitted in 2024. Firstly, an application for camping and other associated activities on the riverbank above Aldeburgh, which remains outstanding.

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The second was for the expansion of the Iken Canoe business which we have been happy to support in principle subject to professional advice from Natural England on the levels of activity proposed. That too remains outstanding at end 2024. The East Suffolk Council Local Plan is due to be reviewed in 2025 and we are presently preparing our input into that review.

The Association also submitted a response to the East Suffolk Council consultation on the possibility of licencing commercial jet skis in the Deben, but that any decision would affect all similar areas within the East Suffolk boundaries. The hearing was in January 2025.

Water Quality Monitoring

The Association continues to support this members'-led initiative and has appointed a trustee with responsibility for this activity. The group numbers 25 volunteers who collect water samples from 15 locations in the Alde and Ore river basin on a weekly basis. Using standardised test methods, these samples are analysed for concentrations of bacteria (E. coli) and plant nutrients (nitrates and phosphates).

By reference to published data the health of the river system can be monitored, any anomalies investigated, and if necessary, reported to the relevant enforcement authority (e.g. Environment Agency).

During 2024, the water quality in the estuary measured at Snape, Slaughden and Orford has been reasonably consistent with the Environment Agency's bathing water standard of Excellent. Persistent high levels of pollutants were detected in the vicinity of Gedgrave sewage treatment works. Working with both the Environment Agency and the water company concerned, an investigation was launched and a suspected source identified coming from an old part of plant infrastructure. In addition, the data has been shared with Natural England who have welcomed the co-operation and acknowledged the value of this work in their reporting of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).

With 2 1/4 full years of data at 31 December 2024, and the data continuing to be collected, work is in hand to chart data in an accessible form which is useful to stakeholders in the estuary including parish and town councils, yacht clubs and others. The main donors in 2024 towards the monitoring equipment costs were the Suffolk and Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape's Amenity and Accessibility Fund and the New Orford Town Trust, the remainder needed being met by the Association. Applications to other funders in 2025 and onwards are being made, the aim being if possible, to secure 70% of funding from other bodies and organisations with an interest in the monitoring of results.

Major infrastructure projects

The Association has continued to watch over the continuing succession of energy project proposals which are affecting this Suffolk coast area. The Association attends 'open days' and similar events given by the proposers and has submitted consultation responses where the estuary may be affected, but mostly the latest proposed routes avoid the estuary. Nevertheless, the cumulative effect of more of them will cause significant extra and large traffic on the roads and so affect access to and around the area and impact the local economy, discouraging people from coming to enjoy the area. The Association has joined in local organisation meetings and where appropriate has contributed to knowledge and thinking about the implications of the plans.

The Association was pleased that the chief objection it submitted, also shared by others in the area, to one part of proposals for the introduction of protection zones to encourage breeding Lesser Black-backed gulls was accepted and the site at Chantry, which is a popular walking area and so would be unsuitable for a breeding ground, was removed from the plans

River Defence Committee

The River Defence Team, under Roger Baxter, continued annual surveys along most parts of the river and reports were submitted to the Environment Agency.

We are very grateful to the volunteers for their time and effort in producing reports on the state of the river walls in the spring after the Spring Equinox which provide a regular update and a running benchmark on the state of the walls.

Enjoyment of the area

Thanks to the Bone family, The Association's Annual Barbecue was held in early September, in the peaceful field overlooking Brick Dock and along the stretches of the river both east and westward with the amazing open skies, at high tide so some members came by boat. Salter and King again provided the excellent hog roast at cost so a donation could be made to the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust towards the funds to improve the river embankments to reduce flooding for future generations.

Unfortunately, because of lack of sufficient resources to organise walks, none took place and the Trustees focussed on the Annual Barbecue. Members are encouraged to come forward if they had a good walk they would like to share and organise a walk, as these walks are very popular.

Yet another year has passed without final decision from the Government on the route of the English Coastal Path (now nationally called the King Charles III England Coastal Path) route in our area, but once a decision is made there may be some new paths around the Butley River.

The Butley Ferry

In 2024 the Butley Ferry carried over 1,100 passengers and with the takings of over £3,897, these were close to the record season we had just after Covid lockdown. An urgent repair was made to the Gedgrave jetty which suffered from an unfortunate collision and suffered a broken piling. On the Capel side, some of the original, but now worm-eaten timbers, were also replaced. A different repair was needed when the mooring strop parted late in the season.

At the Ferryman's annual lunch, Mike Finney received a 10 years' service certificate and Mike and Lydia Finney were jointly named "Ferryman of the Year". As ever the skill of our ferryman, their ability to assess how to deal with the tides and weather and their carpentry skills and the substantial time they devote to the ferry are much admired and appreciated.

Research commissioned

The major commission this year awarded to Risk and Policy Analysts Ltd (RPA) was the third in a series of a ten yearly study to assess the value of the estuary area and the qualities for which it is valued by residents, second homeowners, visitors and businesses. It was very positive that individual responses to surveys, completed mostly online, came from 735 individuals compared with 559 in the previous survey. This impressive level of response demonstrates how much the Alde and Ore estuary is valued. RPA's assessment of these responses and official data about the area showed that total spending was slightly up on the previous 10 years, with some figures probably depressed by having to use base figures affected by the covid lockdown.

Overall, the economy of the Alde-Ore area is worth more than £130 million a year and additionally the value of agricultural production, dependent on the river walls either as farming land or for irrigation from the flood cells, was worth some £19 million in 2024. The plan is for RPA Ltd, which works closely with the East Suffolk Water Management Board in securing grants for improving the estuary embankment defences, to use this material to further the case.

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In addition, the Association will use the material when highlighting the real concerns about the damage the several energy projects likely to be constructed through the area to the north but will affect access to it. The Association is very grateful to all who contributed to help make a well evidenced report.

Communication with members

The Annual General Meeting was held on 20th April 2024, 56 members attended and 14 sent in apologies. After the formal business, there was a discussion about the work on refreshing the work of The Association now restrictions on gatherings were lifted. After that the Water Monitoring team gave a lively presentation of what exactly water monitoring involved including the collection of samples and the results that were emerging. At the same time the work was set within the context of national concerns about water quality.

Two Newsletters were produced as usual. In keeping with the new approach, these were almost double the size of those a few years earlier and explored a wide range of history, wildlife, leisure and policies all relating to the unique estuary landscape. They continue to be produced on recycled paper.

Emails were sent on more urgent matters and to enable members and guests to join in events such as the Annual barbecue.

The website was kept up to date with links to organisations with shared interests. Planning for a new look to the website was started.

The Trustees' work on promotion of The Association

These findings on the outcome of the survey on the work of The Association were discussed at the 2024 AGM. With over 200 responses, the general picture was that The Association was doing a good job on what was required. There were areas where more details might be followed up and when time allows there could be focus groups to do this. In particular, Trustees hoped to form two focus groups on the topics most strongly endorsed by members, namely a wildlife and environmental focus group, and a planning and policy focus group to take work forward, subject to work progressing as resources allowed. In practice the bulk of Trustees time during the current year necessarily focused on the organisation of the economic study of the Alde-Ore area and ensuring there was a good response in questionnaires completed. In fact as mentioned above, there were 730 responses compared with some 559 in the previous 10-year economic survey.

As promised work began on achieving a livelier, more flexible and attractive website and the results should begin to be shown in 2025.

E. FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Association has a Reserves Policy of building its reserves without significant increases in membership fees whilst continuing to maintain existing services to members.

The Association's total Income to the 31st December 2024 was £55,520 (2023 £57,321) with expenditure for the year ended 31st December 2024 of £35,294 (2023: £29,236). The net income for the year was £20,226 (2023: £28,085).

The Association's main source of income is its membership fees (there are currently over 2,000 members in total, including members enrolled by reason of their membership of the Aldeburgh Yacht Club).

The Association expects to have to use its reserves to employ consultants, advisers and possibly even contractors to ensure the objectives of The Association in preserving the Alde and Ore Estuary for the

benefit of the public are met. The Association might also give grants to other charitable organisations in order to achieve its aims.

Both unrestricted as well as restricted reserves of The Association are currently held in savings deposit accounts with CCLA and current accounts at Barclays Bank.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Members of The Association's Committee are responsible for preparing the Charity's annual report and financial statements in accordance with the law applicable to charities and UK Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law requires that the report and financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity.

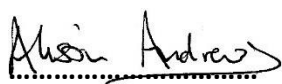
In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and
- prepare the financial statements on a 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees, for the purposes of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report, are set out on page 1.

Approved by the Trustees on 30th October 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lady Andrews', with a horizontal line underneath.

Lady Andrews, OBE, Chair of the Trustees

Statement of financial activities for the year ending 31st December 2024

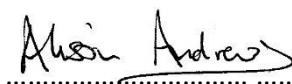
For general comments see Note 1.

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Income	2				
Membership fees and donations		10,897	-	10,897	10,485
Other Trading Activities		7,255	-	7,255	14,599
Investment income		3,605	33,763	37,368	32,237
Total Income		21,757	33,763	55,520	57,321
Expenditure	3				
Raising funds		4,450	-	4,450	15,411
Charitable activities		30,844	-	30,844	13,825
Total Expenditure		35,294	-	35,294	29,236
Net income/(expenditure)		(13,537)	33,763	20,226	28,085
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances brought forward		78,770	669,555	748,325	720,240
Net movement in funds		(13,537)	33,763	20,226	28,085
Fund balances carried forward		65,233	703,318	768,551	748,325

Balance sheet as at 31st December 2024

Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets	-	-	-	-
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-
Total Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-
Current Assets				
Debtors - Interest earned	289	2,677	2,966	3,213
Accrued Income	4,352	-	4,352	-
Cash at bank and in hand	67,588	700,641	768,229	745,592
Total Current Assets	72,229	703,318	775,547	748,805
Liabilities and Credits				
Due in less than a year	4	6,996	-	6,996
Net Assets	65,233	703,318	768,551	748,325

Approved by the Trustees on 30th October 2025


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Lady Andrews, OBE
Chair of the Trustees

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements

1. Accounting Policies

Basis for preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Trustees have assessed that the charity is a going concern and that the accounts can be prepared on that basis. The Trustees have also given consideration to post balance sheet events and consider that the charity has sufficient reserved to be able to meet the planned expenditure and continue its activities throughout the next twelve months.

Fund accounting

The Charity has restricted income funds to account for situations where a donor requires that a donation must be spent on a particular purpose, or where funds have been raised for a particular purpose. All other funds are unrestricted.

Incoming resources

Annual memberships are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate. Memberships received in advance are deferred and included in creditors.

Legacies and donations are recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received, and the monetary value of grants can be measured with sufficient reliability. Legacies can be categorised as either pecuniary (specific cash amount) or residuary (share of an estate). Pecuniary legacies are recognised as receivable once probate has been granted and notification has been received. Residuary legacies are recognised as receivable once probate has been granted and where they can be measured reliably.

Income from sales of publications is recognised as earned as the related goods are provided.

Investment income is credited to income on the accrual's basis, with daily accrual of interest calculated by reference to the distribution dates.

Resources Expended

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Taxation

The Association is a registered charity, so there is no charge for taxation.

Notes to the accounts (continued)

2. Income

	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>2024 Total funds £</i>	<i>2023 Total funds £</i>
Income from membership fees and donations				
Membership fees	5,365	-	5,365	5,514
Membership fees from Aldeburgh Yacht Club	3,252	-	3,252	3,303
Gift Aid Refund	1,100	-	1,100	1,118
Donations and legacies	450	-	450	100
Government Grants	730	-	730	450
Total income from membership fees and donations	10,897	-	10,897	10,485
Income from other trading activities				
BBQ	3,358	-	3,358	3,484
Walks	-	-	-	530
Butley Ferry	3,897	-	3,897	10,585
Total income from other trading activities	7,255	-	7,255	14,599
Income from investments				
Interest on cash deposits	3,605	33,763	37,368	32,237
Total income from investments	3,605	33,763	37,368	32,237
Total income	21,757	33,763	55,520	57,321

Notes to the accounts (continued)

3. Expenditure

	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>2024 Total funds £</i>	<i>2023 Total funds £</i>
Cost of raising funds				
BBQ	2,362	-	2,362	2,527
Walks	-	-	-	100
Butley Ferry	2,088	-	2,088	12,784
Total cost of raising funds	4,450	-	4,450	15,411
Cost of Charitable Activities				
Newsletter	4,693	-	4,693	6,775
Website costs	178	-	178	494
Postage/Stationary	145	-	145	79
Miscellaneous (photography competition)	186	-	186	726
Water Testing Program	2,167	-	2,167	1,337
Survey	18,551	-	18,551	-
Donations and grants by A&O	1,000	-	1,000	1,215
AGM	2,999	-	2,999	2,321
Independent Examination of Accounts	510	-	510	480
Insurance	415	-	415	398
Total cost of charitable activities	30,844	-	30,844	13,825
Total expenditure	35,294	-	35,294	29,236

Notes to the accounts (continued)

4. Liabilities

	<i>At 31st December 2024</i>	<i>At 31st December 2023</i>
	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Liabilities		
Survey	4,986	-
Butley Ferry	500	-
Donation to AOET	1,000	-
Examination of accounts	510	480
Total Liabilities	6,996	480

5. Funds

	<i>at 1 January 2024</i>	<i>Incoming resources</i>	<i>Outgoing resources</i>	<i>at 31 December 2024</i>
	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Restricted funds				
David Andren Bequest	669,555	33,763	-	703,318
Total restricted funds	669,555	33,763	-	703,318
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	78,770	21,757	35,294	65,233
Total unrestricted funds	78,770	21,757	35,294	65,233
Total funds	748,325	55,520	35,294	768,551

Purpose of restricted funds

The bequest from David Andren has been described in the Accounts for the sake of identification as 'restricted funds'. They are held by The Association to be applied as The Association sees fit and The Association has determined it will do so having regard to the wishes expressed in David Andren's will as follows: for the purposes of encouraging the community to help finance actions which will preserve the unique charm of the estuary, and in hope that the funds should be used to improve walls around Orford.

Purpose of general funds

General funds are those which are unrestricted and not designated for any other purpose. The balance on the general fund will be used to cover the excess of expenditure over incoming resources aims and mission.

Ultimate Controlling Party

The ultimate controlling party is the membership of the Charity.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Alde & Ore Association for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

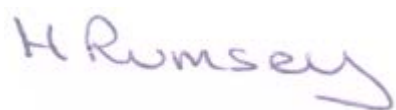
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- i. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- ii. the accounts did not accord with those accounting records; or
- iii. the accounts did not comply with the applicable accounting requirements concerning the form and contents 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.



Helen Rumsey FCA
Ensors

Blyth House
Rendham Road
Saxmundham
Suffolk
IP17 1WA

Date: 24th November 2025

www.aldeandore.org

Our website is updated with current news, Association events, AGM minutes and reports.

To enable us to send you news/events etc. without incurring expensive postage costs,
please send your email address to: **info@aldeandore.org**

We also welcome your comments and ideas at this email address.

THE ALDE AND ORE ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1154583

Accounts

THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

Your Voice – Your Estuary



THE THIRTY THIRD

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ALDE AND ORE ASSOCIATION

will be held on

Saturday 20th April 2024 at 10.00am for 10.30am

at

**THORPENESS COUNTRY CLUB,
THE BENTHILLS, THORPENESS, IP16 4NU**

Coffee and tea will be served from 10.00am

10.30 am AGM Business

followed by

Presentation on the monitoring of water quality

After the AGM you will hear about the project monitoring the quality of the water in the Alde and Ore and Butley rivers and its results: the project is now in its second year and is run and managed by a large team with the support of the Alde and Ore Association.

You will hear from our team leaders, Bobby Rusack and Miv Hall and sampler Tina Mackie: the presentation will include the national perspective on water monitoring, the value of citizen science in tracking water quality, reference to the work on the Deben River and what findings are emerging in the Alde and Ore

This will provide an opportunity for members to hear more about the project and to ask questions.

If you wish to attend, please let us know on info@aldeandore.org.

This is not essential but will help ensure smooth arrangements.

The Association, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, exists to preserve for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them, together with the features of beauty and or historic or public interest in that area.

Registered Charity No. 1154583

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Alde and Ore Association will be held on Saturday 20th April 2024 at 10.30am at Thorpeness Country Club.

Coffee and tea will be served from 10.00am

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the AGM held on 22nd April 2023
3. Trustees Report for the year ended 31st December 2023
4. Accounts of the Association for the year ended 31st December 2023
5. Election of Trustees
 - a) The following Trustee is retiring:
 - Birgitta Bostrom
 - b) The following Trustee is due to retire by rotation at the meeting and offers himself for re-election:
 - Mark Goyder (elected 2021)
 - c) The following persons, currently appointed pending election as trustees, are standing for election (biographical details given below):
 - Bernadette Gilbert
 - Mervyn Hall
6. The Way Ahead – Updating report from the trustees
7. Any other business

This will be followed by a presentation on monitoring of water quality in the Alde, Ore and Butley Rivers.

Note: Anyone wishing to become a Trustee or nominate a person is invited to get in touch with the Chairman, Alison Andrews (email: aldeblackburn@aol.com). Applications should be made initially to the Chairman who will be able to explain the work of the Committee and responsibilities of Trustees.

It is important to renew Trustee energy and interests whether in planning, marketing, website matters, newsletter publication, organising fun events, commenting on formative government and other policy consultations or a fresh approach. Please consider using your particular skills for the benefit of safeguarding the Alde and Ore estuary area and helping provide ways to enjoy: this would be most welcome. Terms of office run for three years and can be renewed.

Biographies of Trustees seeking re-election or election:

Mark Goyder:

Mark Goyder was appointed as a Trustee in January 2021 and elected as a Trustee at the 2021 AGM.

Before joining the Board, he had been an active member of the group identifying ways to take the Association forward in its aim to take care of the estuary and widen membership. As a Trustee, Mark has particularly taken the lead on developing greater outreach of the Association to other organisations where common cause can be made to enhance efforts to protect the estuary and its surrounding landscape.

This included initiating a link with Alde Valley Academy, starting outreach into schools to create a greater awareness of the estuary environment. This initiative is now helping a wider programme involving the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust and Alde and Ore Community Partnership.

Mark, is married to a keen sailor on the Alde. He founded Tomorrow's Company to inspire and enable business to be a force for good in society: The recommendations made by the Tomorrow's Company Inquiry laid the foundations for the "enlightened shareholder value" approach in the redefinition of the directors' duties in the 2006 Companies Act.

The report was the first to make the case that purpose, values and relationships – and not the narrow pursuit of financial objectives - lay at the heart of sustainable business success, a case that is now widely acknowledged across the business and investment world. In recent years he has concentrated on the issue of board and investor responsibilities for stewardship.

Bernadette Gilbert:

Berny Gilbert has been the CFO at Brooke since June 2022. Berny qualified as a chartered accountant at Deloitte and has over 30 years of experience working in the not-for-profit sector.

She has vast experience working at a senior level for charities. These include CARE International UK, Royal Opera House, Science Museum Group, International Institute for Environment and Development, and The King's Fund. Now that Berny is reaching the end of her career, she is looking to give back to the sector that has given her and her family so much over the years. Berny is also co-opted member of the Lords Taverners Transformation Committee.

Outside of work Berny loves to travel, she also loves the theatre and spending time outdoors around her home in Suffolk, especially on her boat moored on the Alde River. This precious area has become a sanctuary for relaxation after a hard week's work, so an opportunity for Berny to become directly involved in the Alde & Ore could not be missed.

Mervyn (Miv) Hall:

Mervyn (Miv) Hall a Life Sciences graduate and has spent a 35-year career in the waste management industry specializing in hazardous materials around the world. His work has encompassed wastewater treatment, contaminated soil remediation at the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and the 2007 Olympic Park, and specialised disposal of ozone depleting substances. He has a particular interest in waste management in the marine industry sector.

Suffolk born, Mervyn is an Aldeburgh resident and a keen member of Aldeburgh Yacht Club, sailing in the Loch Long class and cruiser passages round the North Sea, Atlantic and Mediterranean. He also plays golf at Aldeburgh Golf Club and is a staunch advocate for the preservation of our fragile natural environment in the East Suffolk National Landscape. He is the science coordinator of the Alde and Ore Water Quality Group, a citizen science project aimed at supporting the protection of the river water quality in our local rivers.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Alde and Ore Association held at 10.30am on Saturday 22nd April 2023 at Thorpeness Country Club

PRESENT:

Committee: Alison Andrews (Chairman), Birgitta Bostrom (Treasurer), Susie Rixon (Honorary Secretary), Colin Chamberlain, Keith Martin, Roy Truman, Mark Goyder and Monica Allen

Members: 56 members attended.

APOLOGIES: Frances Charlesworth, Peter Howard-Dobson, Kay Laskey, Sholto Lindsay-Smith, Ian Macnab, Andrew Parker-Jervis, Kim Puttock, David Rea, Elizabeth Stanton, Lizzi Thistlethwaite, Rex Bourne, Elizabeth Aitken

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous AGM of the Alde and Ore Association held on 28th April 2022 by Zoom were approved.

2. TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

The Chairman said that as members already had the Report for the year ending 31st December 2022, she would cover issues arising so far this year.

She began by saying that in 2021 the Alde and Ore Association missed celebrating its first 30 years, but now in its 32nd year everyone could celebrate the amazing news announced on 26th January 2023 of a breakthrough to allow the renewal of the river walls. The Upper Estuary Embankment Improvements were to go ahead with £11.941m of funding.

The timing of that announcement was indeed very welcome as it was almost on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the terrible storm bringing the surge and flooding of 31 January 1953. No one should ever forget that time. Such an event could and would happen again, but everyone in the Alde and Ore area needed to make sure they have done all that they could so that its impact would not be as disastrous.

The story behind the final breakthrough this January went back a long way.

Well before she joined the Alde and Ore Association Trustees around 2003, the Association had been ever pressing for the estuary to have its fair share of national investment in river defences. The Association was then, is now, and will continue to be the voice of the estuary. As government funding policies changed, the Association kept up the pressure, adjusting its approaches to maximise the impact on the policies.

The Association was instrumental in setting up the Estuary Planning Partnership around 2003. This was the very first time all local interests, stakeholders, government and local agencies had sat down together to discuss estuary issues on a regular basis.

Then in 2008, a full fifteen years ago, the Association wrote a 'Framework for the Future'. This warned the government that the threat to the area was devastating flooding caused by unmaintained river walls. They made the case that its proposed 100 year horizon only made no economic sense and that investment needed to be considered in 25 and 50 year stints.

A critical contribution from the Association's membership came when so many Association members wrote in response to the Alde and Ore Futures Consultation; there were some 240 responses, possibly many of those were from members. The overwhelming comment was that the proposal to simply mend walls near settlements was wrong and what was needed was a whole estuary strategy; the estuary being the artery of the area and its economic, leisure and environmental heritage.

After that, the Association working in partnership with Suffolk Coastal District Council and the Estuary Planning Partnership, built the foundation of the first community partnership in 2012, the Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership, to develop an estuary wide plan.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Alde and Ore Association held at 10.30am on Saturday 22nd April 2023 at Thorpeness Country Club (continued)

This was the start of ten years hard work. Getting the strategy written, consulted on and endorsed, with the Estuary and then Community Partnership, the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust and the East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board working through the many ins and outs of getting a detailed construction plan over the line, to achieve approval to go ahead and funding.

All this time the Association had, through its active membership of the Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership and now the Alde and Ore Community Partnership, helped make sure that the Plan moved on and did not founder. The Association had, with others, kept at it, and it showed we can make a difference.

The strength of the Association was that it is always here and on the watch for anything related to the well-being and enjoyment of the area. Some issues come and go quickly, others need more sustained efforts but without the Association the long- term stewardship of the estuary in its widest sense would have no voice or guardian.

She then turned to other matters that the Association had been watchful on:

On the energy front, there were two ongoing Judicial Reviews. The result of the one challenging the Government's decision on EDF's plans to build Sizewell C was expected early in May.

The Judicial Review for Scottish Power Renewables, a project which could mess up the coast at Thorpeness, was next month. The Association would continue to keep an eye on all this.

Later this summer more activity was expected. This time it would be the statutory consultations about the Sea Link and EuroLink proposals to bring more wind farm generated electricity on shore to then transfer it to other areas. Given the Association's primary purpose as a charity, it would especially keep an eye on the projects continuing to avoid the estuary. It would insist that they should properly address any impact on coastal flows and erosion. All of these energy proposals affected the estuary's surrounding landscape, but for those members with inland concerns away from the estuary, a recommendation was made to link up with SEAS (Suffolk Energy Action Solutions).

Looking ahead on brighter matters, she reported that the Trustees were currently assisting Alde Valley Academy which readily took up a suggestion for a short project about flooding inspired by the anniversary of the 1953 floods. A cohort of 12 year olds led by their excellent geography teacher was working on this using material provided by the Association on the 1953 and 2013 surges and river and sea defences. The Association would be giving the AYC Junior Regatta organisers a short daily briefing to help give some understanding of the river the juniors sail in.

Thanks were extended to George and Ali Watson as this year's annual barbecue would be on Sunday 6th August in the extraordinary setting at Chillesford, with a wonderful view of the marshes with a rising tide. Colin Chamberlain was very kindly taking the lead in organising this with some of the Trustees but would be asking for volunteers to make the task do-able. Colin also had a really nice circular walk around Orford lined up for the 1st of September. Circulars on both of these will go out by email shortly and would be on the website, but not sent by post. If anyone else would like to organise and lead a walk please let the Association know.

The Association liked to fund surveys on matters of importance to the estuary. It is a while since it had an economic survey, or funded wildlife and vegetation surveys but asked if anyone has ideas or contacts to come forward. The Association would particularly like help with an economic survey so that they would have their third, ten yearly assessment in place within the next 12 months.

The Butley Ferry was going from strength to strength. The superbly refurbished boat was launched at Pinneys smokehouse on the Gedgrave side of the river and rowed to her summer berth. Very auspiciously about four seals stirred themselves from lying on the mud banks and followed at a distance, ever vigilant, keeping an eye on what humans get up to.

The River Defence Committee volunteers under Roger Baxter, were currently in full swing making their annual surveys of the state of the river walls.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Alde and Ore Association held at 10.30am on Saturday 22nd April 2023 at Thorpeness Country Club (continued)

She hoped that everyone could sense the growing momentum of all the work of the Association and its members, working in partnership with others. To illustrate this further, she drew attention to the important water quality monitoring project. This was being led by Bobby Rusack and Miv Hall. They had gathered a good and growing team, a formidable undertaking, involving weekly sample collection and analysis. Two SCC councillors had both contributed funds to cover the equipment costs. It was a brilliant example how everyone in all parts of the estuary can do something and together the collective effort really benefits the whole area. The Association wanted to see and support such activities and provide a focus and platform so the estuary has a voice.

The Chairman extended very many thanks to all the Trustees and went on to say that from all the reports it is evident there is a lot to cover. The Association does all it can, but could do so much more if there were more people to help share the load. In particular a spread of skills was needed to:

- Help equip them to challenge government or other policies or planning applications.
- Help people enjoy the estuary more whether through more walks or specific talks.
- Enable more discussion sessions about issues on and around the river and its surrounding landscape.
- Be ready to contribute to the work they have embarked on with schools and young people.

In addition

- More marketing expertise was needed on how to approach matters through traditional means or, if the Association was to enter the modern media world (may be members have views on that?), they cannot do it without more resources and that did not mean simply buying in services, but having the trustee time to ensure the services meet what is needed.

The Chairman concluded by saying that she hoped today's account of the Association's stewardship had shown that the Association, like those seals in the river, keeps a watchful eye on every activity that can be identified on the river, so that its primary purpose was fulfilled which is to 'take care of our rivers and landscape today and tomorrow'.

3. ACCOUNTS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

Birgitta Bostrom, Treasurer, presented the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022. She reported that the accounts were in good order. Birgitta explained that the Trustees had opted to have the accounts examined every 2 years and extended thanks to Ensors who had approved the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022. She mentioned that Ensors offered preferential rates to registered charities.

Birgitta directed members to the Accounts beginning on page 8 of the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts which had been circulated in hard copy.

She outlined the key points of the accounts. Total income for the year ending 31st December 2022 was £28,932 compared with £15,647 the previous year. Membership fees were down a couple of hundred pounds, but donations were higher thanks to an unexpected final bequest from David Andren's estate.

Income from other trading activities was up after lockdown and included income from the Barbecue (£3,420) where a proportion of the sale of two maps of the Sailors Path was generously donated to the Association by the artist himself, John Dunthorne.

The Butley Ferry was still popular with an income of £2,994 in 2022 and income from walks bringing in a further £530.

Government Grants to help with the water testing project totalled £776. Investment income was up significantly due to higher interest rates. Funds continue to be invested in CCLA Charity Deposit Funds.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Alde and Ore Association held at 10.30am on Saturday 22nd April 2023 at Thorpeness Country Club (continued)

Overall, the total income was £28,932 which was higher than 2021 (£15,647) but for part of that year we were still in lockdown.

On expenditure, the cost of raising funds was just over £4,169 broken down into 3 areas:

- The annual Barbecue - £2,085
- Walks - £100 donated to the RSPB for allowing walks on their land with a guide
- The Butley Ferry - £1,984 compared with 2021 (£3,485).

The newsletter continued to be a big expenditure - £5,436, slightly up on 2021 (£5,070) due to the increased cost of printing and postage.

Birgitta concluded by saying that total funds amounted to £720,240.

There were no questions on the Accounts.

Rufus Gilday congratulated Birgitta on an excellent presentation, noted the cost of the AGM, approximately £2,000, and requested that in future biscuits be provided. The Chairman responded that this had been an error on her part, and that biscuits of course would be provided in the future.

4. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

The Charman began by sharing the news that other pressures mean that Kim Puttock and Sholto Lindsay-Smith have had to resign as trustees but that she was incredibly grateful that both had said they would help as far as they can in but a more limited way. Kim was still doing the membership work and the website, and the Trustees were very grateful to her for keeping it so up to date. She mentioned that it would be good to have a new membership secretary.

She said that Sholto had been inspiring in helping to see the way forward on all aspects of marketing, whether on membership matters, or more widely on the Association's activities.

She went on to say that she was delighted that Susie Rixon had volunteered to take on the administration work of the Association as Honorary Secretary. Wonderful news. Some members would already be familiar with Susie's expert skills organising volunteer working at Aldeburgh Yacht Club, and would know how lucky the Association was that she is joining the Committee.

Turning to annual elections, the constitution required a third of Trustees to stand down each year but they may be re-elected. The Chairman thanked Keith Martin and Birgitta Bostrom for agreeing to stand again. She mentioned that she was much relieved as both were invaluable. Birgitta was the most efficient Treasurer possible and also part of the barbecue team, and Keith in particular for his meticulous and rigorous eye on planning, as well as interviews and knowledge of the river. The Committee made a proposal for them both to continue as Trustees. Louise Mangeot seconded the proposal.

5. THE WAY AHEAD

The Chairman began by saying that last year, the Committee had explained their strategy to broaden and strengthen the Association's approach with its basic aim to take care of the rivers and their landscape for today and tomorrow.

The Association had been building a growing momentum exploring several things including outreach to other organisations, communications, and educational outreach, and these would be reported on next when undertakings from last year's AGM would be commented on.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Alde and Ore Association held at 10.30am on Saturday 22nd April 2023 at Thorpeness Country Club (continued)

She went on to say that all the Trustees had taken up their new roles and that more would be heard from some of them during the course of the meeting. She mentioned that there was possibly a new volunteer from Aldeburgh who may help with marketing.

Addressing the issue of identity discussed last year, the Chairman recognised the confusion people found with there being three organisations concerned with the Alde and Ore Estuary. She explained that they all had distinct functions but all were working to the same common end, the wellbeing of the Alde and Ore estuary.

The **Association (AOA)** was concerned with all aspects of the area whether defences, protecting the landscape and environment from detrimental activities, supporting positive activities and helping secure its enjoyment.

The **Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOCP)**, which succeeded the Estuary Partnership once the Strategy had been completed, took on the role of guardian of the estuary strategy and communications, both ways, with the local communities.

The task of implementing the strategy was given to a body with the skills and status to lead the design and construction to the flood resilience the strategy sought, namely the East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board, renamed only last week as East Suffolk Water Management Board (a new acronym ESWMB).

The **Alde and Ore Estuary Trust (AOET)** was a registered charity whose role is to raise and handle the funds required to make up the shortfall of those coming from government to deliver the Estuary Plan.

The Association had continued to participate in the Alde and Ore Community Partnership to which it provided one of the representatives. Officers were mostly elected from representatives and the Association's Chairman also served as the Alde and Ore Community Partnership Honorary Secretary. Over the coming year now that grant aid had been unblocked, there would be community presentations and members would see how all the organisations were working together. The next Alde and Ore Community Partnership meeting at the end of June would focus on the forward thinking for the Lower Estuary, Phase 2 of the project, and as always members of the public would be able to attend to hear and contribute to the thinking. The information about these would be on the Association web site as well. Towards the end of September there would be a whole estuary presentation, possibly at Snape Maltings, for anyone who wanted to attend to hear what was needed and why, together with the plans for the next four years in the upper estuary, and progress on the business case for the lower estuary.

The Chairman referred to talks that she and Mark Goyder, also an Association Trustee, had with the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust as they previously said they would, and handed over to Mark to talk about these in more detail as well as outreach to other organisations with which the Association can make common cause.

Mark began by thanking the Chairman. He said that she was admirable in the way that she models partnership, and so effective as an ambassador.

Mark continued by saying that over the past year, the Association has worked on the basis of its shortened charitable objective, based on that set out in the Constitution, expressing its core value and purpose which was 'To take care of our rivers and landscape today and tomorrow'. In pursuit of this objective, he had taken on responsibility for supporting the Chair and other Trustees in strengthening external relationships.

He and Alison had met two of the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust trustees, Jane Maxim and Elizabeth Stanton, in order to build a closer relationship with more regular communication. with very positive results. The intention was that the Association and the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust would be modelling partnership in everything they did, strengthening the habit of reciprocity at the same time as understanding the constraints that confronted each organisation. This also included advice from the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust that the Association was seen and valued by others as a monitoring and lobbying association. Its role in championing the needs of the estuary, was seen as valuable, and if anything, the Association could be more vocal.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Alde and Ore Association held at 10.30am on Saturday 22nd April 2023 at Thorpeness Country Club (continued)

Mark also mentioned the contact he had made with the Suffolk Preservation Society and the Alde Valley Academy. On the latter project that was now being developed with the Academy to help students learn about the 1953 floods and the importance of river and sea defences, he hoped that it was the start of getting more involved with the next generation. On that theme, he had spoken to Susie Rixon who was a Trustee of the Aldeburgh Yacht Club Schools Sailing Trust which provided opportunities on and off the water for local school children, and that there was an opportunity to be more involved there. Mark handed back to the Chairman.

The Chairman continued by saying that the Association had always wanted to get more closely involved with local schools and indeed Lydia Freeman mentioned reaching out to young people at last year's AGM. The initiative with Alde Valley Academy, thanks to a link by Mark, was a project over 5 full afternoons on the 1953 flood, involving why looking after the area matters, bringing in the local economy, the history of walls, towns, and buildings, what flood defences are, what climate change means and the impact of rising sea levels. She hoped that the students would feel inspired with the material provided and the introductory session that herself and Roy Truman, also an Association Trustee, attended earlier in March, following on from the brilliant power-point that the teacher, Mr Spinx, had put together beginning with a wake up question 'How old was Mr Spinx in 1953?' The answer 'minus 23' drew laughter from the audience. The children had also had a sunny afternoon's walk, but in force 5 winds, to see the various types of sea and river defences around the Slaughden river wall. The Association had great hopes of small presentations to a local primary school, possibly quizzes and word searches in the future.

The Chairman then moved on to the subject of marketing and communications. She said that getting good communications with members so that the Association served the purposes that members saw needed to be met to preserve and protect the area, in addition to all the communications about matters impacting on the area to the authorities and stakeholders, was very important. She called on Monica Allen, Association Trustee, and Newsletter Editor.

Monica began by speaking about printed material. She referred to the recent leaflet expressing succinctly the purpose and activities of the Association as well as inviting people to join, that had been produced last summer following the AGM and people were probably sitting on the copies that had been placed on the chairs at the meeting. This was a very informative leaflet that had also been distributed with the Autumn 2022 newsletter as well as being handed out on the Butley Ferry, and through one holiday rental company. Members were encouraged to pass the fresh copies on to friends and neighbours.

She then spoke about the newsletter of which there are two issues each year. The aim now was to make it at least 20 pages long and to include articles on a range of different subjects. It was hard work, but fresh ideas and articles were constantly needed, and members could help with this given their wide range of knowledge and expertise in the area. She gave examples of Sue Wallace-Shaddad's contribution after the last AGM, and Tony Newman's write-up of the Snape Wetland walk with added insight into the importance of wetlands. She asked for more contributions, however short, or leads that could be followed up on. Birgitta commented on how the newsletter is so much better and all agreed.

As Sholto Lindsey-Smith was not able to join the meeting, the Chairman read his following statement in relation to progressing communications.

"We hope to launch a member survey in the next four weeks, with the aim of gathering views on what you think are the priorities for the Alde & Ore Association. We also hope to gather feedback on the types of activities that members would like to get more involved in."

The survey will be sent out via email and publicised on the website and through other membership organisations. We hope to extend the reach of the survey to other people in the community so we can get a better understanding of what they know about us and gauge their interest in joining. So, it would be fantastic if you can help us promote the survey when we launch it. We will alert you when it is ready to launch."

The Chairman reinforced the need for web and media experts and encouraged any volunteers to come forward.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Alde and Ore Association held at 10.30am on Saturday 22nd April 2023 at Thorpeness Country Club (continued)

She said that the Association had been in touch with Aldeburgh Yacht Club, following comments made last year. Rather more would be said about the Association on the Aldeburgh Yacht Club website to clarify the importance of the link, and also of supporting fund raising to ensure that estuary embankments were improved as the improvements were designed to last for 50 or more years.

She then recognised the continuing good work of Trustees. The excellent work on regular planning monitoring and challenging applications led by Keith Martin, and the amazing Butley Ferry led by Roy Truman, which continue unabated with improvements being made all the time and the work of the River Defence Committee and the excellent water monitoring project. All these were part of the continuing momentum of the Association and kept the modest number of Trustees more than occupied. She encouraged members again to think about using their skills in these endeavours.

The Chairman concluded by looking ahead to commitments during the next year. Trustees hoped more people would want to help. They will shortly conduct the survey of members and potential members and act upon that, plus as always, being on planning watch, running the ferry, walks, and responding to policy developments or major infrastructure plans as and when they arose.

If the Association was not there how would the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers have a voice? The aim was to make sure it has one.

Questions/Feedback

Simon Barrow referred to the partnership of the Association with Aldeburgh Yacht Club and asked about a partnership with Orford Sailing Club.

The Chairman thanked Simon for his question and went on to explain that the Aldeburgh Yacht Club had a joint membership arrangement with the Association. Orford Sailing Club was much smaller and run by volunteers. Its choice was not to have joint membership as it did not have the administrative capacity to run joint membership, but for members to know about the Association.

Andrew Curtis, in relation to the project run in conjunction with Alde Academy, asked whether the Association had an intention to work with Orford Primary School in the future.

The Chairman thanked Andrew for his question and acknowledged that there was indeed a school in Orford but Alde Valley was the Association's first school project. She asked the audience if anyone had a link with Orford Primary School that could be followed up. Chris Gill mentioned that Orford Primary School was keen to work with external organisations on activities. Mark Goyder thanked Chris and agreed to follow this up.

Richard Bodek asked a question about the current state of the water quality in the river.

The Chairman thanked Richard for his question and responded that it wasn't too bad, unlike the River Deben which has a large sewerage processing plant at the head of its estuary. On current test results, if you swim in the Alde you should be fine.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and invited members to write in separately to raise any points of concern or with suggestions.

The meeting then moved to a presentation by guest speakers on the newly released Alde and Ore Estuary Embankment Improvements project.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Alde and Ore Association held at 10.30am on Saturday 22nd April 2023 at Thorpeness Country Club (continued)

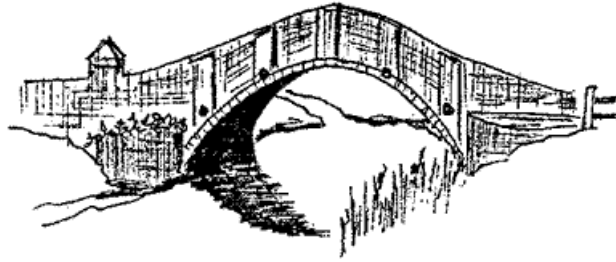
Giles Bloomfield of East Suffolk Water Management Board spoke about the origins of the Plan, why embankment improvements were needed and what would be lost if the river walls were left to continue to degrade, including homes, businesses, infrastructure, agricultural land and water sources, and the varied landscape and habitats and leisure activity opportunities on land and water. The principal aim in terms of flood defence was to be resilient over next 25-50 years and to be able to withstand all but the most exceptional surge floods but even so to survive the over-topping. He described the design work to achieve this and considerations that required the Plan to be implemented in two phases, first the upper estuary followed by the lower estuary, the costs, funding and community engagement.

With David Kemp, Environment Agency, he described their assessment of the changes on the Slaughden shore /Sudbourne beach and its longer-term possible implications for the river and that the shoreline was under constant monitoring. *(note: this assessment was reported in full in the Association's Autumn 2023 Newsletter).*

Jane Maxim spoke for the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust about the plans for plugging the gap between project costs and government funds. Frances Barnwell described the role of the Alde and Estuary Community Partnership, which has representatives of all areas potentially affected by flooding from the estuary from all local Parish Councils, District and County Councillors, the local landowner members of the East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board, the Association and local business community, and plans for future communications.

THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

Your Voice – Your Estuary



The Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31st December 2023

The Association, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, exists to preserve for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them, together with the features of beauty and or historic or public interest in that area.

Registered Charity No. 1154583

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees present their Report and the Accounts of the Charity for the year to 31st December 2023.

A. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

The Alde and Ore Association
Charity Registration No 1154583

Correspondence Address

19 Lee Road, Aldeburgh, IP15 5HG

Email address

info@aldeandore.org

Names of Charity Trustees

THE COMMITTEE at 31st December 2023

Officers

Alison Andrews	Chairman
Birgitta Bostrom	Treasurer

Other Trustees

Colin Chamberlain	Legal Adviser
Mark Goyder	Outreach
Keith Martin	Planning, SCAR
Roy Truman	Butley Ferry
Monica Allen	Newsletter Editor

Co-opted members

Roger Baxter	River Defence Committee
Sholto Lindsay-Smith	Marketing
Kim Puttock	Membership Secretary & Webmaster
Susie Rixon	Honorary Secretary

B. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Alde and Ore Association (The Association) was founded in 1991. On 1st January 2014, the charitable status was changed to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which assumed all the assets and liabilities of The Association.

Organisational structure

The Charity Trustees constitute a committee which manages the affairs of the CIO and for that purpose exercises the powers of the CIO.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting of The Association, in accordance with Clause 13 of the Constitution. One third of the Trustees must retire each year but are eligible for re-election, those to retire being the ones who have been longest in office.

C. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The objects of The Association are to preserve and protect for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them together with the features of beauty and historic or public interest in the area.

We confirm that the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Activities

The main activities undertaken towards achieving The Association's objectives during the year have been to:

- continue to help to ensure that river defences are upgraded in order to sustain the Alde and Ore and Butley rivers within their landscape to safeguard all the activities, places of interest and wildlife habitats contained within this unique area. This includes very active participation in the work of The Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOCP).
- work to safeguard the estuary by commenting on planning developments or other proposals which might either detract from or enhance the area.
- assess, photograph and report on the state of the river walls. This has been done through The Association's River Defence Committee.
- provide activities to encourage enjoyment or use of the area through the provision of the Butley Ferry. Other activities including organised walks and the annual barbecue.
- consider initiatives and support research relating to projects dealing with the river defences and the natural landscape.
- promote communication with members: two Newsletters have been published and circulated to members and members are kept up to date by emails and through the website.
- work on encouraging a broader membership and, critically, the recruitment of new trustees and volunteers including by conducting a members' survey.

Contributions

Donations of £100 were received.

D. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The role of The Association

The Association continued to work to achieve its aim to preserve the rivers and adjoining land which may affect the estuary for the public benefit. The Trustees continued to meet regularly, both in person and by Zoom. The Association seeks to keep track of proposals and ideas which may affect the estuary and its banks either positively or adversely, and to act in the interest of the continued life of the estuary. It provides a voice on the Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOCP) and seeks to inform members of matters affecting the estuary overall. The Association has over the years, in carrying out its work to take care of the rivers and surrounding landscape to preserve their unique natural beauty, heritage and biodiversity, contributed significantly to the preservation, protection and enjoyment of the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers area.

The estuary needs the support and involvement of all who live and work in and visit the area, now more than ever.

Working with the Alde and Ore Community Partnership on the river defences

Sound river defences are an integral part of maintaining the homes, economy, recreation and environment with its large range of flora and fauna in the Alde and Ore area. In January 2023 the Alde and Ore community heard the splendid announcement of the approval of the First Phase of the work to improve the estuary embankments beginning in the Upper Alde Estuary and the award of some £11 million in grants from the Environment Agency largely covering the costs. As one of the bodies which has been working towards securing an estuary defence improvement plan and represented on the Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOCP), and its predecessor, the original Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership formed in 2012, this was very welcome news to The Association as well as the whole estuary community. During the year The Association has continued to work within the AOCP and with the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust to seek to ensure that the preparatory plans for work starting on the ground in 2024 are on course and that the further work for the outline business case to secure permissions and grant for Phase 2, the Lower Estuary, was progressed.

The Association continued to keep members informed about the estuary plans through its newsletters and, where members have given permission to The Association to use their emails, via email. The Association took the opportunity at its AGM to have a full and detailed presentation on the implementation of the Estuary Plan, the work on Phase 1 on the Upper Estuary and the necessary preparations to get Phase 2 for the Lower Estuary ready for implementation too.

Protection of the landscape

Part of The Association's role is to protect the landscape surrounding the estuary and we monitor planning applications on a more or less weekly basis. The application at Gedgrave referred to in last year's report was approved unamended but the Iken application was altered significantly prior to gaining consent. During this last year we have reported non-compliance with approved plans at Snape leading to enforcement action by East Suffolk Council. We are also concerned about an intrusive application for development on the riverbank and into the river just above Aldeburgh. Our objections have been submitted and we hope for a modification of the proposals.

The Association has continued fully supporting a members' led initiative to monitor the quality of the water in the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers. Bobby Rusack and Miv Hall now have a team of twenty who collect water samples each week at thirteen different points throughout the area and two who undertake the testing. Reports are sent regularly to the Suffolk County Council and the Environment Agency. Funding was provided for the pilot year, until end September, by two Suffolk Country Councillors, Andrew Reid and T-J Haworth-Culf, and The Association ensured the remaining needs were met. Since October, when a second year was launched to secure a good data base for future assessments, a six-month grant has been provided by the National Landscape (formerly known as AONB) Suffolk and Essex Coast and Heaths' Amenity and Accessibility Fund sponsored by them, together with EDF, Suffolk County Council and East Coast Council. Other funders are being sought. Initiatives like this help to secure the well-being of the estuary and people's enjoyment of it.

The Association has continued to watch over the continuing succession of energy project proposals which will affect this Suffolk coast area: where the estuary may be affected The Association has attended 'open days' and similar events given by the proposers and submitted consultation responses. The Association has joined in local organisation

Annual Report of the Alde and Ore Association including accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023

meetings and where appropriate has contributed to knowledge and thinking about the implications of the plans. During this year, except for one produced at the end of 2023 about habitats for Lesser Black-Backed Gulls, the proposals would not directly affect the estuary area, but the single and cumulative effect of one or several of them will cause significant extra and large traffic on the roads and so affect access to and around the area and impact the local economy, discouraging people from coming to enjoy the area.

River Defence Committee

The River Defence Team, under Roger Baxter, continued their annual surveys in most parts of the river and reports were submitted to the Environment Agency.

We are very grateful to the volunteers for their time and effort in producing reports on the state of the river walls in the spring after the Spring Equinox which provide a regular update to the running benchmark on the state of the walls.

Enjoyment of the area

Thanks to George and Ali Watson, The Association's annual barbecue, held at the start of August, was in a fairytale setting near Chillesford overlooking the mosaic of the upper reaches of the Butley River. A record number attended despite the weather and it was much enjoyed. Salter and King again provided the excellent hog roast at cost so a donation could be made to the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust towards the funds to improve the river embankments and reduce flooding for future generations.

Also, early in 2023 the Association organised two more of the very popular walks with an RSPB guide on the Snape Wetland Reserve before the bird breeding season began. In September there was a splendid circular walk around Orford including inland and on the river walls which was greatly enjoyed as it joined up stretches of several different walks. Members were encouraged to come forward if they had a good walk they would like to share and organise a walk, as these walks are very popular.

Another year has passed without final decision on the route of the English Coastal Path (now nationally called the King Charles III England Coastal Path) route in our area, but once a decision is made there may be some new paths around the Butley River.

The Butley Ferry

This season saw the launch of our professionally renovated boat. An expensive, but necessary, course of action which should give us decades more use from our fifty-year-old boat. We also replaced a 10-metre section of the Gedgrave jetty using recycled plastic timber which we hope will be less likely to be devoured by hungry shipworms. Both of these projects were 50% funded by grants from the AONB. This has completed all of the large infrastructure projects and, hopefully, should only have to do smaller routine maintenance work for a few years.

Passenger numbers were slightly down this year, mainly due to the poor weather in the second half of the season, with 960 passengers of which 337 were cyclists. 6 days (10% of the season) were lost due to strong winds.

As this was the 30th anniversary of the ferry relaunch, we had our annual Ferryman's Lunch at The Froize, Chillesford. Bobby Rusack was awarded the Ferryman of the Year prize and our first long service certificate for 20 years' service was awarded to Simon Barrow.

Research commissioned

No work was commissioned during 2023 but previous work was continually referred to during the course of the year, particularly in relation to Professor Pye's work on the shingle shoreline south of the Aldeburgh Martello Tower and separately that on Hazlewood Marsh. Updating surveys are under consideration.

The Association linked up with Alde Valley Academy to seek to help achieve a greater knowledge of their local area and the importance of flood defences in the anniversary year of the 1953 destructive floods. The Association provided material on the 1973 and 2013 floods and a walk to look at old and new river embankment flood defences to enable a summer term project for a group of 12/13 year olds. The Association also provided briefing to the Aldeburgh Yacht Club Junior Regatta to give the young sailors more understanding of the Estuary.

Annual Report of the Alde and Ore Association including accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023

Communication with members

The Annual General Meeting held on 23 April 2023 was the first one in person since the Covid pandemic broke in 2020. Some 56 members attended. The main business was dealt with and there was a discussion about the work on refreshing the work of The Association now restrictions on gatherings were lifted. After that the main guest speaker brought members up to date with the project to implement the Estuary embankment improvements now that approval and funding to support Phase 1 in the Upper Estuary had been obtained. The talk also enabled other concerns and interests in the estuary's configuration to be explored.

Two Newsletters were produced and, in keeping with the new approach, were both almost double the size of those a few years earlier: these explored a wide range of history, wildlife, leisure and policies all relating to the unique estuary landscape. They continue to be produced on recycled paper.

Emails were sent on more urgent matters and to enable members and guests to join in walks and events.

The website was kept up to date with links to organisations with shared interests. Plans are in hand to take a new look at the website.

The Trustees work on promotion of The Association

During 2023 the Trustees devised a survey for members and non- members to ascertain how much people know about the work of The Association, what issues, areas activities they thought it should focus on and on what issues or in what way members might like to participate to help further the work of The Association. This was completed in the autumn with just over 200 responses. The Trustees have analysed these and are working through the ideas that have been raised and contacting individual members where appropriate and where they provided permission for their emails to be used. (In passing it would be very helpful if members could also let us know of any changes in the postal and email addresses, otherwise we find people drop out of the communications and then are concerned they hear nothing).

The positive message from the survey was that while some felt they didn't understand The Association's role well, possibly most of the non-members who kindly responded, almost 90% thought it was doing a good job in meeting what was required. The areas of action by The Association were all well supported. Nevertheless, Trustees recognised that more could be done with clearer and fresher communications and messages and will keep that as an ongoing task. As expected, there was still confusion about the roles of the three estuary organisations, The Association, the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust and the Alde and Ore Community Partnership: as each have different roles requiring different constitutions there is more to be done to make clearer that together they provide a full range of action for the benefit of the Estuary. The Association is concerned with all aspects of the well-being of the estuary, the AOCP with the community communications and concerns with the estuary flood defences and the AOET with the responsibility to raise funds to fill any shortfall in government contributions to enable the wall embankment improvement programme to be achieved.

A fifth of those replying said they would be interested in helping further activities although only half felt able to help at present. Not all gave their email addresses: the rules on GDPR are necessary to safeguard people's privacy but can at times limit contact with those who are willing in principle to help but do not expressly give permission for their emails to be used. Ideas that members put forward and will be pursued include greater involvement in river defences, greater involvement on conservation matters, more events and talks about the estuary and its heritage and planning and policy matters. The several different themes of work are in progress.

E. FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Association has a Reserves Policy of building its reserves without significant increases in membership fees whilst continuing to maintain existing services to members.

The Association's main source of income is its membership fees (there are currently over 2,000 members in total, including members enrolled by reason of their membership of the Aldeburgh Yacht Club).

Annual Report of the Alde and Ore Association including accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023

The Association expects to have to use its reserves to employ consultants, advisers and possibly even contractors to ensure the objectives of The Association in preserving the Alde and Ore Estuary for the benefit of the public are met. The Association might also give grants to other charitable organisations in order to achieve its aims.

Both unrestricted as well as restricted reserves of The Association are currently held in savings deposit accounts with CCLA and current accounts at Barclays Bank.

Annual Report of the Alde and Ore Association including accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Members of The Association's Committee are responsible for preparing the Charity's annual report and financial statements in accordance with the law applicable to charities and UK Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law requires that the report and financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and
- prepare the financial statements on a 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees, for the purposes of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report, are set out on page 1.

Approved by the Trustees on 29th January 2024



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Lady Andrews, OBE
Chair of the Trustees

Statement of financial activities for the year ending 31st December 2023

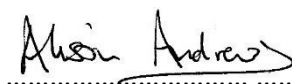
For general comments see Note 1.

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Income	2				
Membership fees and donations		10,485	-	10,485	13,076
Other Trading Activities		14,599	-	14,599	3,878
Investment income		3,107	29,130	32,237	1,390
Total Income		28,191	29,130	57,321	15,647
Expenditure	3				
Raising funds		15,411	-	15,411	4,169
Charitable activities		13,825	-	13,825	10,762
Total Expenditure		29,236	-	29,236	14,931
Net income/(expenditure)		-1,045	29,130	28,085	13,461
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances brought forward		79,815	640,425	720,240	706,779
Net movement in funds		-1,045	29,130	28,085	13,461
Fund balances carried forward		78,770	669,555	748,325	720,240

Balance sheet as at 31st December 2023

Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets	-	-	-	-
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-
Total Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-
Current Assets				
Stocks	-	-	-	-
Debtors - Interest earned	310	2,940	3,214	1,800
Refund Royal Mail	-	-	-	1,521
Cash at bank and in hand	78,941	666,651	745,592	717,469
Total Current Assets	79,250	669,555	748,805	720,790
Liabilities and Credits				
Due in less than a year	4	480	480	550
Net Assets	78,770	669,555	748,325	720,240

Approved by the Trustees on 29th January 2024


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Lady Andrews, OBE
Chair of the Trustees

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements

1. Accounting Policies

Basis for preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Trustees have assessed that the charity is a going concern and that the accounts can be prepared on that basis. The Trustees have also given consideration to post balance sheet events and consider that the charity has sufficient reserved to be able to meet the planned expenditure and continue its activities throughout the next twelve months.

Fund accounting

The Charity has restricted income funds to account for situations where a donor requires that a donation must be spent on a particular purpose, or where funds have been raised for a particular purpose. All other funds are unrestricted.

Incoming resources

Annual memberships are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate. Memberships received in advance are deferred and included in creditors.

Legacies and donations are recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received, and the monetary value of grants can be measured with sufficient reliability. Legacies can be categorised as either pecuniary (specific cash amount) or residuary (share of an estate). Pecuniary legacies are recognised as receivable once probate has been granted and notification has been received. Residuary legacies are recognised as receivable once probate has been granted and where they can be measured reliably.

Income from sales of publications is recognised as earned as the related goods are provided.

Investment income is credited to income on the accrual's basis, with daily accrual of interest calculated by reference to the distribution dates.

Resources Expended

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Taxation

The Association is a registered charity, so there is no charge for taxation.

Notes to the accounts (continued)

2. Income

	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Income from membership fees and donations				
Membership fees	5,514	-	5,514	5,275
Membership fees from Aldeburgh Yacht Club	3,303	-	3,303	3,303
Gift Aid Refund	1,118	-	1,118	1,171
Donations and legacies	100	-	100	2,551
Government Grants	451	-	451	776
Total income from membership fees and donations	10,485	-	10,485	10,379
Income from other trading activities				
BBQ	3,484	-	3,484	3,420
Walks	530	-	530	530
Butley Ferry	10,585	-	3,176	2,994
Sales of publications/DVDs	0	-	0	95
Total income from other trading activities	14,599	-	7,190	7,039
Income from investments				
Interest on cash deposits	3,107	29,130	32,237	8,277
Total income from investments	3,107	29,130	32,237	1,390
Total income	28,192	29,130	57,322	28,392

Notes to the accounts (continued)

3. Expenditure

	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Cost of raising funds				
BBQ	2,527	-	2,527	2,085
Walks	100	-	100	100
Butley Ferry	12,784	-	12,784	1,984
Total cost of raising funds	15,411	-	15,411	1,984
Cost of Charitable Activities				
Newsletter	6,775	-	6,775	5,436
Website costs	494	-	494	78
Postage/Stationary	79	-	79	8
Miscellaneous (photography competition)	726	-	726	486
Water Testing Program	1,337	-	1,337	399
Donations and grants by A&O	1,215	-	1,215	1,450
AGM	2,321	-	2,321	2,013
Independent Examination of Accounts	480	-	480	450
Insurance	397	-	397	442
Total cost of charitable activities	13,825	-	13,825	10,762
Total expenditure	29,236	-	29,236	14,931

Notes to the accounts (continued)

4. Liabilities

	<i>At 31st December 2023 £</i>
Liabilities	
Examination of accounts	(480)
Total Liabilities	(480)

5. Funds

	<i>at 1 January 2022 £</i>	<i>Incoming resources £</i>	<i>Outgoing resources £</i>	<i>at 31 December 2022 £</i>
Restricted funds				
David Andren Bequest	640,425	29,130	-	669,555
Total restricted funds	640,425	29,130	-	669,555
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	79,815	28,192	29,236	78,800
Total unrestricted funds	79,815	28,192	29,236	78,800
Total funds	720,240	57,322	29,236	748,325

Purpose of restricted funds

The bequest from David Andren has been described in the Accounts for the sake of identification as 'restricted funds'. They are held by The Association to be applied as The Association sees fit and The Association has determined it will do so having regard to the wishes expressed in David Andren's will as follows: for the purposes of encouraging the community to help finance actions which will preserve the unique charm of the estuary, and in hope that the funds should be used to improve walls around Orford.

Purpose of general funds

General funds are those which are unrestricted and not designated for any other purpose. The balance on the general fund will be used to cover the excess of expenditure over incoming resources aims and mission.

Ultimate Controlling Party

The ultimate controlling party is the membership of the Charity.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Alde & Ore Association for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As trustees of the Charity, 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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 which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- i. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- ii. the accounts did not accord with those accounting records; or
- iii. the accounts did not comply with the applicable accounting requirements concerning the form and contents 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.



Carl Page FCCA
Ensors Accountants LLP

Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)

Blyth House
Rendham Road
Saxmundham
Suffolk
IP17 1WA

Dated: 13/03/2024

www.aldeandore.org

Our website is updated with current news, Association events, AGM minutes and reports.

To enable us to send you news/events etc. without incurring expensive postage costs,
please send your email address to: **info@aldeandore.org**

We also welcome your comments and ideas at this email address.

THE ALDE AND ORE ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1154583

Accounts

THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

Your Voice – Your Estuary



THE THIRTY SECOND

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ALDE AND ORE ASSOCIATION

will be held on

Saturday 22nd April 2023 at 10.00am for 10.30am

at

**THORPENESS COUNTRY CLUB,
THE BENTHILLS, THORPENESS, IP16 4NU**

Coffee and tea will be served from 10.00am

GUEST SPEAKERS ON

the newly released Alde and Ore Estuary Embankment Improvements project

Giles Bloomfield - East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board

Jane Maxim - Alde and Ore Estuary Trust

Frances Barnwell - The Alde and Ore Community Partnership

This will provide an opportunity for members to hear more about the project and to ask questions.

If you wish to attend, please let us know on info@aldeandore.org.

This is not essential but will help ensure smooth arrangements.

The Association, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, exists to preserve for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them, together with the features of beauty and or historic or public interest in that area.

Registered Charity No. 1154583

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Alde and Ore Association will be held on Saturday 22nd April 2023 at 10.30am at Thorpeness Country Club.

Coffee and tea will be served from 10.00am

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the AGM held on 28th April 2022 by Zoom
3. Trustees Report for the year ended 31st December 2022
4. Accounts of the Association for the year ended 31st December 2022
5. Election of Trustees
 - a) The following Trustees are retiring:
 - Kim Puttock
 - Sholto Lindsay-Smith
 - b) The following Trustees are due to retire at the meeting and offer themselves for election:
 - Keith Martin (re-elected 2019)
 - Birgitta Bostrom (re-elected 2021)
6. The Way Ahead – Updating report from the trustees
7. Any other business

This will be followed by the presentation on the Upper Alde and Ore Estuary Embankment Improvements, the Phase 1 of this project that recently received funding approval and is now going ahead with grants of £11.941 million from government sources.

Note: Anyone wishing to become a Trustee or nominate a person is invited to get in touch with the Chairman, Alison Andrews (email: aldeblackburn@aol.com). Applications should be made initially to the Chairman who will be able to explain the work of the Committee and responsibilities of Trustees.

It is important to renew Trustee energy and interests whether in planning, marketing, website matters, newsletter publication, organising fun events, commenting on formative government and other policy consultations or a fresh approach. Please consider using your particular skills for the benefit of safeguarding the Alde and Ore estuary area and helping provide ways to enjoy it will be welcome. Terms of office run for three years and can be renewed.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Alde and Ore Association held at 6pm on Thursday 28th April 2022 by Zoom

PRESENT:

Committee: Alison Andrews (Chairman), Birgitta Bostrom (Treasurer), Kim Puttock (Honorary Secretary), Colin Chamberlain, Keith Martin, Roy Truman, Mark Goyder, Monica Allen and Sholto Lindsay-Smith

Members: 32 members attended and 7 registered to join but were not seen. (List available from the Honorary Secretary)

APOLOGIES: Simon Barrow, Frances and Rodney Charlesworth, Sue Cook, Chris Gill, Edward and Clare Gold, Mrs Haresnape, Peter Howard-Dobson, John Kerr, Charles and Nicky Manby, Julia Ransome and Mr Steve Stocks

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous AGM of the Alde and Ore Association held on Thursday 15th April 2021 by Zoom were approved.

2. TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

The Chairman read out her report and as members already had the Report for the year ending 31st December 2021, and the recently circulated Spring Newsletter, she spoke mostly about the recent three and a half months.

The big challenges last year were submitting views and facts to the two National Planning Inspectorate Hearings in relation to Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) plans to put up a massive electricity complex at Friston, with the wind farm cables coming from the coast through the fragile Thorpeness cliffs with underground cabling all the way to Friston. Very recently the Secretary of State approved the proposals despite the huge and very varied opposition challenging many aspects of the project. But this decision was being challenged using the judicial review process, with Suffolk Energy Action Solutions (SEAS) taking the lead. (For progress do follow the SEAS web site).

For the Sizewell C National Infrastructure Project, the Secretary of State had delegated the decision to one of the junior Ministers, which was to be made by 25 May, as he himself has been leading on the government policy to get a number of nuclear plants established. Nevertheless, the Ministers involved were still asking detailed questions so the decision might be delayed. These latest questions did not directly affect the Association's concerns. Among the replies in relation to the Hard-Core Defence Front, it seemed the Environment Agency consider that there is no issue with building on a receding coastline with climate change bringing sea level rise. Meanwhile EDF were ploughing ahead seeking to get planning permission to undertake trials to ascertain whether the underlying marshy ground could be modified to provide a stable base for the twin reactors. If it all went ahead, the Association now and indeed in 50 years or more time would need to consider monitoring the impact on the coastline once the plant is built.

She was sorry to report that remarkably little has happened since last year's report on waiting to hear whether the Environment Agency (EA) would approve the plan for refurbishing the estuary river defences. A lot had been going on to update the Business Case for the work, including fitting in a government required project on updating sluices at the same time. To get a breakthrough in the decision-making, an approach to detach the Plan from the EA investigation into the clay deposited at Iken might prove a way forward but in case it did not, the Alde and Ore Community Partnership was working on a strong letter about the community's massive concern that the public interest was being ignored which will be signed by all those represented on the AOCP including the Association: the hope was that a strongly worded letter with many leading organisations involved in the partnership as signatories would carry more weight than the many individual approaches made to date at all levels within EA and by our MP and others.

On a far more cheerful note, she was pleased to report that the Butley Ferry and all its jetties, steps and hut were in sparkling condition when it opened for the season on Easter Saturday. On that day the Deputy Sheriff, Judith Shallow, came over on the ferry and handed over the special Queen's Award for Volunteers Flag, the great honour awarded to the Ferry last year. The flag now flies proudly above the ferry's own flag on the Capel bank when the ferry is operating.

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Two new ferrymen have already started their apprenticeship this season, joining the splendid ferry team in their work. She was delighted too to report that, with hopefully the country turning the corner on Covid, the Association already had a guided walk planned with the RSPB at their Hollesley Reserve on 13th May and all members who allowed us to send them emails would have heard about it by now. If members wanted to know more, please email: info@aldeandore.org.

Plans were well in hand for an Annual Barbecue which was to be held on Sunday 31st July on the riverbank below Blackheath House, with many thanks to Sir Michael and Lady Hopkins. A new volunteer to be the Barbecue Maestro was really needed but having failed to find anyone, Trustees were pulling together with Colin Chamberlain to make sure that it would be a success. Details to be emailed out and put on the web site shortly.

She also wished for a volunteer to organise a September walk to some treasured part of the Alde, Ore and Butley Rivers. A passing thought, as a body concerned with preserving and protecting an amazing landscape, and being situated on a coast with a rising sea level, were there more members who would like the Association to do more to help address challenging climate change - but time for members to respond to that thought was Agenda Item 6 on The Way Ahead when members would hear about the Trustees thinking on reinvigorating and broadening the reach of the Association to do its much needed work.

The Chairman extended very many thanks to all the Trustees for the time and energy they had put in over the last year, and to the two co-opted trustees it was hoped would be elected as full Trustees later in the meeting.

She also thanked the many members who had expressed their kind words about the two recent splendid editions of the Newsletter, using recycled paper only, which Monica Allen has masterminded.

3. ACCOUNTS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

Birgitta Bostrom, Treasurer, presented the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021. She reported that the accounts were similar to the previous year because it had been a very quiet year with far less of the normal activities taking place because of Covid restrictions. Birgitta explained that the Trustees decided not to have the accounts audited this year and would instead look to have the accounts examined every 2 years. It was noted that the income levels had been low and so it was not a legal requirement to have the accounts examined.

She went on to outline the key points of the accounts set out in the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts. Total income for the year ending 31 December 2021 was £15,647 compared with £16,770 previous year. Expenditure was £15,506 compared to £7,316 year before a net income for the year of £141. Total funds at the end of 2021 stood at £706,779. These funds were held to be spent on the estuary repairs but as was known, the repair project was still delayed.

Both membership and gift aid income were very similar to 2020, plus a kind donation of £2000. The Butley Ferry ran from April through to October 2021 and raised a record level of income of £3,868 compared to £1,787 the previous year.

On expenditure, the ferry expenses for the year stood at £3,485, compared with £885 in 2020 because of necessary renovations. The other major expenditure for the year was the biannual newsletter which increased from £4,467 in 2020 to £5,070 because of increased printing costs. The Association added a new activity in 2021, a Photography Competition, which was very well received. The prizes amounted to £1,202. Another larger expenditure for the Association was a grant of £2,500 contributing to an independent report on the potential impact on the coastline of Sizewell C. Finally, there was a cost under Governance of £1,901 which related to the hiring of a consultant and a room for the Trustees to provide the opportunity to think strategically about the future of the Association.

There were no questions on the Accounts.

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4. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

This part of the agenda fell in to three parts.

Firstly, the constitution provided that one third of serving trustees should retire by rotation but may offer themselves for re-election. This year as it was the turn of Alison Andrews and Colin Chamberlain, the Chair handed over to the Honorary Secretary to facilitate the re-election of these 2 trustees.

The Honorary Secretary addressed the meeting and advised that the committee would like to propose that both Alison Andrews and Colin Chamberlain be re-elected. Richard Marson seconded the proposal, and all voted in favour. The Honorary Secretary, handed the proceedings back to the Chair.

Secondly, the Chairman was delighted to introduce two new trustees whom the other Trustees co-opted pending election at the AGM. The current Trustees were very pleased that after a short time on the Committee, they both wished to join as Trustees. Short relevant biographies were set out on the agenda but briefly:

Monica Allen, the newsletter editor and who had more than proved her value in her creativity, reliability, and as a contributor of sound advice, and

Sholto Lindsay-Smith, who had been invaluable in helping get a handle on the way ahead and brought with him very constructive and positive thinking.

The two new Trustee appointments were proposed by the Committee and seconded by Lydia Freeman. All voted in favour.

5. THE WAY AHEAD

The Trustees gave a presentation to the meeting setting out the development of their thinking on how The Association might re-energise its work and the love for the Alde and Ore, seeking to ensure it remained a North Sea Gem for future generations, and to broaden its membership to everyone who lived in and enjoyed the area. Their work had culminated in two away- days focussing on essential tasks and messages.

The trustees had concluded that without the Association there would be no ginger group to look out for the area as a whole, keeping an eye on issues, looking to future trends, developments or policies that might affect it, and drawing together concerns. The Association's strength comes from a coherent approach backed by a substantial membership.

Each trustee described the several roles the Association played. Monitoring planning applications had been the prime foundation stone of the Association: it still was with a weekly review of planning applications and investigations where concerns might arise. Trustees had to work quickly, given the tight windows for comment and liaised with other interested bodies, given the strength of working in numbers. A few recent examples were given of steps taken to preserve the area from inappropriate developments and where constructive suggestions had been made. For many, the ferry, it was often the first contact people had with the Association. Questions about the ferry and the rivers provided the opportunity to explain the role of the Association and the need to monitor and protect this unique environment. The ferry also provided an opportunity to establish and continue strong links with the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and the local landowners and, through its unique position, helped to promote the responsible use of the area through cooperation and education.

The twice yearly newsletter, which had recently been increased in size to cover more of the many amazing aspects of the Rivers Alde and Ore, sought to provide information on what the Association has been doing, and will be doing, to fulfil its aims, giving a broader picture of what the Association is about and included articles on different aspects of the area – from wildlife and the natural world, arts and crafts, those who make their living on and around the rivers, to challenges that have to be countered, aiming to engage members with what the area both offers and needs. All

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aspects that fitted well with a biennial and more lasting format, but Trustees recognised that it needed supplementing by more immediate communications whilst not overloading members with too much information.

The Trustees had sought to briefly encapsulate the concept of the Association's role, from its lengthy description in its charitable object set out in the Constitution and decided on '*To take care of our rivers and landscape today and tomorrow*'. Each word counted for a particular idea - 'take care' was the prime duty and could be expressed as stewardship or guardianship, 'rivers and landscape' encompassed the whole estuary area, the rivers and surrounding landscape, and what it means for people who live or visit here, while 'today and tomorrow' emphasised the constant and continuing task the Association was responsible for now and for future generations.

The Trustees had addressed the issue of identity. They very much recognised that people might be confused between the Alde and Ore Community Partnership, the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust and the Alde and Ore Association. These bodies are all important. They have different roles, but all share the same objective to safeguard the area, whether with the wide remit of the Association, the focussed river defences plan for the Partnership or the Trust's key role in securing the finance for the implementation of the Plan including raising the money needed to make up what cannot be supplied by government. Communicating the Association's unique role, and collaborating with others who have different, but complementary roles, was vital. The Trustees recognised that more had to be done on communicating how we work together and understanding each other in the interests of the place we all live and want to promote and protect.

The Trustees had also devoted some time on values and the approach to the Association's work and considered the way forward was to be well informed, be clear and consistent in our advocacy, be a good partner – reach out; listen; explore common causes, be lively and constructive, communicate opportunities as well as threats, thereby earning the increased support and engagement of our members and recognising that our differences are our strengths. To undertake this work effectively the body of Trustees, each of whom take specific roles, needed to be increased with another to take the role on outreach and one on marketing and communications. Towards widening the Association's reach, the Trustees thought that there should be a new drive to secure outreach to other organisations on issues where there were shared interests. This had been done as issues arose, but it was thought that a more structured and regular pattern of contact would be beneficial to all the causes being promoted.

The marketing communications role was needed to strengthen the Association's position as the recognised and authoritative voice for the river and landscape. The Association's work and role needed to be more high profile, highlighting all the practical work it was doing, working with other organisations on areas of common interest, continuing to campaign vociferously for effective river and sea defences and monitoring for and raising awareness of the threats to our rivers and landscapes. Second, the Association should broaden its reach: reaching out to everyone in our community, and engaging the next generation, encouraging, and supporting the economy and activities on and around the river in ways which are in harmony with nature. To achieve these goals, the Association must have a strong voice and a strong membership base. It is the membership base that gives it a powerful hand when making representations to government, campaigning for change, or putting a stop to potentially damaging or detrimental developments. To achieve these aims, a marketing approach can help us strengthen our position and broaden our reach, and it can help recruit more people to the cause.

Over the coming months, the plan was, resources permitting, to develop new ways to communicate and expand our reach through social media, using things like video to help tell our story. Next, to seek to engage members in more active two-way communication using email and online polls, to make sure we are representing members concerns and using our members as eyes and ears to alert us to new issues: to expand our recruitment activity and to streamline joining processes. That was quite a big undertaking, and the Trustees would be looking for help, both additional trustees and help on particular tasks.

The Chairman concluded that the help the Association needed included members' ideas on how to ensure the Association is seen and used as an essential voice for the area, a new trustee to focus on looking after the membership, one or more volunteers (who might also become a trustee) – to lead on social events, and local champions willing to make AOA relevant to their particular town or parish and more. She asked what members thought the Association

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should try to do or, do more of. In all of this the Trustees looked to members for support to help ensure everyone helped take care of the Alde and Ore Estuary.

Questions/Feedback

Robert Farquarson started by congratulating everyone on a fantastic organisation and said the recent newsletter was very impressive. Robert went on to explain that the one thing that has really concerned him in all of the effort to preserve the beauty of our landscape, and particularly in relation to coming up with solutions for the flooding issues, is that there may be confusion about the different identities and roles of the Alde and Ore Association and the other major charitable bodies involved raising money. Robert explained that he felt there seemed to be a huge overlap between these two organisations (The Alde and Ore Association and the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust) which are essentially focusing on one of the most important parts of preserving our beautiful landscape and river heritage. He went on to say that he was very encouraged that Mark has been entrusted to take on the role of building bridges with the other entities involved with what is a common purpose. Robert felt there needed to be a lot more thought about how that involvement can actually grow given that there appeared to be overlapping and often confused messages given to those getting involved in supporting the fantastic work of the Alde and Ore Association, and in supporting the money raising work of the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust.

The Chair thanked Robert and confirmed that although there were three Alde and Ore bodies, they each did different things. She acknowledged that in an ideal world it looked as if all three organisations (The Alde and Ore Association, The Alde and Ore Community Partnership and the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust) might be put in one group, but unfortunately it wasn't as clear cut as that because they have very different functions and different memberships. She agreed the need to do a much better job at explaining who's doing what and how the sum of the work of the three organisations made an even greater whole. With the three organisations working together there should be a much more powerful collective impact looking after the estuary. The Chair offered to meet with Robert to discuss how the Association might communicate better how all three organisations work and link together.

George Theo asked how many members does the Association have? The Chair indicated that the number was approximately 2,000. This was made up of some members who had a membership directly with the Association and others who are members as a result of their Aldeburgh Yacht Club membership. George went on to say that he shared Robert's confusion about the Association and the Trust and asked how many members the Chair thought the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust had. The Chair confirmed that the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust had no members being a charitable body with 4 trustees and no members. The Alde and Ore Estuary Trust was established to raise money to ensure the river walls are built covering the shortfall from the Government's contribution and to make sure that the work completed was acceptable before signing off and payment is made by the Internal Drainage Board. The Trust acts like a treasury and is the fundraising body. George added that the whole question of the marketing, identifying audiences and making sure that people understood the differences was the first and most critical thing to do: he gave the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust Instagram page as an example which has over 1,000 followers, but it was not clear who the organisation was for. The Chair acknowledged the point that George was making and would work with Mark Goyder to take this forward.

Sue Wallace-Shaddad enquired as to whether the Association had a lot of sailors who are members as she thought this would have been a prime area to get support. Sue asked if the Association was interested in the cultural aspects of the estuary: as the secretary of the Suffolk Poetry Society, she wrote poetry and offered to provide poems for the newsletter written either by herself or her contacts. Sue wondered if the Association had a cultural aspect to what it was looking at in terms of attracting new members. Sue added that she was a new trustee of the Ipswich Arts Association, which wouldn't necessarily be the right fit but it could potentially be used to help spread the word of what the Association does via them. The Chair confirmed that with she with Monica and Mark Goyder would make arrangements to discuss this further with Sue.

Robert Farquarson mentioned an idea for attracting members that the many keen cyclists in the area that could be targeted, given the new electrical bike rental system operating and Robert felt this would be a good opportunity to market both that business as well as awareness of the Association. The Chair acknowledged this idea and added that

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the leaflet used by the Butley Ferry promoted several bike routes and that this idea will be added to the other ideas that had been raised during the meeting.

Lydia Freeman drew attention to the link between the Aldeburgh Yacht Club and the local schools and felt that it was the grassroots of the local state schools that we really wanted to reach. Nicky Manby had given a talk in each of the local schools in 2021, and Lydia said that she felt that the talks needed to be followed up regularly by arranging, say, drawing or photo competitions, and the children taken to a place where they would understand why we want to love and look after the river. Birgitta agreed and emphasised the importance of finding ways to get children involved and deal with problems, which Lydia confirmed, such as the Health and Safety and Safeguarding challenges that would arise with such an initiative. The Chair thanked Lydia for the idea and feedback.

The Chairman confirmed James Powell's understanding that the Aldeburgh Yacht Club paid a lump sum of money on behalf of its members to the Alde and Ore Association. James Powell was worried that this let a lot of the Aldeburgh Yacht Club members off the hook. The Chair confirmed that the Association wanted to work closer with the Aldeburgh Yacht Club to strengthen the link between them. James then said he felt that there were two points that needed to be addressed: the first was to ensure that all Aldeburgh Yacht Club members were aware of the whole issue of the fundraising and the issue with repairing the banks as there has been no recent communications in this regard and he was confident that if he asked most of the members, they wouldn't understand the structure and they wouldn't be aware of where we were with the river banks. He felt that it needed to be made crystal clear that fundraising was required and if it wasn't that the riverbanks are not going to be there. Secondly, he felt that the Aldeburgh Yacht Club members should be members of the Alde and Ore Association in years to come in their own right. He suggested getting information into the Aldeburgh Yacht Club newsletter to reduce any confusion that has arisen.

James also asked for clarification on the need to have the accounts audited. Birgitta Bostrom, Treasurer, confirmed that sometime ago the Association had received a large bequest which meant that the accounts exceeded the threshold above which the accounts had to be audited. This had been done for the last couple of years, however, trustees have recognised that the accounts are very straightforward and so the Association will now be getting them examined only every other year. Birgitta confirmed that the Association was charged a nominal fee of £250 for the audit.

The Chair acknowledged that all the very helpful feedback supported the need for the Association to link with the community and she confirmed that the Association would take this forward. The Trustees would take away all the points raised, and all attendees were encouraged to send any further thoughts, to the Trustees or to give one of them a call.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

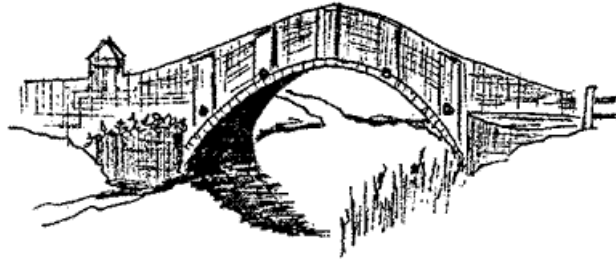
No other business was raised.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and invited members to write in separately to raise any points of concern or with suggestions, and she hoped that next year, we could look with confidence to returning to an in-person AGM.

Before the meeting closed, Colin Chamberlain, Trustee added that on behalf of all the trustees and the members he wished to give the Chairman a vote of thanks for the fantastic leadership she has shown in the last year and for the incredible technical expertise. It has been a huge asset. The vote of thanks was supported by all participants at the AGM.

THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

Your Voice – Your Estuary



The Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31st December 2022

The Association, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, exists to preserve for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them, together with the features of beauty and or historic or public interest in that area.

Registered Charity No. 1154583

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees present their Report and the Accounts of the Charity for the year to 31st December 2022.

A. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

The Alde and Ore Association

Charity Registration No 1154583

Correspondence Address

19 Lee Road, Aldeburgh, IP15 5HG

Email address

info@aldeandore.org

Names of Charity Trustees

THE COMMITTEE at 31st December 2022

Officers

Alison Andrews	Chairman
Birgitta Bostrom	Treasurer
Kim Puttock	Honorary Secretary (until 1st December 2022), Membership Secretary & Webmaster

Other Trustees

Colin Chamberlain	Legal Adviser
Mark Goyder	Outreach
Keith Martin	Planning, SCAR
Roy Truman	Butley Ferry
Sholto Lindsay-Smith	Marketing
Monica Allen	Newsletter Editor

Co-opted members

River Defence Convener	Roger Baxter
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Annual Report of the Alde and Ore Association including Accounts Year Ending 31st December 2022

B. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Alde and Ore Association (The Association) was founded in 1991. On 1st January 2014, the charitable status was changed to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which assumed all the assets and liabilities of The Association.

Organisational structure

The Charity Trustees constitute a committee which manages the affairs of the CIO and for that purpose exercises the powers of the CIO.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting of The Association, in accordance with Clause 13 of the Constitution. One third of the Trustees must retire each year but are eligible for re-election, those to retire being the ones who have been longest in office.

C. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The objects of The Association are to preserve and protect for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them together with the features of beauty and historic or public interest in the area.

We confirm that the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Activities

The main activities undertaken towards achieving The Association's objectives during the year have been to:

- continue to help to ensure that river defences are upgraded in order to sustain the Alde and Ore and Butley rivers within their landscape to safeguard all the activities, places of interest and wildlife habitats contained within this unique area. This includes very active participation in the work of The Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOCP).
- work to safeguard the estuary by commenting on planning developments or other proposals which might either detract from or enhance the area.
- assess, photograph and report on the state of the river walls. This has been done through The Association's River Defence Committee.
- provide activities to encourage enjoyment or use of the area through the provision of the Butley Ferry. Other activities including organised walks and the annual barbecue.
- consider initiatives and support research relating to projects dealing with the river defences and the natural landscape.
- promote communication with members: two Newsletters have been published and circulated to members and members are kept up to date by emails and through the website.
- work on encouraging a broader membership and, critically, the recruitment of new trustees and volunteers.

Contributions

The Association was delighted to receive a final and unexpected share from the David Andren Estate of £1451.27: this has been placed with the original bequest to go towards river defences on the Orford area.

D. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Being able to meet again in person with members on walks and at the Annual Barbecue was a positive development after all the Covid period of restrictions. The Butley Ferry had another successful season, flying the new Queens Award flag and bringing in some new recruits. A good number of planning applications were investigated, and sound comments and objections made. Work on challenging energy company projects where the coastline and so the interests of the river's sea boundaries might be affected was continued when opportunity arose. The Association also continued to actively support the pressure to get the Alde and Ore Estuary Plan finally approved and implemented. Work on widening membership and making The Association's purpose and activities more widely known was developed and a recruitment flyer circulated.

The role of The Association

The Trustees continued to meet regularly, both in person and by Zoom. The Association continued to work to achieve its aim to preserve the rivers and adjoining land which may affect the estuary for the public benefit. The Association seeks to keep track of proposals and ideas which may affect the estuary and its banks either positively or adversely, and to act in the interest of the continued life of the estuary. It provides a voice on the Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOCP) and seeks to inform members of matters affecting the estuary overall. The Association has over the years, in carrying its work to take care of the rivers and surrounding landscape, contributed significantly to the preservation, protection and enjoyment of the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers area.

But the estuary needs the support and involvement of all who live and work in and visit the area, now more than ever.

Working with the Alde and Ore Community Partnership on the river defences

The Association continued to work with and support the Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOCP): AOCP action was limited both by COVID-19 restrictions and a delay in the official approval of the main estuary project to construct sustainable defences caused, not by the project itself, which passed technical approval, but because of a perceived link with deposits of clay at Iken which have been under legal investigation since 2018. This link was eventually withdrawn in autumn 2022, allowing the project, which had been updated in the meantime, to go forward for approval and accompanying grant aid.

As background, if the estuary river walls are not improved, then they will eventually fail with serious consequences for life in, on and around the estuary. The AOCP is the guardian of the Alde and Ore Estuary Plan strategy and is the main body to ensure good communication throughout out the estuary about the progress of plans; the East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board carries the responsibility of implementing the construction of the defences, the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust is responsible as the treasury of the Estuary for raising funds to contribute to cost of the defence works and ensuring that they are effectively spent.

The AOCP involves the whole of the estuary community having representatives from all parishes bordering the estuary, one county and two district councillors, and representative from each of the business sector, the local IDB Board and The Association, the only body covering all parts of the estuary. The Association continues to be an active member of the Partnership to ensure that it works well in the interests of the wellbeing of the estuary and its use.

The Association continued to report directly to the Environment Agency on the state of the river walls and the shingle wall south of Martello Tower in Aldeburgh. The Environment Agency are monitoring the river walls and coast carefully but have said they appreciate the regular local updates.

The Association has sought to keep members informed about the estuary plans through its Newsletters and emails to those members who have given permission to receive them from the Association. The Association places great store on its communications about the Estuary and regards it as important that members can obtain a good understanding of the area and progress being made.

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Protection of the landscape

Part of The Association's role is to protect the landscape surrounding the estuary and we continue to monitor planning applications on a more or less weekly basis. During this last year two in particular, one in Iken and another at Gedgrave, have given cause for concern. Both remain outstanding at the time of writing and involve the redevelopment of small cottages in the AONB and very significant enlargement together with the introduction of extensive glazing. Large areas of glazing increase light pollution in a damaging way and are detrimental for wildlife. The new Suffolk Coastal Local Plan has policies to control this and we hope to see a modification of the proposals.

The Association is fully supporting a members' led initiative to monitor the quality of the water in the Alde. Bobby Rusack and Miv Hall began with careful planning started earlier in the year and learning from the work being undertaken in the Deben Estuary and involvement of Suffolk University. By the end of the year some ten volunteers were undertaking weekly sampling at different points in the Alde and Ore Rivers and the samples being tested at one member's home using equipment kindly funded by Suffolk County Councillors, Andrew Reid and T-J Howarth-Culf. from their local budgets. The project is to run for one year and whether monitoring will be continued or renewed in a few years' time depends on results. Such initiatives to help secure the well-being of the estuary and people's enjoyment are very much welcomed.

The Association continued to participate actively wherever possible in local activities challenging the potential damage to the fragile but dynamically eroding coast and so possibly impact on Orfordness and the river, where opportunities arose. The Secretary of State granted development consent for the Sizewell C project in July but there remain a good number of aspects to be worked out and solutions approved before the project can go ahead including finance, the provision of water and the exact nature of what the grounds works (ground anchor trials) should be. Both the Scottish Power Renewables project, which was granted development consent in March 2022, and Sizewell C were still being challenged by the Judicial Review procedure during the year with results likely in 2023.

The Association participated actively in pre statutory consultations about two further new power company projects (Sea Link and EuroLink) to bring electricity to the fragile Suffolk coast, including confirming that one possible route through the estuary had rightly been set aside because of the potentially hugely damaging impact on the environment and possibly sea and river defences. These projects would be in addition to Nautilus which was consulted on at the end of 2021 and Scottish Power Renewables.

River Defence Committee

The River Defence Team, under the direction of Roger Baxter, conducted its annual survey of the state of the river walls of some 44 km and completed reports were submitted to the Environment Agency, which expressed appreciation for the information. During the year, the Environment Agency undertook repairs to identified places needing attention in two sections of the walls, at Snape and the Aldeburgh Marshes.

We are extremely grateful to the twenty or so volunteers for their commitment in time and effort in producing the reports which provide a running benchmark of the state of the walls and provide early warning of when repairs are needed.

Enjoyment of the area

In 2022 the Association was at last able to hold two walks, with thanks to the RSPB at their reserves at Hollesley and Snape Wetland. A very successful barbecue was held, with many thanks to Sir Michael and Lady Hopkins, on the edge of the estuary below Blackheath House: some 130 members attended and enjoyed the amazing views across to Yarn Hill and Iken. Further, the provision of the hog roast at cost by Salter and King and the silent bidding auction of a very limited edition of a picture map of the Sailors Path kindly provided by the artist, John Dunthorne, enabled the Association to donate £1100 to the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust's funds for the improvement of the river defence walls.

While expected the news from the Government on the outcome of the plans for the England Coastal Path around the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers, had not emerged by the end of 2022. It is thought likely that there will be some new paths around the Butley river.

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The Butley Ferry

A slightly less busy season compared with the previous year. May was the busiest month with June, July and August being similar to post covid times. Just over 1000 passengers used the ferry with 417 of those being cyclists. Income of just under £3,000 was the second highest but well below the previous season. At the annual "Ferryman's Lunch", Johnny Bevan was awarded his 15 years of service certificate, making him one of only three Ferryman to achieve this distinction with plenty of good years still in the tank! Matthew Hunnybun was awarded 'Ferryman of the Year' for managing to be the ferryman on duty on most of the busiest days of the year.

The ferry boat itself started showing its age (probably about 50 years old) and a number of structural issues helped the decision that it needed some special attention. With the help of substantial grant aid from the Suffolk Coast and Heath AONB, the boat went to Brian Upson's boatyard at the end of the ferry season to spend the winter undergoing a thorough refit. The boat is now ready for launching, looking fantastic, and ready for the next 50 years. Our thanks go to Brian and his team for an excellent job.

Research commissioned

Although no new work was commissioned research work previously commissioned by The Association continued to be useful to the work of The Association: in particular Professor Pye's work on the shingle shoreline south of the Aldeburgh Martello Tower where the haul road constructed in 1968 for access to Cobra Mist Site has been worn away but the wide angled and sloping beach still affords protection.

Ideas for an updated wildlife survey of the estuary and the third 10 yearly economic survey of the Estuary area began to be considered.

Communication with members

The Annual General Meeting was held on Zoom on Thursday 29 April 2022, because at the time the arrangements for it had to be made, there was still a possibility of Covid rules preventing meetings in person. Some 49 members registered to attend. The main theme of the AGM was a presentation by all Trustees on how, once covid restrictions were lifted, they saw the activities of The Association taking care of the rivers and surrounding landscape could be achieved and a wider membership engagement to secure this.

In the two Newsletters, both following the larger size set for the 30th anniversary edition which members had much appreciated, photographs from The Association's 2021 photography competition and other photographs taken by members during the year were shown. The Newsletters, as always, featured news and aspects of the area's history from the Upper Alde to Shingle Street. The Newsletters have in both 2022 editions been produced on recycled paper, the modest extra cost being considered worthwhile in the interests of the environment.

A new marketing flyer featuring, for the first time, a headline list of all The Association does and the new map of the estuary area was given out to members of the public at the ferry and via a holiday firm. Further, all members received a copy with the request that they passed it on to potential members.

The website was kept up to date with links to organisations with shared interests. Walks booklets continued to be sold.

In a special leaflet inserted in the Newsletter, Members were encouraged to provide email addresses and to give permission for their use so as to ensure timely and much less costly circulation of matters affecting the estuary area. Where permission is not given those members receive only the main printed distributions of Newsletters and Annual General Meeting documents but not updating emails with news and walks.

There was no annual talk given after the AGM, on a subject relevant to the estuary: it was decided that this would be revived when meetings in person could be safely restored.

Annual Report of the Alde and Ore Association including Accounts Year Ending 31st December 2022

The Trustees work on promotion of The Association

After the successful presentation of the Trustees work on renewing the Association's role and engaging more members after the two years of very restricted activity, the Trustees worked further on the plans to refresh the several roles of The Association and consider how to broaden the appeal of The Association reaching out to a wider membership, encouraging a more engaged and vibrant relationship with members, and strengthening its voice to protect the rivers and support enjoyment of them.

With a view to reconnecting with members and finding out what they would like, a survey, to be launched in 2023, was developed. Action started on reaching out to other organisations in the area where there are common interests or issues arise of common cause, to provide a basis for regular interaction so that whenever common issues arise the connections are already in place: this work will roll out over time.

E. FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Association has a Reserves Policy of building its reserves without significant increases in membership fees whilst continuing to maintain existing services to members.

The Association's main source of income is its membership fees (there are currently over 2,000 members in total, including members enrolled by reason of their membership of the Aldeburgh Yacht Club).

The Association expects to have to use its reserves to employ consultants, advisers and possibly even contractors to ensure the objectives of The Association in preserving the Alde and Ore Estuary for the benefit of the public are met. The Association might also give grants to other charitable organisations in order to achieve its aims.

Both unrestricted as well as restricted reserves of The Association are currently held in savings deposit accounts with CCLA and current accounts at Barclays Bank.

Annual Report of the Alde and Ore Association including Accounts Year Ending 31st December 2022

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Members of The Association's Committee are responsible for preparing the Charity's annual report and financial statements in accordance with the law applicable to charities and UK Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law requires that the report and financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and
- prepare the financial statements on a 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees, for the purposes of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report, are set out on page 1.

Approved by the Trustees on 6th February 2023



.....
Lady Andrews, OBE
Chair of the Trustees

www.aldeandore.org

To reduce our postage expenses, this is updated with current news, Association events, AGM minutes and reports.

We welcome comments and ideas.

****NB to enable us to send you news/events etc. without incurring expensive postage costs, please opt in to email communications by sending your consent to: info@aldeandore.org**

Statement of financial activities for the year ending 31st December 2022

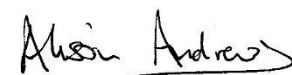
For general comments see Note 1.

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
Income	2				
Membership fees and donations		11,625	1,451	13,076	10,379
Other Trading Activities		7,039	-	7,039	3,878
Investment income		846	7,431	8,277	1,390
Total Income		19,510	8,882	28,392	15,647
Expenditure	3				
Raising funds		4,169	-	4,169	3,485
Charitable activities		10,762	-	10,762	12,021
Total Expenditure		14,931	-	14,931	15,506
Net income/(expenditure)		4,579	8,882	13,461	141
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances brought forward		75,236	631,543	706,779	706,638
Net movement in funds		4,579	8,882	13,461	141
Fund balances carried forward		79,815	640,425	720,240	706,779

Balance sheet as at 31st December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets		-	-	-	-
Intangible assets		-	-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-	-
Total Fixed Assets		-	-	-	-
Current Assets					
Stocks		-	-	-	-
Debtors - Interest earned		173	1,627	1,800	17
Refund Royal Mail		1,521	-	1,521	-
Cash at bank and in hand		78,671	638,798	717,469	706,538
Total Current Assets		80,365	640,425	720,790	706,555
Liabilities and Credits					
Due in less than a year	4	550	-	550	(224)
Net Assets		79,815	640,425	720,240	706,779

Approved by the Trustees on 6th February 2023


.....

Lady Andrews, OBE
Chair of the Trustees

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements

1. Accounting Policies

Basis for preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Trustees have assessed that the charity is a going concern and that the accounts can be prepared on that basis. The Trustees have also given consideration to post balance sheet events and consider that the charity has sufficient reserved to be able to meet the planned expenditure and continue its activities throughout the next twelve months.

Fund accounting

The Charity has restricted income funds to account for situations where a donor requires that a donation must be spent on a particular purpose, or where funds have been raised for a particular purpose. All other funds are unrestricted.

Incoming resources

Annual memberships are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate. Memberships received in advance are deferred and included in creditors.

Legacies and donations are recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received, and the monetary value of grants can be measured with sufficient reliability. Legacies can be categorised as either pecuniary (specific cash amount) or residuary (share of an estate). Pecuniary legacies are recognised as receivable once probate has been granted and notification has been received. Residuary legacies are recognised as receivable once probate has been granted and where they can be measured reliably.

Income from sales of publications is recognised as earned as the related goods are provided.

Investment income is credited to income on the accrual's basis, with daily accrual of interest calculated by reference to the distribution dates.

Resources Expended

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Taxation

The Association is a registered charity, so there is no charge for taxation.

Notes to the accounts (continued)

2. Income

	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
Income from membership fees and donations				
Membership fees	5,275	-	5,275	6,321
Membership fees from Aldeburgh Yacht Club	3,303	-	3,303	2,766
Gift Aid Refund	1,171	-	1,171	1,242
Donations and legacies	1,100	1,451	2,551	50
Government Grants	776	-	776	
Total income from membership fees and donations	11,625	1,451	13,076	10,379
Income from other trading activities				
BBQ	3,420	-	3,420	-
Walks	530	-	530	-
Butley Ferry	2,994	-	2,994	3,868
Sales of publications/DVDs	95	-	95	10
Total income from other trading activities	7,039	-	7,039	3,878
Income from investments				
Interest on cash deposits	846	7,431	8,277	1,390
Total income from investments	846	7,431	8,277	1,390
Total income	19,510	8,882	28,392	15,647

Annual Report of the Alde and Ore Association including Accounts Year Ending 31st December 2022

Notes to the accounts (continued)

3. Expenditure

	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>2022 Total funds £</i>	<i>2021 Total funds £</i>
Cost of raising funds				
BBQ	2,085	-	2,085	-
Walks	100	-	100	-
Butley Ferry	1,984	-	1,984	3,485
Total cost of raising funds	4,169	-	4,169	3,485
Cost of Charitable Activities				
Newsletter	5436	-	5436	5,070
Website costs	78	-	78	76
Postage/Stationary	8	-	8	48
Miscellaneous (photography competition)	486	-	486	1,202
Water Testing Program	399	-	399	-
Donations and grants by A&O	1,450	-	1,450	2,500
AGM	2,013	-	2,013	787
Independent Examination of Accounts	450	-	450	-
Insurance	442	-	442	437
Governance	-	-	-	1,901
Total cost of charitable activities	10,762	-	10,762	12,021
Total expenditure	14,931	-	14,931	15,506

Notes to the accounts (continued)

4. Liabilities

	<i>At 31st December 2022 £</i>
Liabilities	
RSPB cheque unclaimed	(100)
Examination of accounts	(450)
Total Liabilities	(550)

5. Funds

	<i>at 1 January 2022 £</i>	<i>Incoming resources £</i>	<i>Outgoing resources £</i>	<i>at 31 December 2022 £</i>
Restricted funds				
David Andren Bequest	631,543	8,882	-	640,425
Total restricted funds	631,543	8,882	-	640,425
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	75,236	19,510	14,931	79,815
Total unrestricted funds	75,236	19,510	14,931	79,815
Total funds	706,779	28,392	14,931	720,240

Purpose of restricted funds

The bequest from David Andren has been described in the Accounts for the sake of identification as 'restricted funds'. They are held by The Association to be applied as The Association sees fit and The Association has determined it will do so having regard to the wishes expressed in David Andren's will as follows: for the purposes of encouraging the community to help finance actions which will preserve the unique charm of the estuary, and in hope that the funds should be used to improve walls around Orford.

Purpose of general funds

General funds are those which are unrestricted and not designated for any other purpose. The balance on the general fund will be used to cover the excess of expenditure over incoming resources aims and mission.

Ultimate Controlling Party

The ultimate controlling party is the membership of the Charity.

Annual Report of the Alde and Ore Association including Accounts Year Ending 31st December 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Alde & Ore Association for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As trustees of the Charity 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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 which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- i. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- ii. the accounts did not accord with those accounting records; or
- iii. the accounts did not comply with the applicable accounting requirements concerning the form and contents 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.



Carl Page FCCA
Ensors Accountants LLP

Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)

Blyth House
Rendham Road
Saxmundham
Suffolk
IP17 1WA

Dated: ...14/03/2023...

THE ALDE AND ORE ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1154583

Accounts

THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

Your Voice – Your Estuary



THE THIRTY FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ALDE AND ORE ASSOCIATION

will be held on

Thursday 28th April 2022 at 6.30pm

by Zoom

If you wish to attend please let the Honorary Secretary, Kim Puttock, know and the email address you will be using to view the Zoom proceedings at: info@aldeandore.org

The Association, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, exists to preserve for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them, together with the features of beauty and or historic or public interest in that area.

Registered Charity No. 1154583

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Alde and Ore Association will be held on Thursday 28th April 2022 at 6.30pm by Zoom.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the AGM held on 15 April 2021 by Zoom
3. Trustees Report for the year ended 31st December 2021
4. Accounts of the Association for the year ended 31st December 2021
5. Election of Trustees
 - a) The following Trustees are due to retire by rotation at the Meeting and offer themselves for re-election:
 - Alison Andrews
 - Colin Chamberlain
 - b) The following Trustees were co-opted-by the Committee during the year pending election at the Annual General Meeting and offer themselves for election:
 - Monica Allen
 - Sholto Lindsay-Smith

Please see over the page for biographies of both candidates.
6. The Way Ahead – Report from the trustees
7. Any other business

Note: Anyone wishing to become a Trustee or nominate a person is invited to get in touch with the Chairman, Alison Andrews (email: aldeblackburn@aol.com). Applications should be made initially to the Chairman who will be able to explain the work of the Committee and responsibilities of Trustees.

It is important to renew Trustee energy and interests whether in planning, marketing, website matters, newsletter publication, organising fun events, commenting on formative government and other policy consultations or a fresh approach. Anyone who wishes to use their particular skills for the benefit of safeguarding the Alde and Ore estuary area and helping provide ways to enjoy it will be welcome. Terms of office run for three years and can be renewed.

Monica Allen:

Monica volunteered for the role of the Association's Newsletter Editor in autumn 2020. She is also a volunteer with Shannon Trust, a prison literacy charity. After 14 years with the British Council and postings in India, Italy, Brazil and London, she established a design partnership in London and then became a freelance editor with an emphasis on overseas development, business and arts subjects, before retiring in 2020. Dividing her time between London and Aldeburgh, she leaves the sailing to her husband and prefers walking with the dog.

Sholto Lindsay-Smith:

Sholto has lived in Suffolk with his family for over 20 years and has a strong attachment to the area, with a love for walking the coast and sailing. He has been an active member of the Association since October 2020, working closely with the trustees to define the Association's core purpose and establish the foundations for a marketing plan which will help ensure it can meet its aims long into the future.

Sholto has over 30 years' consulting experience in branding and communications. He is a cofounder and director at Industry Partners Limited, an international brand consultancy which he set up in 2011. Prior to founding Industry, Sholto spent six years as managing director of Uffindell, an independent brand consultancy and seven years as a board director of international brand consultancy, Lloyd Northover. Before making the move to brand consulting he spent nine years at Citigate, one of the top financial and corporate PR firms. Over his career he has worked extensively across the UK, USA, Europe, Asia Pacific and the Middle East for government, corporate, charity, educational and industrial clients. His areas of expertise include market research, brand strategy and place branding.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Alde and Ore Association held at 6pm on Thursday 15th April 2021 by Zoom

(as corona virus restrictions did not permit meetings where people attended in person)

PRESENT:

Committee: Alison Andrews (Chairman), Birgitta Bostrom (Treasurer), Kim Puttock (Honorary Secretary), Colin Chamberlain, Keith Martin, Roy Truman, Mark Goyder, Monica Allen

Members: 39 members attended and 11 registered to join but were not seen. (List available from the Honorary Secretary)

APOLOGIES: Caroline Clark, Caroline Donsworth, Mervyn and Jane Hall, Michael and Jane Hannen, John Kerr, Kathrin Peters, George Theo

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous AGM of the Alde and Ore Association held on Thursday 23 October 2020 by Zoom were approved.

2. TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

The Chairman read out her report.

In the papers for the meeting, you have the report for the year ended 2020 which can be noted but I will bring us up to date with a report on the first three and a bit months of 2021 and then we can have an opportunity for questions.

Our apologies to those of you who are members via AYC who will be getting the Spring Newsletter in early May. As the AYC AGM was postponed until 24 May, our mutual mailing arrangement was out of sync.

In the first three months the Association has taken action where covid restrictions have not applied. So, while we have had no walks and meetings, the Association has been much taken up by planning matters, national and local, addressing ways of widening the reach of membership, the River Defence Committee volunteers have started their annual spring surveys, and the Butley Ferry is going full steam ahead. And the Association's walks booklets written by Angela Sydenham have been selling well from the Aldeburgh Bookshop.

As of yesterday, there are now two major national powerplant infrastructure planning application hearings on the go. Working within its charitable remit, the Association is not commenting on energy policy as such, or indeed the seeming lack of it, but focussing on making sure the potential impact on the Suffolk coastline is well understood and, should permission be given to those projects, monitoring and mitigation plans set in place. In both cases the Alde and Ore Association's concern is because these developments could adversely affect the natural coastal erosion and sedimentation flows and might, given the longevity particularly of the SZC buildings which will eventually project out into the sea, adversely affect the shoreline bounding the Alde and Ore Estuary.

In the dark early winter months, the Association played an active part in the National Planning Inspectorate's Public Examination of the Scottish Power Renewables Project to bring wind farm power in at the fragile Thorpeness cliff and take it inland by digging huge channels for underground cables all the way to Friston. This Examination has now been extended for a further three months to July.

Simultaneously, despite pressure to delay the Sizewell C Examination, we learned yesterday that the massive SZC Examination too will from now go on all summer until October. Again, The Association will focus mainly on concerns about the long-term impact on the coastline which could affect the shingle bank forming the eastern bank of the estuary.

There have also been a couple of small local planning applications to East Suffolk Council so far this year but nothing yet of major significance.

Another development, or rather disappointing lack of progress, I want to bring you up to date on, is that the Estuary Community is still waiting to hear whether the Environment Agency (EA) will approve the plan for refurbishing the estuary river defences. This was expected late last year. The wait continues. Some of you may have come across a very ambiguous document called a Community Update which the EA issued in March to explain the process of its investigation of the possible dumping of clay at Iken (the AOCP's understanding from the IDB is that this is not waste but clay for the future repair and maintenance of the river walls), but the EA's line is that while this investigation is underway no other action can be taken in the estuary. The ambiguous update led to misleading press reporting and it is no way the case that work had been paralysed since Sept 2018, indeed in that time the full grant submission and flood defence project has been put together and submitted, so once approval is given work can, with seasonal limitations, crack on. The AOCP, of which The Association is a member, and AOET, the Estuary's treasury, are issuing responding statements for public record to correct the public position reached by the EA and will be tackling the EA further. The strong feeling is that the investigation cannot drag on or the business plan should be detached from it, and that refurbishment must be allowed to continue apace before more winters pass and that case is being made.

Looking ahead for The Association, this was, indeed is, the 30th anniversary of the Alde and Ore Association. We had had in mind some events to make this a memorable year but with current covid restrictions and no great certainty even after the hoped for freeing up on 21 June and the likelihood of continuing with hands, face, space rules, launching major events with large numbers in close proximity seem unwise but the year is not passing unnoticed.

First, thanks to Monica Allen and help from Birgitta Bostrom, a splendid photographic competition has been launched so that everyone can go out and about the estuary and take photographs to enter a competition to celebrate the river. If it proves possible, we hope to have a small exhibition of the photographs but in any event, they will be seen online. There will be prizes for the best in each category - children, those under 18 years and adults.

Secondly, a bumper Autumn edition of the Newsletter is in hand about the past, present and future of the Estuary area and the Association. If anyone has ideas for, or can write, articles or challenges to go in this edition, we want to hear from you.

And for all our summer enjoyment, the Butley Ferry is fully operational every weekend and bank holiday - it started on Easter Saturday and goes on until the middle of October, so you have every reason to enjoy walking over that side of the estuary and explore the Butley river. I commend the ferry team under Roy Truman for getting the boat painted, launched and all the jetties ready in the 5 days available once people were allowed to meet in groups of six and in time for the Easter Saturday start.

For the bird watchers among you the Suffolk AONB Unit are looking for help on monitoring redshanks - Suffolk and Essex populations have declined by 44% in the last 25 years so you will find information about this on the AOA website. But while we are around the estuary, we are asked to stay 75 metres away from redshanks, keep dogs off the mudflats and stick to footpaths.

In the summer too, there will be some more thinking within the Association - what is the Association here for and how is it seen. Trustees have been somewhat frustrated by covid restrictions in getting face to face discussions going, but with Sholto Lindsay-Smith's help and two new trustees we are in the process of addressing clarity of focus on what the Association is about, its place in the estuary jigsaw of organisations and actions and what activities would be valued by current and a wider membership with the aim of continuing to sustain support for preserving and protecting the estuary and its enjoyment. We hope to surface on this either by focus groups or a new meeting later this summer.

On other fun ahead, it is beginning to look really possible that the AOET's plans, which have been in the making since 2019, to run another flotilla for swimmers and paddle boards may take place Sunday 4 July from Aldeburgh to Orford - do tune into the AOET website. And let me know if AOA members would like to walk in company to

cheer on those in the water, quite possible as we will be well in the open air and spread out, along the bank as before.

Lastly, I do want to thank a good number of people but will do that under Agenda Item 5.

Looking to the rest of the year, I do hope that covid situation improves and that we can all get out and about and enjoy a lovely summer and autumn in the estuary area.

The Association remains very much the custodian of the wellbeing of the area and, in all that, all members are included, so please keep sending in comments or offering to help. If anyone wants to take up specific projects to help with aspects of the Association activities such as walks or talks or new activities, current trustees would be delighted- the broader the spread of skills and enthusiasms, the livelier the Association can be.

Questions:

Peter Howard-Dobson asked if there was any way the Environment Agency (EA) could be brought to account in regard to whether they will approve the plan for refurbishing the estuary river defences as it appeared that the EA can stall the decision indefinitely. The Chairman clarified that it was more a case of getting the EA to separate the business case from the investigation. A lot of pressure is already being placed on the EA from a higher level. It appears that it is not understood by the EA that every winter that passes misses an opportunity to repair the walls. The East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board had advised the Alde and Ore Community Partnership recently that the EA have got it wrong thinking that the business plan is dependent on bringing in free clay from building sites. The EA is referring to the clay as “waste” which means that people are being interviewed under caution for having dumped it and hence EA say that it cannot move forward with the decision on the project ahead of the investigation. IDB had assured the AOCP that the project is completely viable regardless of whether there is any clay there currently or it needs to be brought in and the costings and contingency costings take into account that clay may need to be brought in. The need is to press EA to detach the two. The Alde and Ore Estuary Trust and the Alde and Ore Community Partnership will continue to press hard for a decision to be reached and as an Association we are inside of the AOCP and we will support them with this endeavour.

Ian Robson asked if our local MP could assist with moving this forward if it was purely a case of the EA being unreasonable and not responding? The Chairman confirmed that Janey Marson, Chairman of the local Internal Drainage Board, had advised that Dr Thérèse Coffey has been very active including organizing a meeting at ministerial level and had then come up against the investigation problem. It is understood that Dr Thérèse Coffey will continue to help.

Colin Chamberlain asked for clarification as to whether or not Dr Thérèse Coffey was aware of what the EA were investigating as it may help us understand how to approach the matter. The Chairman said that the issue was not known, but it has been assumed that because the EA are interviewing people under caution that the EA think that the clay has been dumped as opposed to stored. The AOCP was trying to make clear to the EA that the clay is there because it is being stored for river walls and repairs and emergencies.

3. ACCOUNTS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Birgitta Bostrom, Treasurer, presented the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020. She outlined the key points of the accounts pointing to the relevant pages in the Annual Report and Accounts.

Total income for the year was £16,770 compared with £42,281 previous year. Expenses were £7,316 compared to £13,449 year before giving us a net income for the year of £9,454. Total funds balance at the end of 2020 stood at £706,638. In detail, both membership and gift aid were very similar to 2019. Income and expenses from activities were all down due to the COVID virus, but Butley Ferry managed to operate for 2.5 months raising an income of £1,787 compared to £2,733 the previous year. The ferry expenses for the year stood at £885, compared with £2,931 in 2019. The biggest expenditure for the year was our newsletter which we produce biannually. The expense for the newsletter went up from £3,409 in 2019 to £4,467, the reason was due to increased postage costs. Normally the AGM notice and documents are sent out with the spring newsletter, but as the AGM was delayed until October, the notice and documents had to be sent out separately.

We were also unable to coincide the distribution of our newsletter with the Aldeburgh Yacht Club (AYC). In previous years we have been able to “piggyback” on the AYC mailing.

The accounts were Examined and signed off by our accountants Ensors of Saxmundham.

Questions:

Rufus Gilday asked what the cost would be of emailing the documents as opposed to posting them. The Treasurer confirmed that the cost of printing the newsletter for 2020 was around £2,000 and therefore funds could be saved if we could email the newsletter to all members, but she felt that probably many of our members would prefer a hard copy. Mr Gilday acknowledged that the cost appeared to be value for money. The Treasurer thanked Mr Gilday for his question and said that the organisation would try to ascertain if some members might be happy to receive the newsletter via email.

Ian Robson sought clarity on whether the Association receives reduced price postage as the AYC have a franking machine and it costs less to post. The Treasurer confirmed that the Association receives the maximum price reduction for sending out bulk mailings.

Robert Tindall, Vice Commodore from Slaughden Sailing Club mentioned that they had gone to publishing their quarterly newsletters online. For those who don't want to receive the newsletter online they receive a hardcopy. This has proved very successful so far.

4. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

This part of the agenda fell in to three parts.

The Chairman said that she remained extremely grateful to the Trustees who all contribute very significantly to making the Association work for the benefit of the estuary- Birgitta the Treasurer, Colin as legal adviser, Keith who carries the work on planning assiduously tracking down possible developments and is also Chairman of SCAR, and Roy who runs the ferry. She also stressed that Monica Allen who while not being a Trustee is our splendid Newsletter Editor and is injecting a lot more life, creativity and interest bringing all her energies to it, witness the last two editions.

Secondly, the constitution provided that one third of serving trustees should retire by rotation but may offer themselves for re-election. This year it was the turn of Birgitta Bostrom and Roy Truman. The Chairman was more than delighted that both of them, Birgitta our amazingly efficient Treasurer and source of good governance advice and Roy Truman who is leading the ferry to delivering an even more splendid service every year, including excellent covid precautions, huge enthusiasm and spreading the word and appreciation of the wonderful estuary area, were both happy to stand again.

Keith Martin proposed that Birgitta and Roy were re-elected. Peter Howard-Dobson seconded the proposal, and all voted in favour.

Thirdly, the Chairman was delighted to introduce two new trustees whom the other Trustees appointed pending election at the AGM. We are so pleased that after a short time with the Committee, they have wanted to join as Trustees. Short relevant biographies were set out on the agenda but briefly:

Mark Goyder has been a very constructive and positive contributor to the Marketing Group which Simon Barrow led, and we looked forward to having the benefit of his wise council on perspectives of securing wider membership and the work of the Association and making the Association's activities come to life.

Kim Puttock had, as the new Honorary Secretary, already been well tried and tested and had contributed a great deal to the Association's operations. Not only was she Hon Sec but, realising that the Membership Secretary work is greatly changed with the internet and IT facilities, has also cheerfully taken on the Membership Secretary work and was also now the web site mastermind. If members had not looked at the web site www.aldeandore.org recently she urged them to do so, the Association was getting into the swing of posting more news and reports, so it was always being refreshed.

The new Trustee appointments were proposed by the Committee and seconded by Bobby Rusack. All voted in favour.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman particularly asked for ideas on what members would like to see the Association doing, whether to celebrate the thirtieth year, which could be next year when hopefully larger events may be more easily organised, talks in person or on zoom or any other activities, or indeed how communications with members can be enhanced to give trustees a greater insight into the detail of what people want.

Robert Tindall wanted to thank Keith Martin publicly for assisting him with a large problem relating to a planning application to protect the shoreline at Slaughden Sailing Club.

Jonathan Hunt said that in relation to the waste point, mentioned earlier in the meeting, there seemed to be similarities with this situation and how the Countryside Alliance had dealt with a similar situation.

The Countryside Alliance example related to a shoot in Derbyshire where they had been clearing 8 small circles to place the guns and they were effectively being criminalized for having done that. Jonathan suggested it may be worth speaking with Countryside Alliance who are dealing with similar problems to see if there is any mileage in combining forces in order to carry the day. The Chairman thanked Jonathan for the idea and would mention to the AOCP.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and invited members to write in separately to raise any points of concerns or with suggestions.

THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

Your Voice – Your Estuary



The Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

for the year to 31st December 2021

The Association, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, exists to preserve for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them, together with the features of beauty and or historic or public interest in that area.

Registered Charity No. 1154583

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees present their Report and the Accounts of the Charity for the year to 31st December 2021.

A. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

The Alde and Ore Association

Charity Registration No 1154583

Correspondence Address

19 Lee Road, Aldeburgh, IP15 5HG

Email address

info@aldeandore.org

Names of Charity Trustees

THE COMMITTEE at 31st December 2021

Officers

Alison Andrews	Chairman
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Birgitta Bostrom	Treasurer
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Kim Puttock	Honorary Secretary, Membership Secretary & Webmaster (from 25 January 2021)
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Other Trustees

Colin Chamberlain	Legal Adviser
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Mark Goyder	Marketing (from 25 January 2021)
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Keith Martin	Planning, SCAR
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Roy Truman	Butley Ferry
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Representatives Appointed by the Trustees

Brian Upson	Wildfowlers Association
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Co-opted members

Newsletter Editor	Monica Allen
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River Defence Convener	Roger Baxter
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B. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Alde and Ore Association (The Association) was founded in 1991. On 1st January 2014, the charitable status was changed to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which assumed all the assets and liabilities of The Association.

Organisational structure

The Charity Trustees constitute a committee which manages the affairs of the CIO and for that purpose exercises the powers of the CIO.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting of The Association, in accordance with Clause 13 of the Constitution. One third of the Trustees must retire each year but are eligible for re-election, those to retire being the ones who have been longest in office.

C. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The objects of The Association are to preserve and protect for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them together with the features of beauty and historic or public interest in the area.

We confirm that the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Activities

The main activities undertaken towards achieving The Association's objectives during the year have been to:

- continue to help to ensure that river defences are upgraded in order to sustain the Alde and Ore and Butley rivers within their landscape to safeguard all the activities, places of interest and wildlife habitats contained within this unique area. This includes very active participation in the work of The Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOCP).
- work to safeguard the estuary by commenting on planning developments or other proposals which might either detract from or enhance the area.
- assess, photograph and report on the state of the river walls. This has been done through The Association's River Defence Committee.
- provide activities to encourage enjoyment or use of the area through the provision of the Butley Ferry. Other activities such as organised walks and an annual barbecue were postponed because of COVID-19 restrictions.
- take initiatives and contribute to commissioning research to illuminate policies or projects dealing with the river defences and the natural landscape.
- ensure communication with members: two Newsletters have been published and circulated to members and members are kept up to date by emails and through the website.
- work on clarifying the stance and direction of The Association and encourage a broader membership and, critically, the recruitment of new trustees and volunteers.

Contributions

Donations have also been received over and above membership fees for which The Association is extremely grateful.

D. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The most outstanding achievement of the year was the Butley Ferry being selected to receive the Queen's Award for Volunteers, the equivalent of an MBE. Further, the Butley Ferry operated effectively with great success, following all COVID-19 rules, and carried a record number of passengers. Other usual activities which would enable us to bring our members together were paused because of the uncertainty of any larger gatherings being allowed by the various restrictions necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic measures. Instead, The Association held a Photography Competition to mark the 30th anniversary of The Association seeking to involve as many as possible who love the rivers. Other significant work involved challenging two National Significant Infrastructure Planning Examinations for two big energy projects because of the potential injurious impact on the erosion of the coastline bordering the Alde and Ore and a number of local building planning applications. The Committee also used the time to think through how to broaden membership once the COVID-19 restrictions period passed.

The role of The Association

Within the coronavirus restrictions, Trustees continued to meet regularly, but mostly virtually by Zoom. The Association continued to work to achieve its aim to preserve the rivers and adjoining land which may affect the estuary for the public benefit. The Association seeks to keep track of proposals and ideas which may affect the estuary and its banks either positively or adversely, and to act in the interest of the continued life of the estuary. It provides a voice on the Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOCP) and seeks to inform members of matters affecting the estuary overall. The Association has over the years contributed significantly to the preservation, protection and enjoyment of the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers area.

But the estuary needs the support and involvement of all who live and work in and visit the area, now more than ever.

Working with the Alde and Ore Community Partnership on the river defences

The Association continued to work with and support the Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOCP) but AOCP action was limited both by COVID-19 restrictions and a delay in the official approval of the main estuary project to construct sustainable defences caused not by the project itself, which passed technical approval, but because of a perceived link with deposits of clay at Iken which have been under legal investigation since 2018.

As background, if the estuary river walls are not put into good repair, then they will eventually fail with serious consequences for life in, on and around the estuary. The AOCP is the guardian of the Alde and Ore Estuary Plan strategy and is the main body to ensure good communication throughout out the estuary about progress of plans; the East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board carries the responsibility of implementing the construction of the defences, the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust is responsible as the treasury of the Estuary for raising funds to contribute to cost of the defence works and ensuring that they are effectively spent.

The AOCP involves the whole of the estuary community having representatives from all parishes bordering the estuary, one county and two district councillors, a business sector representative, a local IDB Board member and from The Association which is the only body covering all parts of the estuary. The Association continues to be an active member of the Partnership to ensure that it works well in the interests of the wellbeing of the estuary and its use.

The Association continued to report directly to the Environment Agency on the state of the river walls and the shingle wall south of Martello Tower in Aldeburgh. The Environment Agency are monitoring the coast carefully but have said they appreciate the regular local updates.

The Association has sought to keep members informed about the estuary plans, through its Newsletters and would have also done that via email had there been any urgent news to pass on or views required. The Association places great store on its communications about the Estuary and regards it as important that members can obtain a good understanding of the area and progress being made.

Protection of the landscape

During 2021 The Association continued to monitor all planning applications, local and national, which might affect the estuary environment. It also liaised with the AONB planning team on relevant applications. Comments were submitted

where it was thought necessary, of which the application to substantially increase activity at Iken Canoes was significant.

The Association, following comments in 2019, participated actively in the National Planning Inspectorates examinations, each of more than six months' duration of two separate major power company proposals where the proposed installation of new power stations could, if not properly researched and implemented, lead to damaging the fragile but dynamically eroding coastline to the north of the estuary and so possibly lead to damaging the coastline bordering the estuary. This work involved attending the lengthy inquiry days all online and submitting evidence and comments on new additions to the applications. Members were alerted to these consultations so that individual responses could also be submitted.

River Defence Committee

The River Defence Team, under the direction of Roger Baxter, conducted its annual survey of the state of the river walls of some 44 km. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic restrictions meant that some surveys were done later than usual but all reports were submitted to the Environment Agency, which expressed appreciation for the information. The Environment Agency has put in place plans for some repairs to identified places needing attention, subject to weather and repair teams completing work elsewhere, in two sections of the walls, at Snape and the Aldeburgh Marshes.

We are extremely grateful to twenty or so volunteers for their commitment in time and effort in producing the reports which provide a running benchmark of the state of the walls and provide early warning of when repairs are needed.

Enjoyment of the area

As in 2020 it was again necessary to cancel our programme of walks and the annual barbecue because of the pandemic though we very much hope they can be restored in the future and members will be notified as appropriate.

The Association set up a Photography Competition to celebrate individual enjoyment of the river on the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the Association, as large gatherings were not appropriate given the need to avoid the spread of COVID-19. (See below: *Communication with members*).

Although news was expected from the Government on the outcome of the plans for the England Coastal Path around the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers, none had emerged by the end of 2021 although some new paths around the Butley river seem likely.

While group events were not possible, clearly members and the general public were able to get out and enjoy the estuary area in the summer: sales of The Association's two walks' books continued.

The Butley Ferry

The ferry, led by Roy Truman with his excellent team, started the season with the COVID-19 protocols introduced in the previous season and these were relaxed later on in the year in line with government advice. The requirement for two people to be present when the ferry was in use did not cause any major problems as spouses, partners and family members all stepped up to support the ferrymen. This practice proved invaluable as the Ferry experienced its busiest season yet, with passenger numbers up by 25% from its previous best. Carrying 1,252 passengers, with 518 of them being cyclists, made for some very busy days. This year's income was a record one of £3,761, being by 27% above the previous best. Only 4 days were lost to bad weather.

The most notable event of the year was the awarding of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service" to the ferry by H.M. Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Clare, Countess of Euston, at the annual 'Ferryman's Lunch'. Each volunteer received a Queen's Award badge. In September, Brian and Juliet Johnson represented the ferry at a garden party hosted by the Lord Lieutenant at Bruisyard Vineyard.

Research commissioned

The Association contributed to securing an independent academic assessment of EDF's evaluation of the possible impact on the Suffolk coast were Sizewell C to be built. This proved to be a very valuable report and was used extensively in The Association's and other local organisations' submissions to the National Planning Inspectorate. It

provided additional confidence and backing to our critical assessments of the assumptions and basic factual material used by EDF on the dynamic coast of Suffolk including that part bordering the Alde and Ore estuary.

Communication with members

The Annual General Meeting took place via Zoom on 15 April 2021 as COVID-19 restrictions precluded a meeting in person. Some 39 members attended.

Two newsletters were circulated to keep members informed about what was going on in the estuary and provide items of interest on different aspects of the estuary. The Autumn edition was double the normal size to mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Association.

Sales of walks booklets continued, mostly via the Aldeburgh Bookshop. The usual connections to engage with members and potential members at the Butley and Orford Flower Shows were not possible because all such local events were cancelled given the corona virus limitations.

As COVID-19 restrictions were in place for some of the year and their time unpredictable because of the nature of the pandemic, The Association organised a 30th Anniversary Photography Competition to celebrate the river. Entry classes covering Activities and Nature seen in and around the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers with adult and junior age groups received over 40 entries. These were kindly judged by local expert photographers Shelley Nott and Hugh de Las Casas and first and second cash prizes were given. The winning photographs were published in the Autumn Newsletter and all entries will be displayed on The Association website and used in future publications.

The website was kept updated as news items arose.

Members continue to be encouraged to provide email addresses and to give permission for their use so as to ensure timely and much less costly circulation of matters affecting the estuary area. Where permission is not given those members do not receive updating emails, only the main printed distributions of Newsletters and Annual General Meeting documents.

There was no annual talk on a subject relevant to the estuary: this will be revived when meetings in person can be safely restored.

The Trustees work on promotion of The Association

Following up the valuable thinking and ideas of the Marketing Group led by Simon Barrow in previous years, Trustees, were finally able to meet in person to continue this important process. The Committee continued the discussion during regular Board meetings as well as and during two special focus meetings lead by a facilitator. Focus was on how to broaden the appeal of The Association reaching out to a wider membership, encouraging a more engaged and vibrant relationship with members, and to strengthen its voice to protect the rivers and support enjoyment of them. This work has been very positive and short, medium and long-term plans are being put in place.

E. FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Association has a Reserves Policy of building its reserves without significant increases in membership fees whilst continuing to maintain existing services to members.

The Association's main source of income is its membership fees (there are currently over 2,000 members in total, including members enrolled by reason of their membership of the Aldeburgh Yacht Club).

The Association expects to have to use its reserves to employ consultants, advisers and possibly even contractors to ensure the objectives of The Association in preserving the Alde and Ore Estuary for the benefit of the public are met. The Association might also give grants to other charitable organisations in order to achieve its aims.

Both unrestricted as well as restricted reserves of The Association are currently held in savings deposit accounts with CCLA, Virgin Money, Shawbrook Bank, and current accounts at Barclays Bank.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Members of The Association's Committee are responsible for preparing the Charity's annual report and financial statements in accordance with the law applicable to charities and UK Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law requires that the report and financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and
- prepare the financial statements on a 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees, for the purposes of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report, are set out on page 1.

Approved by the Trustees on 24th January 2022



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Lady Andrews, OBE
Chair of the Trustees

www.aldeandore.org

To reduce our postage expenses, this is updated with current news, Association events, AGM minutes and reports.
We welcome comments and ideas.

****NB to enable us to send you news/events etc. without incurring expensive postage costs,
please send your email address to: info@aldeandore.org**

Statement of financial activities for the year ending 31st December 2021

For general comments see Note 1.

	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>2021 Total funds £</i>	<i>2020 Total funds £</i>
Income	2				
Membership fees and donations		10,379	-	10,379	12,185
Other Trading Activities		3,878	-	3,878	1,802
Investment income		10	1,380	1,390	2,783
Total Income		14,267	1,380	15,647	16,770
Expenditure	3				
Raising funds		3,485	-	3,485	885
Charitable activities		12,021	-	12,021	6,430
Total Expenditure		15,506	-	15,506	7,316
Net income/(expenditure)		(1,239)	1,380	141	9,454
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances brought forward		76,476	630,162	706,638	697,184
Net movement in funds		(1239)	1,380	141	9,454
Fund balances carried forward		75,237	631,542	706,779	706,638

Balance sheet as at 31st December 2021

<i>Notes</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets	-	-	-	-
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-
Total Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-
Current Assets				
Stocks	-	-	-	-
Debtors - Interest earned	2	15	17	6
Cash at bank and in hand	75,013	631,542	706,555	707,663
Total Current Assets	75,015	631,557	706,572	707,669
Liabilities and Credits				
Due in less than a year	4	224	-	224
Net Assets		75,239	631,557	706,796
		706,638		

Approved by the Trustees and signed by:



24th January 2022

Lady Andrews, OBE
Chair of the Trustees

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these financial statements

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting Policies

Basis for preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Fund accounting

The Charity has restricted income funds to account for situations where a donor requires that a donation must be spent on a particular purpose, or where funds have been raised for a particular purpose. All other funds are unrestricted.

Incoming resources

Annual memberships are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate. Memberships received in advance are deferred and included in creditors.

Legacies and donations are recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received, and the monetary value of grants can be measured with sufficient reliability. Legacies can be categorised as either pecuniary (specific cash amount) or residuary (share of an estate). Pecuniary legacies are recognised as receivable once probate has been granted and notification has been received. Residuary legacies are recognised as receivable once probate has been granted and where they can be measured reliably.

Income from sales of publications is recognised as earned as the related goods are provided.

Investment income is credited to income on the accrual's basis, with daily accrual of interest calculated by reference to the distribution dates.

Resources Expended

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Taxation

The Association is a registered charity, so there is no charge for taxation.

Notes to the accounts (continued)

2. Income

	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Income from membership fees and donations				
Membership fees	6,321	-	6,321	6,148
Membership fees from Aldeburgh Yacht Club	2,766	-	2,766	2,766
Gift Aid Refund	1,242	-	1,242	1,271
Donations and legacies	50		50	2,000
Total income from membership fees and donations	10,379	-	10,379	12,185
Income from other trading activities				
BBQ	-	-	0	0
Walks	-	-	0	0
Butley Ferry	3,868	-	3,868	1,787
Sales of publications/DVDs	10	-	10	15
Total income from other trading activities	3,878	-	3,878	1,802
Income from investments				
Interest on cash deposits	10	1,380	1,390	2,783
Total income from investments	10	1,380	1,390	2,783
Total income	14,267	1,380	15,647	16,770

Notes to the accounts (continued)

3. Expenditure

	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Cost of raising funds				
BBQ	-	-	-	
Walks	-	-	-	
Butley Ferry	3,485	-	3,485	885
Total cost of raising funds	3,485		3,485	885
Cost of Charitable Activities				
Newsletter	5,070	-	5,070	4,467
Website costs	76	-	76	86
Postage/Stationary	48	-	48	-
Miscellaneous (photography competition)	1,202	-	1,202	110
Consultants	-	-	-	-
Donations and grants (Coastal assessment)	2,500	-	2,500	-
AGM	787	-	787	1,127
Independent Examination of Accounts	-	-	-	370
Insurance	437	-	437	270
Governance	1,901		1,901	-
Total cost of charitable activities	12,021	-	12,021	6,430
Total expenditure	15,506	-	15,506	7,316

Notes to the accounts (continued)

4. Liabilities and Credits

	<i>at 31st December 2021 £</i>
Liabilities	
Autumn newsletter postage	(76)
Photography Prize Unclaimed	(100)
Total Liabilities	(176)
Credits	
Wildfowlers Subs 2020	400
Total Credits	400
Net Liabilities and Credits	224

5. Funds

	<i>at 1 January 2021 £</i>	<i>Incoming resources £</i>	<i>Outgoing resources £</i>	<i>at 31 December 2021 £</i>
Restricted funds				
David Andren Bequest	630,162	1,380	-	631,542
Total restricted funds	630,162	1,380	-	631,542
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	76,476	14,267	15,506	75,237
Total unrestricted funds	76,476	14,267	15,506	75,237
Total funds	706,638	15,647	15,506	706,779

Purpose of restricted funds

The bequest from David Andren has been described in the Accounts for the sake of identification as 'restricted funds'. They are held by The Association to be applied as The Association sees fit and The Association has determined it will do so having regard to the wishes expressed in David Andren's will as follows: for the purposes of encouraging the community to help finance actions which will preserve the unique charm of the estuary, and in hope that the funds should be used to improve walls around Orford.

Purpose of general funds

General funds are those which are unrestricted and not designated for any other purpose. The balance on the general fund will be used to cover the excess of expenditure over incoming resources aims and mission.

Ultimate Controlling Party

The ultimate controlling party is the membership of the Charity.

THE ALDE AND ORE ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1154583

Accounts

THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

Your Voice – Your Estuary



The Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

for the year to 31st December 2020

The Association, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, exists to preserve for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them, together with the features of beauty and or historic or public interest in that area.

Registered Charity No. 1154583

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees present their Report and the Accounts of the Charity for the year to 31st December 2020.

A. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

The Alde and Ore Association
Charity Registration No 1154583

Correspondence Address

19 Lee Road, Aldeburgh, IP15 5HG

External Accountants

Ensors Chartered Accountants
Blyth House
Rendham Road
Saxmundham
Suffolk
IP17 1WA

Names of Charity Trustees

THE COMMITTEE at 31st December 2020

Officers

Alison Andrews	Chairman
Birgitta Bostrom	Treasurer

Other Trustees

Simon Barrow	Marketing (until 23 October 2020)
Colin Chamberlain	Legal Adviser
John Grayburn	Webmaster/Events Co-Ordinator (until 4 April 2020)
Keith Martin	Planning, SCAR
Roy Truman	Butley Ferry

Representatives Appointed by the Trustees

Richard Brunt	Wildfowlers (until 23 October 2020)
---------------	-------------------------------------

Co-opted members

Honorary Secretary	Kim Puttock (from 7 December 2020)
Membership Secretary	Diane Grayburn (until 23 October 2020)
Membership Secretary	Kim Puttock (from 7 December 2020)
Webmaster	Kim Puttock (from 7 December 2020)
Newsletter Editor	Monica Allen (from September 2020)
RDC Convener	Roger Baxter (co-opted member)

B. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Alde and Ore Association (The Association) was founded in 1991. On 1st January 2014, the charitable status was changed to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which assumed all the assets and liabilities of The Association.

Organisational structure

The Charity Trustees constitute a committee which manages the affairs of the CIO and for that purpose exercises the powers of the CIO.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting of The Association, in accordance with Clause 13 of the Constitution. One third of the Trustees must retire each year but are eligible for re-election, those to retire being the ones who have been longest in office.

C. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The objects of The Association are to preserve and protect for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them together with the features of beauty and historic or public interest in the area.

We confirm that the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Activities

The main activities undertaken towards achieving The Association's objectives during the year have been to:

- continue to help to ensure that river defences are upgraded in order to sustain the Alde and Ore and Butley rivers within their landscape to safeguard all the activities, places of interest and wildlife habitats contained within this unique area. This includes very active participation in the work of The Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOCP).
- work to safeguard the estuary by commenting on planning developments or other proposals which might either detract from or enhance the area.
- assess, photograph and report on the state of the river walls. This has been done through The Association's River Defence Committee.
- provide activities to encourage enjoyment or use of the area through the provision of the Butley Ferry, organised walks and an annual barbecue, but they were all closed/postponed because of Covid restrictions.
- take initiatives and contribute to commissioning research to illuminate policies or projects dealing with the river defences and the natural landscape.
- ensure communication with members: two Newsletters have been published and circulated to members and members are kept up to date by emails and through the website.
- work with the A&O Marketing Group to generate active discussion and planning which will clarify the stance and direction of The Association and encourage a broader membership and, critically, the recruitment of new trustees and volunteers.

Contributions

Donations have also been received over and above membership fees for which The Association is extremely grateful.

D. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The main achievements during the year reflect the several and varied activities of The Association but while action has continued, it has been constrained by the various restrictions in movement and meetings necessitated by the corona virus pandemic measures. In many cases action has been more limited or slower in making progress because of the restrictions.

The role of The Association

Within the coronavirus restrictions, Trustees continued to meet regularly, but virtually by Zoom. The Association continued to work to achieve its aim to preserve the rivers and adjoining land which may affect the estuary for the public benefit. The Association seeks to keep track of proposals and ideas which may affect the estuary and its banks either positively or adversely, and to act in the interest of the continued life of the estuary. It provides a voice on the AOCP and seeks to inform members of matters affecting the estuary overall. The Association has over the years contributed considerably to the preservation, protection and enjoyment of the Alde, Ore and Butley river area.

But the estuary needs the support and involvement of all who live, work and visit the area, now more than ever. This is why The Association created the strapline 'Your Voice – Your Estuary' in 2018, after consulting with members.

Working with the Alde and Ore Community Partnership on the river defences

2020 saw the transition from the Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership to the new Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOCP) taking forward the local community input into contributing to secure the implementation of the Alde and Ore Estuary Plan. The new AOCP is the guardian of the Alde and Ore Estuary Plan strategy and is the main body to ensure good communication throughout out the estuary about progress of plans; while the East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board carries the responsibility of implementing the construction of the defences; the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust is responsible as the treasury of the Estuary for raising funds to contribute to cost of the defence works and ensuring that they are effectively spent.

The AOCP involves the whole of the estuary community having representatives from all parishes bordering the estuary, one county and two district councillors, a business sector representative, a local IDB Board member and The Association which is the only body covering all parts of the estuary. The Association continues to be an active member of the Partnership to ensure that it works well in the interests of the wellbeing of the estuary and its use. During 2020, action has been limited to getting the new Partnership's constitution and way of working, communications with parishes and people and web site in good order, while all estuary bodies await the outcome of the IDB application to the Environment Agency for approval of the construction plans and securing a commitment to grant aid to contribute to the cost of the works, in order to enable the refurbishment of the river walls to begin.

The Association continued to report directly to the Environment Agency on the state of the shingle wall south of Martello Tower in Aldeburgh. The Environment Agency are monitoring the coast carefully but have said they appreciate the regular local updates.

The Association has sought to keep members informed about the estuary plans, through its Newsletters and would have also done that via email had there been any urgent news to pass on or views required. The Association places great store on its communications about the Estuary and regards it as important that members can obtain a good understanding of the progress being made.

Protection of the landscape

During 2020 The Association continued to monitor all planning applications, local and national, which might affect the estuary environment. We also liaised with the AONB planning team on relevant applications. Comments were submitted where it was thought necessary, of which two cases are significant:

- At Jumbo's Cottage in Iken, an application had been made to extend its residential curtilage and build a timber jetty. The Association objected to the changes to the residential curtilage and suggested constraints upon the jetty. The proposal to extend the curtilage was withdrawn and the jetty has now gone ahead with our suggested constraints in place.
- At Iken Hall there have been several applications in past years to erect various agricultural style buildings in the fields adjoining the house to which The Association has objected. 2020 saw two applications to erect a garden machinery store in a prominent location overlooking the estuary and the footpath and implying a residential curtilage definition for an agricultural location. Approval has been given to the building for agricultural purposes only and not for storing equipment ancillary to the house and garden.

In July 2020, The Association noted the outcome of the Government's 2019 policy consultations on the proposed strategic risk management policy for flood and coastal erosion and on the concepts of resilience and adaptation in relation to flood management. The Association welcomed the new policy statement which was favourable to the approach advocated by The Association – to have a policy consistent with the local plans for realistic resilience management of a landscape, such as the estuary, much valued by the local community and economy. The Association also welcomed the Government's commitment to a greatly increased budget for flood defences in the next six-year funding period starting in spring 2021.

The Association commented further, following comments in 2019, on two major power company proposals where the proposed installation of new power stations could, if not properly researched and implemented, lead to damaging the fragile but dynamically eroding coastline to the north of the estuary and so possibly lead to damaging the coastline bordering the estuary. Members were alerted to these consultations so that individual responses could also be submitted.

River Defence Committee

The River Defence Team, who conduct an annual survey of the state of the river walls of some 44 km, landowners and potential new members, attended an excellent presentation and training morning at the end of February by the Environment Agency on how flood defence walls worked and the range of weaknesses to be looked for that needed reporting. This was to be in time for the annual walks to examine the river walls after the March equinox. Unfortunately, three weeks later the coronavirus pandemic necessitated Government restrictions on people getting together. This inevitably limited participation by some members of the River Defence team, particularly training new members, and delayed some surveys until the lockdown restrictions were modified. Nevertheless, under the direction of Roger Baxter, the River Defence team organiser, most of the walls were surveyed, albeit some later than usual. Reports were submitted to the Environment Agency which expressed appreciation for the survey which helps the EA plan and budget for addressing any defects. About 20 volunteers carried out and prepared reports commenting on and mapping any changes: the reports are available on the website and were submitted to help the Environment Agency's wall reviews.

We are extremely grateful to everyone for their commitment in time and effort in producing the reports which provide a running benchmark of the state of the walls and provide early warning of when repairs are needed.

Enjoyment of the area

Coronavirus restrictions meant that the walks and barbecue planned for 2020 had to be postponed. It was the first time in 29 years since the Annual Barbecue first took place that there could be no barbecue.

Trustees organised a meeting by Zoom in May so that members had the opportunity to hear how the coastal installations proposed for the construction of Sizewell C might impact on the Suffolk coastal processes and possibly affect the Alde and Ore Estuary as much of its eastern bank is formed or bounded by the Orfordness shingle spit. Some 40 members attended this new venture in communications.

There was no news or opportunity for The Association to facilitate consultation with members or the general public on the Natural England plans for the England coastal path, although residents and landowners in areas that might be affected were asked of views on possible routes. This may arise in 2021.

While group events were not possible, clearly members and the general public were able to get out and enjoy the estuary area in the summer: sales of The Association's two walks books increased.

The Butley Ferry

This year the ferry team not only undertook the usual restoring and refurbishment of the ferry boat and moorings, but also repainted the ferry hut. In addition, they built three sturdy benches for ferry passengers and walkers to relax on (the work was done by members of the ferry team on behalf of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Unit who funded the materials).

The coronavirus regulations imposed on the UK in spring and early summer delayed the opening of ferry services for three months. Once unleashed, the volunteers worked rapidly to antifoul and launch the boat and, with all of the prescribed precautions in place, hit the ground running.

The ferry operated for approximately half of a normal season, lost four days to bad weather and carried a total of 585 passengers including 35 children and 284 cyclists. Average daily income, with no change in the fee, was £86.76, up from £55.78 in 2019. To accommodate the hygiene requirements during the pandemic, the operating procedures were changed to commit two adults to being on duty on each day.

Research commissioned

No new research was commissioned. However, East Coast Council formally adopted the recommendation of the Shoreline Management Plan Review to amend the interim policy for the shingle bank south of the Aldeburgh Martello Tower from No Active Intervention after the year 2025 to Managed Re-alignment/Resilience after 2025. That review was informed by a report commissioned from Professor Pye, completed in 2016, on the possible breach in the sea shingle wall. The changed upgraded policy was very welcome news for the estuary.

Communication with members

The planned for Annual General Meeting on 4 April 2020 had to be postponed as government restrictions did not allow public gatherings. Given the continuing limitations after the summer, Trustees reconvened the adjourned AGM so that it was held, virtually, by Zoom on 23 October 2020. Some 40 members attended.

As usual two newsletters, each 16 pages with many photographs, were circulated to keep members informed about what was going on in the estuary and provide items of interest on different aspects of the estuary. Sales of walks booklets continued, mostly via the Aldeburgh Bookshop. The usual connections to engage with members and potential members at the Butley and Orford Flower Shows were not possible because all such local events were cancelled given the corona virus limitations.

As no gatherings were possible Trustees issued three special email letters during the year, as well as ones relating to the postponed Annual General Meeting and its reconvening by Zoom in October, to bring members up to date with what was happening in relation to the estuary.

The website was kept updated but ideas for including information on a wider range of matters were stalled as more volunteer resources are needed.

Members continue to be encouraged to provide email addresses and to give permission for their use so as to ensure timely and much less costly circulation of matters affecting the estuary area.

The annual talk by a guest speaker, on this occasion it would have been Giles Bloomfield of the East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board on taking forward the Alde and Ore Estuary plan, had to be cancelled.

The Association's Marketing Group action

The work of the Marketing Group was taken forward by Trustees, particularly Simon Barrow before his retirement from the Committee at the AGM held in October. Involvement of members with focus and similar groups which had been planned proved not possible with the corona virus restrictions. Articles in the Spring and Autumn Newsletters carried that thinking forward. Further, Trustees developed a further definition of the aims and objectives and have welcomed the help kindly volunteered by Sholto Lindsay- Smith to advise on marketing matters, reaching out to a wider membership and encouraging a more engaged and vibrant relationship with members. That work is on-going.

E. FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Association has a Reserves Policy of building its reserves without significant increases in membership fees whilst continuing to maintain existing services to members.

The Association's main source of income is its membership fees (there are currently over 2,000 members in total, including members enrolled by reason of their membership of the Aldeburgh Yacht Club).

The Association expects to have to use its reserves to employ consultants, advisers and possibly even contractors to ensure the objectives of The Association in preserving the Alde and Ore Estuary for the benefit of the public are met. The Association might also give grants to other charitable organisations in order to achieve its aims.

Both unrestricted as well as restricted reserves of The Association are currently held in savings deposit accounts with CCLA, Virgin Money , Shawbrook Bank, and current accounts at Barclays Bank.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Members of The Association's Committee are responsible for preparing the Charity's annual report and financial statements in accordance with the law applicable to charities and UK Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law requires that the report and financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and
- prepare the financial statements on a 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees, for the purposes of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report, are set out on page 1.

Approved by the Trustees on 8th March 2021



.....
Lady Andrews, OBE
Chair of the Trustees

www.aldeandore.org

To reduce our postage expenses, this is updated with current news, Association events, AGM minutes and reports.

We welcome comments and ideas.

****NB to enable us to send you news/events etc. without incurring expensive postage costs,
please send your email address to: info@aldeandore.org**

Statement of financial activities for the year ending 31st December 2020

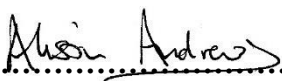
For general comments see Note 1.

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
Income	2				
Membership fees and donations		12,185	-	12,185	31,819
Other Trading Activities		1,802	-	1,802	6,504
Investment income		135	2,648	2,783	3,958
Total		14,122	2,648	16,770	42,281
Expenditure	3				
Raising funds		885	-	885	5,951
Charitable activities		6430	-	6430	7,498
Total		7,316		7,316	13,449
Net income/(expenditure)		6,806	2,648	9,454	28,832
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances brought forward		69,670	627,514	697,184	668,352
Net movement in funds		6,806	2,648	9,454	28,832
Fund balances carried forward		76,476	630,162	706,638	697,184

Balance sheet as at 31st December

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets		-	-	-	-
Intangible assets		-	-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
Current Assets					
Stocks		-	-	-	-
Debtors - Interest earned		1	5	6	233
Cash at bank and in hand		77,506	630,157	707,663	697,697
Total Current Assets		77,507	630,162	707,669	697,930
Liabilities					
Due in less than a year	4	1030	-	1030	746
Net Assets		76,476	630,162	706,638	697,184

Approved by the Trustees and signed by:

.......... 8th March 2021

Lady Andrews, OBE
Chair of the Trustees

The notes on pages 10 to 13 to form part of these financial statements

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting Policies

Basis for preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Fund accounting

The Charity has restricted income funds to account for situations where a donor requires that a donation must be spent on a particular purpose, or where funds have been raised for a particular purpose. All other funds are unrestricted.

Incoming resources

Annual memberships are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate. Memberships received in advance are deferred and included in creditors.

Legacies and donations are recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received, and the monetary value of grants can be measured with sufficient reliability. Legacies can be categorised as either pecuniary (specific cash amount) or residuary (share of an estate). Pecuniary legacies are recognised as receivable once probate has been granted and notification has been received. Residuary legacies are recognised as receivable once probate has been granted and where they can be measured reliably.

Income from sales of publications is recognised as earned as the related goods are provided.

Investment income is credited to income on the accrual's basis, with daily accrual of interest calculated by reference to the distribution dates.

Resources Expended

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Taxation

The Association is a registered charity, so there is no charge for taxation.

Notes to the accounts (continued)

2. Income

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
Income from membership fees and donations					
Membership fees		6,148	-	6,148	6,305
Membership fees from Aldeburgh Yacht Club		2,766	-	2,766	2,765
Gift Aid Refund		1,271	-	1,271	1,339
Donations and legacies		2,000		2,000	21,410
Total income from membership, fees and donations		12,185	0	12,185	31,819
Income from other trading activities					
BBQ		-	-	0	2,595
Walks		-	-	0	1,106
Butley Ferry		1,787	-	1,787	2,733
Sales of publications/DVDs		15	-	15	70
Total income from other trading activities		1,802		1,802	6,504
Income from investments					
Interest on cash deposits		135	2,648	2,783	3,958
Total income from investments		135	2,648	2,783	9,958
Total income		14,122	2,648	16,770	48,281

Notes to the accounts (continued)

3. Expenditure

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
Cost of raising funds					
BBQ Cost		-	-		2,211
Walks cost		-	-		809
Butley Ferry cost		885	-	885	2,931
Total cost of raising funds		885		885	5,951
Cost of Charitable Activities					
Newsletter		4,467	-	4,467	3,409
Website costs		86	-	86	130
Postage/Stationary		-	-	-	72
Miscellaneous		110	-	110	393
Consultants (Professor Pye)		-	-	-	560
Donations and grants by A&O		-	-	-	1,055
AGM		1,127	-	1,127	1,266
Independent Examination of Accounts		370	-	370	350
Insurance		270	-	270	263
			-	-	-
Total cost of charitable activities		6,430	-	6,430	7,498
Total expenditure		7,316	-	7,316	13,449

Notes to the accounts (continued)

4. Liabilities

	At 31st December 2020
Autumn newsletter postage	670
Independent Examination	360
Total Liabilities	1030

5. Funds

	At 1 January 2020	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	At 31 December 2020
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds				
David Andren Bequest	627,514	2,648		630,162
Total restricted funds	627,514	2,648		630,162
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	69,670	14,122	7,316	76,476
Total unrestricted funds	69,670	14,122	7,316	76,476
Total funds	697,184	16,770	7,316	706,638

Purposes of restricted funds

The bequest from David Andren has been described in the Accounts for the sake of identification as 'restricted funds'. They are held by The Association to be applied as The Association sees fit and The Association has determined it will do so having regard to the wishes expressed in David Andren's will as follows: for the purposes of encouraging the community to help finance actions which will preserve the unique charm of the estuary, and in hope that the funds should be used to improve walls around Orford.

Purpose of general funds

General funds are those which are unrestricted and not designated for any other purpose. The balance on the general fund will be used to cover the excess of expenditure over incoming resources aims and mission.

ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The ultimate controlling party is the membership of the Charity

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2020**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Alde & Ore Association for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As trustees of the Charity 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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 which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- i. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- ii. the accounts did not accord with those accounting records; or
- iii. the accounts did not comply with the applicable accounting requirements concerning the form and contents 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.



Carl Page FCCA
Ensors Accountants LLP

Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)

Blyth House
Rendham Road
Saxmundham
Suffolk
IP17 1WA

Dated: 09/03/2021.....