

VINTERS VALLEY PARK TRUST CIO

(No: 1169118)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

VINTERS VALLEY PARK TRUST CIO

CONTENTS

- Independent examiners report
- Receipts & payments
- Statement of assets & liabilities
- Trustees' annual report
- Chairman's report



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Vinters Valley Park Trust CIO

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/12/2020

**Charity no
(if any)**

1169118

Set out on pages

1 - 2

**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 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

- In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention
1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
 2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

11/02/2021

Name:

Peter Acott

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body:**

FCCA

Address:

SHPD Accountants, 10 Littlebourne Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5QP



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Vinters Valley Park Trust CIO

No (if any)
1169118

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2020	To	Period end date 31/12/2020
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	16,536	102	-	16,638	19,813
Grants	2,281	10,950	-	13,231	6,725
Gift Aid received	3,301	750	-	4,051	3,105
Legacy	-	-	-	-	13,949
Insurance claim	1,942	-	-	1,942	-
Other income	233	-	-	233	42,344
Bank interest	553	-	-	553	145
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	24,846	11,802	-	36,648	86,081
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Sale of tractor	-	-	-	-	1,500
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	1,500
Total receipts	24,846	11,802	-	36,648	87,581
A3 Payments					
Utilities	239	-	-	239	194
Travelling/mileage	64	-	-	64	140
Print, stationery, office, telecomms	372	-	-	372	782
Maintenance, fuel, uniform, tools	5,958	52	-	6,010	9,906
Disposables, bird food & bat expenditure	145	-	-	145	258
Insurance	2,567	-	-	2,567	2,006
General & volunteer expenditure	391	-	-	391	435
Gross wages & pension contributions	19,643	-	-	19,643	18,513
Replacement tools from insurance claim	1,777	-	-	1,777	-
Bank charges	360	-	-	360	190
Sub total	31,516	52	-	31,568	32,424
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Tractor	-	-	-	-	3,610
Bat/bird monitoring equipment & cameras	14	2,400	-	2,414	-
Sub total	14	2,400	-	2,414	3,610
Total payments	31,530	2,452	-	33,982	36,034
Net of receipts/(payments)	(6,684)	9,350	-	2,666	51,547
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	82,472	3,575	-	86,047	34,500
Cash funds this year end	75,788	12,925	-	88,713	86,047

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current account	8,563	-	-
	Deposit account	66,819	12,925	-
	Cash	406	-	-
	Total cash funds	75,788	12,925	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK

OK

OK


	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Tractor	All funds		
	Bat/bird monitoring equipment & cameras	Restricted funds		
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Richard Jones	11/02/2021



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date			Period end date		
From	1 st	January	2020	To	31 st December 2020

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Vinters Valley Park Trust CIO

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1169118

Charity's principal address 3 The Medlars

Woodlands, Maidstone

Kent

Postcode

ME14 5RZ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	R Jones	Chairman	18.03.20 to 31.12.20	Fellow trustees
2	V G Davies	Chairman	To 18.3.20 (Chair)	Boxley Parish Council
3	P J Lott		To 19.07.20	Vinters Residents Association
4	P K Overland		Whole period	Grove Green Community Hall Trust
5	G Cooke		Whole period	Kent County Council
6	G Miles		Whole period	Fellow trustees
7	R Hinder		To 13.08.20	Maidstone Borough Council
8	A Brindle		13.08.20 to 31.12.20	Maidstone Borough Council
9	P Joslyn		13.08.20 to 31.12.20	Fellow trustees
10	P Walsh		13.08.20 to 31.12.20	Fellow trustees
11	M Cox		13.08.20 to 31.12.20	Fellow trustees
12	V G Davies		Whole period	Boxley Parish Council
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Trustees may be appointed from Boxley Parish Council; Kent County Council; Maidstone Borough Council; Vinters Park Residents Association; Grove Green Community Hall CIO. Additional Trustees may be appointed by resolution of a properly convened meeting of the Trustees.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

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

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

- To manage and improve the whole of Vinters Valley Park ("Park") as an open space for quiet, informal recreation or other leisure time occupation of the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the conditions of life of the public
- To conserve the wildlife within the Park
- To preserve, conserve, maintain, restore and enhance and promote understanding and appreciation for the benefit of the public such features of the Park that are of special landscape, historical or architectural interest

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

We employ a warden to undertake such maintenance as required to keep the Reserve in a safe and desirable condition for the public to enjoy and who carries out his duties as outlined in the management plan drawn up by a management committee and approved by the Trustees.

Fencing along Huntsmans Lane was repaired with the help of a local construction firm, and much of the wood used to repair steps was also donated.

Paths eroded by the increased footfall have been strengthened by Ragstone grit (donated) where required.

The access path from Bargrove Road entrance has been amended so that there are passing places for pedestrians to meet the social distancing rules.

The entrance to the reserve in New Cut Road was upgraded.

Relocation of reptiles into the reserve to preserve them from loss of the previous habitat due to development.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Contribution made by volunteers:

We have many volunteers who help the warden to carry out this maintenance and works to improve the Reserve and make it more accessible. Due to Covid-19 we have split the usual Tuesday gang into a Tuesday and Thursday gang. Their contribution under the supervision of our warden has been very helpful.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

As a result of the pandemic, the Reserve saw visitor numbers increase considerably, especially during the first lockdown in May. Many of these visitors were visiting for the first time which generated much interest in the reserve, this increased footfall has impacted on the condition of paths and steps which have had to be repaired.

When restrictions allowed, many volunteers worked tirelessly to repair steps and paths as well as general damage caused by vandals. With help from the local PCSO, the vandalism has now ceased.

Birds continue to frequent the reserve and a juvenile Gadwall was seen in September. Canada geese, ducks and tawny owls successfully raised young this year. A number of buzzards are regularly seen over the reserve.

The reserve remains no 4 in Kent for the number (631) of fly species recorded on one site.

Two bat recording devices have been purchased with a grant from a local trust which has shown there are many bat hotspots in the reserve and in the summer they are very active in the afternoons.

Two wildlife cameras have also been purchased using a grant received. These will provide valuable answers to the movement of small mammals across the reserve.

The Trust received over £13,000 in grants from a variety of organisations during the year, but because of the pandemic some of this will be spent in 2021 on renewing the Fullingpitts Wood boundary fence with the public footpath and the Anniversary Trail.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The CIO's policy is to maintain a reserves level to ensure funds are readily available should there be major storm damage to the Park and also to enable payment of any legally required redundancy to the warden should the Charity have to be wound up.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

n/a

Further financial review details (Optional information)

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

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F

Other optional information

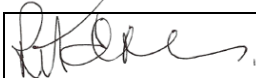
Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Richard Jones

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chairman

Date

11/02/21



Website: www.vintersvalley.co.uk

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2020-2021

When I assumed the position of Chair in March 2020, I had no idea what was around the corner for us all.

The Reserve has been buffeted by the pressures caused by Covid-19, with hundreds of new visitors, the incredibly hot weather and extreme flooding in the Valley.

But as has happened so many times before, everyone rallied round and the Reserve has endured all that was thrown at it.

In May 2020, when exercise was allowed after the first lockdown, the Reserve was visited by a huge number of people new to our green space, a massive increase in visitor numbers from that normally expected. The switchback of lockdown and release might have caused us problems but with our volunteers and Warden, we have steered a careful path through most of the issues that arose.

We also had a great success with catching the vandals who had caused so much damage in the Reserve in 2019 and 2020. The Trustees wrote to the Chief Constable and as a direct result of this letter, he put in place police personnel who, working with our Warden, were able to catch these miscreants "red handed".

In July 2020 we also had a visit from Helen Whately the local MP who wished to support us by a visit to the Reserve to see for herself what was available to the local community.

Towards the end of 2020, we had great concerns for the health of the lake, our "jewel in the crown", as wildfowl had died in 2019. South East Water has since offered to organise testing of the water, free of charge, on a regular basis, we hope to see the benefits of this from 2021 onwards. We believe this will help us to identify any measures to improve water quality.

Acknowledgements:

My thanks go to Harry Lowder our Honorary Management Committee Chair and his Honorary committee members who have worked to keep the Reserve running smoothly.

To all of you who are involved with the Reserve thank you. To our Warden, Steve Songhurst and his teams of volunteers who became 2 T Gangs, Tuesday and Thursday, thank you.

I want to give a special thank you to Ben Kirby who is the Honorary Vice Chair of the Management Committee and heads up the PR Media and It committee. Ben created the 30th Anniversary letterhead I am using, Ben wears many hats for the benefit of the Reserve. Thank you Ben for all you do.

Financial pressures continue.

We are grateful to those Friends and supporters who faithfully and regularly give much needed funds.

Our Honorary Treasurer Anne Newman, has worked hard to give us regular useful reports and has dealt with the regular volume of transactions.

Anne thank you for all your hard work.

However, it is an undeniable fact that Trust annual expenses on average exceed its income by around £8,000.



Vinters Valley Park Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Headquarters: Vinters Lodge, Lodge Road, Maidstone, ME14 5EH



@vintersnature



@VintersValley



@vintersvalleynaturereserve



www.flickr.com/photos/vintersvalley



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC598kIJGdJOjfcMOVcLEwPg>



Website: www.vintersvalley.co.uk

It is a welcome fact that we have a surplus over expenses this year, but this is because we are holding grants received yet to be expended.

But we must remain upbeat. In 2020 we have received a variety of much needed grants from different sources which have enabled our Warden to achieve and plan for many things.

Our special thanks go to the following who between them granted us over £13,000 in much needed funds: Boxley Parish Council, The Cobtree Foundation, Kent Community Foundation, Kent Combined Members, Pamela Champion Foundation, Waitrose, Chapman Foundation, Blakemore Group, Go Green Go Wild (MBC)..

We must also thank Boxley Timber & Fencing Supplies Ltd, Gallagher Construction Ltd, Haynes Agricultural Ltd and BAM Construction Ltd for gifts in kind.

Projects which will use some of these grants in 2021 are the renewal of the fence on Fullingpitts Wood up to the A249, and the creation of the Anniversary Trail.

Trustees:

In 2020 we welcomed 4 new Honorary Trustees, Councillors Martin Cox and Anne Brindle, Paul Walsh and Paul Joslyn and said goodbye to Peter Lott who had served for many years, and Bob Hinder.

To those who served as Trustees thank you. To our Trustee Honorary Secretary Charlotte McClymont and to the Honorary Secretary of the Management Committee Yasmin Franziska, thank you for your efforts.

The Reserve celebrates its 30th Anniversary in 2021.

We had hoped to have a full programme of events to promote all the Reserve has to offer. Covid has put a stop to most of these. There are so many pressures now with an emphasis on Covid-19 where funders, for some reason, continue to ignore the contribution our green space has to the health and mental wellbeing of its local community.

However, we have already been successful in receiving grants totalling £5,300 towards the 30th Fund, some of which will be used to create an Anniversary Trail.

All of you, Trustees, Treasurer, Management Committee, Warden, T Gangs and Secretaries my thanks to you all, it has been a privilege to act as Chair and Trustee for the Trust.

RICHARD JONES

Chair of Trustees



Vinters Valley Nature Reserve
Maidstone's hidden gem

Vinters Valley Park Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Headquarters: Vinters Lodge, Lodge Road, Maidstone, ME14 5EH



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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC598kIJGdJOjfcMOVcLEwPg>