

VINTERS VALLEY PARK TRUST CIO

(No: 1169118)

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE**

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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

31/12/2021

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:

15/06/2022

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 01/01/2021 | To | Period end date 31/12/2021 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|

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 | 15,342 | 2,106 | - | 17,448 | 16,638 |
| Grants | 6,500 | 1,000 | - | 7,500 | 13,231 |
| Gift Aid | 3,363 | - | - | 3,363 | 4,051 |
| Insurance claim | - | - | - | - | 1,942 |
| Other income | 20,675 | - | - | 20,675 | 233 |
| Bank interest | 157 | - | - | 157 | 553 |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total (Gross income for AR) | 46,037 | 3,106 | - | 49,143 | 36,648 |
| A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table). | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total receipts | 46,037 | 3,106 | - | 49,143 | 36,648 |
| A3 Payments | | | | | |
| Utilities | 187 | - | - | 187 | 239 |
| Travelling, mileage | 70 | - | - | 70 | 64 |
| Print, stationery, office, telecoms | 718 | - | - | 718 | 372 |
| Maintenance, fuel, uniform, tools | 6,131 | 3,481 | - | 9,612 | 6,010 |
| Disposables, bird food & bat expenditure | 321 | - | - | 321 | 145 |
| Insurance | 2,408 | - | - | 2,408 | 2,567 |
| General & volunteer expenditure | 295 | - | - | 295 | 391 |
| Gross wages inc pension contributions | 20,369 | - | - | 20,369 | 19,643 |
| Advance PAYE/NI payment | 1,003 | - | - | 1,003 | - |
| Replacement tools from insurance claim | - | - | - | - | 1,777 |
| Bank charges | 330 | - | - | 330 | 360 |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | 31,832 | 3,481 | - | 35,313 | 31,568 |
| A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table) | | | | | |
| Bat/bird monitoring equipment & cameras | - | 206 | - | 206 | 2,414 |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | 206 | - | 206 | 2,414 |
| Total payments | 31,832 | 3,687 | - | 35,519 | 33,982 |
| Net of receipts/(payments) | 14,205 | (581) | - | 13,624 | 2,666 |
| A5 Transfers between funds | - | - | - | - | - |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 75,788 | 12,925 | - | 88,713 | 86,047 |
| Cash funds this year end | 89,993 | 12,344 | - | 102,337 | 88,713 |

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 | 22,031 | - | - |
| | Deposit account | 67,556 | 12,344 | - |
| | Cash | 406 | - | - |
| | Total cash funds | 89,993 | 12,344 | - |
| | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | OK | OK | OK |

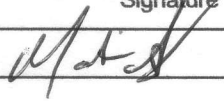
| | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B2 Other monetary assets | | - | - |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

| | 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 equip & 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 |
|---|------------|------------------|
|  | Martin Cox | 15/06/2022 |



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date

Period end date

From

1st

January

2021

To

31st

December

2021

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name Vinters Valley Park Trust

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1169118

Charity's principal address 66 College Road

Maidstone

Postcode

ME15 6SJ

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 | M Cox | Chairman | 11.9.21 to 31.12.21 | |
| 2 | V G Davies | Chairman | 11.2.21 to 11.9.21 | Boxley Parish Council |
| 3 | R Jones | Chairman | 01.01.21 to 11.2.21 | |
| 4 | G Cooke | | | Kent County Council |
| 5 | A Brindle | | | Maidstone Borough Council |
| 6 | P Walsh | | | |
| 7 | G Miles | | 01.01.21 to 06.09.21 | |
| 8 | PK Overland | | 01.01.21 to 17.09.21 | Grove Green Community Hall Trust |
| 9 | PJ Lott | | 15.3.21 to 31.12.21 | Vinters Residents Assoc |
| 10 | CB Sheppard | | 08.07.21 to 31.12.21 | Boxley Parish Council |
| 11 | | | | |
| 12 | | | | |
| 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)

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

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.

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

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.

We have many volunteers who help the warden to carry out this maintenance and works to improve the Reserve and make it more accessible.

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.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Reserve reached its 30th anniversary in September, although the celebrations have been postponed to 2022 due to the pandemic.

Much of the delayed maintenance work from 2020 was carried out by the Warden and his team of volunteers during the year, notably the erection of a new 230m chestnut palling fence along one of our boundaries. The materials were funded by grants. Other work has included repairs and replacement of handrails, fencing and a bridge as well as stream clearance. Footpaths have been repaired with additional stone, which has been donated by a local company, Gallagher Aggregates.

Visitor numbers declined as the year progressed, although these are still around 10% higher than pre Covid.

Following the better weather for breeding in 2020, good numbers of juvenile lizards were seen during September in various parts of the Reserve. During late Spring, a small number of reptiles were re-homed from Rochester in one of the conservation fields. We will continue to monitor reptile activity.

A pair of Canada Geese produced five goslings although four developed a wing deformity caused by too much bread during their early development. The story appeared on the local ITV news and have become ambassadors for a 'no bread' policy. Buzzards were regularly seen and two male Mandarin Ducks made the lake their home in October. Overall, 100 different species of birds have been recorded in the Reserve.

Our first extensive autumn survey of small mammals revealed a high population of mice and voles indicating the success of wildlife habitat management policies. It is planned to carry out a spring and autumn survey in future.

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

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)

Martin Cox

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chairman

Date

15/6/2022



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2021 - 2022

When I was voted in to the position of Chairman of the Trust in September 2021, I had no secretary and was short of a couple of Trustees. I was not taking on this responsibility as a Maidstone Borough Councillor, as the position from the Council on the Trust had been re-allocated. I had been on the Trust prior to this re-shuffle but was proud to be asked to continue as a member of the public. I was very pleased to be encouraged to take over from Vic who had stepped in as Chairman following the stepping down of Richard.

The Reserve has been in good hands, at the helm, we are still lucky enough to have The Warden - Steve Songhurst. Together with the team of volunteers we have seen the steady progress of the Management plan. The main objectives guiding the management of the nature reserve include:

- (a) To protect & conserve the wildlife living within the nature reserve.
- (b) To manage the nature reserve for the benefit of the public, as an open space for quiet informal recreation and the enjoyment of nature.
- (c) To protect / restore, for the benefit of the public, such features of the reserve as are of special landscape, historical, or architectural interest.

All of the above is overseen by The Management Committee lead by Harry and Paul. To all these special people, I feel sure that the users and Trustees of the Reserve would like me to extend our heartfelt thanks for the superb work they do.

One of the ongoing 'deliberations' that has been taking place involving KCC and MBC planning has been how, and by what method, should the water that flows from the Bearsted Road system down through the reserve. I would like to give special mention to Peter Lott and Anne Brindle for keeping the Trustees aware of progress, issues and then outcome. At the time of writing we are told that the work up in the grounds of the Crematorium will start soon and the water quality will start to improve.

During the COVID pandemic, visitor and user numbers have not fallen, we see new "Friends" and dog walkers using the reserve in ever increasing numbers. The paths have again taken a beating and once again the amazing support from local business has come to our aid.

In the last 18 months we have taken delivery of close to 40 tonnes of stone chippings that cover our paths. I feel sure that many take the paths for granted. I ask us all to acknowledge this and other truly wonderful support for our Nature Reserve from Gallagher Group.



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



@vintersnature



@VintersValley



@vintersvalleynaturereserve



www.flickr.com/photos/vintersvalley



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC598klJGdJOjfcMOVcLEwPg>

Vinters Valley Nature Reserve

"Maidstone's Hidden Gem"

Celebrating



When the weather was cold, we put bird food out in several areas, the cost of which has steadily increased. In conversation with our immediate neighbour 'Notcutts' we asked if, in a similar way that human food is donated as we shop, we could ask their customers to donate bird feed as they buy theirs for home. Thank you, a truly wonderful response, please keep giving. And a huge thank you to Notcutts for the bird seed and white sunflower hearts they have donated and for encouraging this 'bird seed food bank'.

Due, once again to COVID we were unable to formally open the 30th Anniversary Walk. We will be rectifying this on 2nd July 2022 with our public AGM in the Reserve itself. There is a great day of seeing, doing and contributing. We also have a photography and art competition 'New Beginnings'. Local people from schools and the community will enter. We would like to thank Gallagher Civil Engineers and quarry department for their kind donation of a commemorative obelisk to mark the occasion.

We have also welcomed two new members of the Trust. Nikki Fissenden as a Trustee and Ann Neal our new Secretary. Both have hit the ground running with valuable contribution to our meetings and day to day running.

Acknowledgements:

My thanks go to Harry Lowder, our Honorary Management Committee Chair, and his Honorary committee members who have worked so hard 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 the Thursday Gang 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 Logo, he wears many hats all of which benefit the Reserve. Thank you Ben for all you do....

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 and great support you have given me as new Chairman.

However, it is an undeniable fact that it is, has and will prove hard to keep asking for our users' support, as they too will see general expenses increase with national inflation hitting the headlines.

We are grateful to those Friends and supporters who faithfully and regularly give much needed funds, not only in the form of financial donations but also through the clever ways that, through spending online, can donate funds to nominated charities such as ours.



Vinters Valley Nature Reserve
Maidstone's hidden gem

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@vintersnature



@VintersValley



@vintersvalleynaturereserve



www.flickr.com/photos/vintersvalley



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

Vinters Valley Nature Reserve

"Maidstone's Hidden Gem"

Celebrating



But we will remain upbeat. In 2021-22 we have received 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 granted us £6500 in much needed funds: Boxley Parish Council

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

Trustees:

To those who served as Trustees thank you.

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 in this my first year.



Vinters Valley Nature Reserve
Maidstone's hidden gem

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@vintersnature



@VintersValley



@vintersvalleynaturereserve



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