

2022 Chairman's report for Charity Commission

Portland Bird Observatory and Field Centre's activities returned to normal and in some areas exceeded those experienced pre-covid. The full reopening of the observatory for accommodation and day visitors saw an unprecedented increase following relaxation of the previous COVID restrictions. Interest in the charity was reflected by a marked increase in visits by the general public, many having read of our conservation and scientific work which had been reported daily on the observatory blog throughout the lockdowns. The interest in nature generally and the work of societies and charities working in this sphere were obviously stimulated by many television programmes watched during the Covid pandemic.

The scientific work of daily recording of moths, birds and other biological indicators was back to high levels with the many visiting naturalists contributing to the daily records. The final database of sixty years past records which had been digitised and edited over several years was received from the British Trust for Ornithology, these having contributed to their capacity to inform JNCC and the government on biodiversity changes during this period.

The observatory received a second five-year Mid-Tier DEFRA Stewardship Award for our farming for wildlife after successful completion of the first five-year programme. We were sorry to lose Richard Newton, our trustee with farming experience who had undertaken all work for the past twenty years but contracted James Foot, a local farmer who continued the agreed programme. The acreage farmed for conservation increased during the year thanks to a bequest from the family of a previously regular visitor to the observatory. The generous sum of £100K enabled the purchase of two areas of limestone grassland and five lawnsheds totalling 4.4 acres which were incorporated into the farming regime.

The observatory now farms just under 40 acres maintaining and increasing the biodiversity of Portland Bill under increasing pressure from other uses.

The educational programme was enabled again by the warden, Martin Cade and our newly appointed Assistant Warden Jodie Mae Henderson, who like our previous AW, Erin Taylor, had served at Skokholm Bird Observatory. The work of the observatory was detailed to the many visits by schools, bird societies, WI, University of the Third Age as well as general visitors. The membership rose to nearly 800 reaching pre-covid levels. Formal education and work experience

was undertaken utilising our Neil Arnold Memorial Fund and the BTO Young Bird Observatory Volunteer scheme enabling two students to spend a total of eight weeks training at PBO.

Thanks must be given to the staff and trustees who having negotiated a difficult period during COVID and ensured a successful resumption of all of the observatory's operations and activities.

Peter J Morgan

Chairman of Portland Bird Observatory and Field Centre.

PORTLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY AND FIELD CENTRE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<u>INCOME RECEIPTS</u>		
Accommodation	43,208.00	25,186.00
Bank Interest and Dividends Received	73,021.42	65,640.39
Bookshop Sales (Note 1)	5,791.13	4,511.46
Farming Income (Note 2)	634.93	797.65
Donations and Bequests	1,347.41	2,099.34
Membership Fees	13,796.00	11,981.00
Exceptional Income - Bequest for Land Purchase (Note 3)	<u>100,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>	237,798.89	110,215.84
<u>DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE</u>		
Bank Charges and Merchant Fees	919.53	587.84
Cleaning	4,259.32	1,565.92
Insurance	3,322.65	3,005.22
Light and Heat	5,366.06	7,018.80
Pension Contributions	5,620.02	5,263.12
Postage	1,711.24	180.76
Printing, Stationery and Office	881.32	3,518.04
Professional Fees	1,063.96	1,567.50
Rates and Water	2,306.55	2,249.42
Rent	1,250.00	1,600.00
Repairs and Maintenance	14,349.45	7,187.85
Ringing and Data Processing	7,941.30	1,710.00
Subscriptions and Donations Made	448.00	72.00
Sundry Travel and Meeting Costs	439.33	0.00
Telephone	15,041.52	11,315.58
Wages and Payroll Taxes	43,498.66	37,378.38
Exceptional Expenses - Land Purchase (Note 3)	<u>102,032.60</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<u>TOTAL PAYMENTS</u>	210,451.51	84,220.43
<u>NET (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</u>	<u>27,347.38</u>	<u>25,995.41</u>
 BANK & CASH BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2021	 <u>90,246.84</u>	 <u>64,251.43</u>
BANK & CASH BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022	<u>117,594.22</u>	<u>90,246.84</u>
 <u>NET (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR EXCLUDING EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS</u>	 29,379.98	 25,995.41

PORTLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY AND FIELD CENTRE

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

2022

2021

MONETARY ASSETS

Balance at Santander Current Account attributable to the Charity	117,404.22	89,981.84
Cash at Hand	190.00	265.00
	<u>117,594.22</u>	<u>90,246.84</u>

NON-MONETARY ASSETS

- Old Lower Lighthouse including the Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage and attached annexe
- Approximately 31 acres of land at Portland Bill including the Crown Estate Field
- Stock of books with an approximate value of £25,000
- Agricultural equipment

OTHER ASSETS (NON-ENDOWED)

1. Held for investment purposes

- M & G Investments – Income units held as at 31 December 2022		88,857.053
Value at 31/12/2022	£1,305,772.17	
Value at 31/12/2021	£1,380,399.71	

PORTLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY AND FIELD CENTRE

NOTES TO THE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

- 1 Bookshop sales have been shown as a net income figure rather than showing sales and purchases, as requested by the Trustees. This does not affect the overall accounts. This category includes the sale of Observatory-branded merchandise.
- 2 Farming costs are shown net of government grants received under the Mid Tier Countryside Stewardship scheme. This has resulted in a small surplus in each year from 2019-2022.
- 3 During 2022 the Charity received a generous bequest in memory of Rob Tuck, specifically to be used to fund the purchase of two parcels of land adjacent to the Observatory for conservation purposes, for which we are most grateful. The receipt and corresponding land purchase (inclusive of legal fees) are shown as exceptional income and expenditure in the year.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of "Portland Bird Observatory and Field Centre"

We report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the account (under section 145 of the Charities Act):
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5) (b) of the Charities Act): and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention.

- which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Elliot and Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
7 King Street
Weymouth
Dorset
DT4 7BJ

Date: 20th June 2023

