

# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

| From | Period start date |       |      | Period end date |       |      |
|------|-------------------|-------|------|-----------------|-------|------|
|      | 01                | April | 2024 | 31              | March | 2025 |

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Community Support in the Countryside (CSC)

Other names charity is known by Brockham Emergency Response Team (BERT)

Registered charity number (if any) 1171175

Charity's principal address 28 Oakdene Road, Brockham, Surrey

Postcode

RH3 7JX

### 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  | Robert James Thomas      |                  | Whole year  | N/A   |
| 2  | Trevor John Anderson     | Treasurer        | Whole year  | N/A   |
| 3  | Simon Budd               |                  | Whole year  | N/A   |
| 4  | Isobel Fiona Heppenstall |                  | Whole year  | N/A   |
| 5  | Trevor Hizzard           |                  | Whole Year  | N/A   |
| 6  | Craig Scott              | Chairman         | April 24 to February 25 (passed away on 14 February 25) | N/A   |
| 7  | Daved Robert Shanks      |                  | Whole year  | N/A   |
| 8  | Ann Went                 |                  | Whole year  | N/A   |
| 9  | Michael Philip Went      | Interim Chairman | Whole year (appointed Interim Chairman in March 25)     | N/A   |
| 10 | Alessandra F N Truran    | Secretary        | Whole year  | N/A   |

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

| Name | Dates acted if not for whole year |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| N/A  | N/A                               |

### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|-----------------|------|---------|
| N/A             |      |         |

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

|     |
|-----|
| N/A |
|-----|

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Type of governing document<br>(eg. trust deed, constitution)        | CSC is governed by a Constitution document, which was set out when the charity was incorporated on 18 January 2017.   |
| How the charity is constituted<br>(eg. trust, association, company) | CSC is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) governed by the Foundation Constitution document.   |
| Trustee selection methods<br>(eg. appointed by, elected by)         | <p>The original trustees were appointed from the people who had historically helped BERT, were willing and able to act as trustees, and were able to give an appropriate range of knowledge and skills to cover the legal, financial, technical, operational, promotional and other needs of CSC as a charity.</p> <p>New trustees are appointed following existing trustees' approval and follow the same principle of creating a group with an appropriate knowledge and experience to run the charity effectively.</p> |

### 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.

The formal business of CSC is conducted through trustee meetings, which are usually held quarterly. Progress of agreed actions is managed through regular follow up.

BERT carries out operational tasks with the support of volunteer team leaders. These are typically long-standing BERT volunteers who have been committed to our activities and been willing to undertake the training necessary for the role.

CSC/BERT has adopted a set of policies, which are reviewed regularly, to cover the health and safety, safeguarding, and the protection of personal data of trustees and volunteers.

CSC/BERT regularly engages with Brockham Parish Council, Mole Valley District Council, Surrey County Council and with relevant government bodies to manage flood risks, to report incidents or concerns, and to support the local community.

## Section C Objectives and activities

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

The purposes of CSC, as set out in the founding document, are:

To relieve persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress as a result of a natural or other disaster or emergency, to promote public safety and to protect the lives and property of residents of Brockham in particular but not exclusively by:

1. Developing the capacity of residents with the aim to prevent and reduce the likelihood and consequences of local flooding, particularly from drainage ditches and surface water,
2. Recruiting and training volunteers to enable Brockham Emergency Response Team (BERT) to provide assistance and undertake preventive activities when the village of Brockham is threatened by severe weather, its consequences or other local emergency or disruption,
3. Assisting the Brockham community in setting up and organising community information and awareness raising events using BERT's expertise, volunteers and equipment for the benefit of local residents and
4. Developing technology or systems to enhance the capacity of rural communities to monitor and warn local residents of the risk of flooding from rivers, streams or significant drainage ditches.

**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)**

**7 April 2024**

Working party held to carry out three main activities:

1. Removal of a tree down in Tanner's Brook to unblock the flow of water.





2 – Clearance of congested drains in Kiln Lane, which were causing the road to flood.





### 3 - Maintenance of the drainage ditch in Oakdene Road, towards Warene Road



**27 April 2024**

Covid Immunisation: BERT volunteers supported six vaccinating nurses at Brookwood Medical Practice on Saturday from 9am to 12pm. A total of 365 patients were vaccinated.



**7 May 2024**

BERT community email after a period of heavy rain:

- *Betchworth bridge is open but flooded and impassable for many cars.*
- *The footpath between the Grumpy Mole and the Bowls Club is well under water and unsafe for little or unsteady feet.*
- *Little or no further rain is expected to fall today*
- *The river level at Brockham bridge is rising but not expected to exceed its normal range.*
- *All other bridges are also open.*



*Bowls' Club bridge 07am - 7 May*

**12 May 2024**

BERT kit check: Trustees gathered to undertake a full and detailed inspection of all equipment, including ensuring generators and pumps were fully functioning and the emergency lighting equipment was operating effectively.

**21 May 2024**

A report was received from a BERT member of a tree down on Snowerhill, Betchworth blocking the road. A further BERT member picked up the message and reported the closure to Surrey Highways.



**21 May 2024**

BERT Chairman Craig Scott and his wife Annie were guests at the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace hosted by the Prince of Wales. Craig was invited following his significant contribution to residents of Brockham.



The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, Peter Phillips and Zara and Mike Tindall joined the Prince of Wales for the Garden Party.

**26 May 2024**

BERT supported Teas on the Green, the fundraiser event for the Village Fair weekend. A good number of helpers were on hand to set up, serve and tidy up.





28 June 2024



*10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations*

The Lord Lieutenant Mr. Michael More-Molyneaux and his wife Sarah came to Brockham to attend BERT's tenth birthday celebrations at The Pavilion. They were greeted by the chairman Craig Scott and other BERT members. The Lord Lieutenant was joined by about 80 guests, including the previous Lord Lieutenant Sarah Goad (who supported BERT from the start), Lady Corinna Hamilton, Lady Louise O'Connor DL, Mrs Johanna (Joosje) Hamilton DL and other distinguished guests. Many BERT volunteers were present.

A local catering company "Too Many Cooks" ensured the tables were dressed and everyone treated to an excellent tea, served by Joanna's staff. This admirable tea was donated by the company in recognition of BERT's contribution to the village particularly during the Covid pandemic. The Lord Lieutenant presented his certificate of recognition to the chairman for the work undertaken by so many volunteers during Covid times.

BERT Trustees arranged for an inscribed bench thanking Covid volunteers, to be at the gathering. It was later taken to The Green and erected close to the church hall. Two children from North Downs School and a local member of the Air Training Corps were presented with awards by the Lord Lieutenant on behalf of BERT Trustees for their contribution to the community.



*Chairman greeting the honoured guests*







*Trustees with the certificate and new inscribed bench*



*Ladies from Brockwood Medical Practice*



*Team leaders on their best behaviour!*



*Catering team*





*Dame Sarah Goad and Lady Corina Hamilton*



Chairman Craig Scott: *"Just wanted to say thank you again for all of your support last Friday – it was a terrific day and a great showcase for BERT to the whole community and beyond."*

BERT received many emails of thanks and cards one of which said, *"Dear Craig and BERT Trustees, Thank you for inviting me to the celebration tea to recognise the Covid volunteers. It was an honour to be seated at the top table. It is a pleasure to work with such an inspiring team which puts the community at its heart. With best wishes, Julia Hatto BEM"*.

Message from the Lord Lieutenant:

*To Craig Scott*

*Thank you so much for you and BERT's very warm welcome to Sarah and I on Friday. What a wonderful afternoon of celebration, with fine weather and so many old friends present. Some of whom I haven't seen for over 20 years! I so enjoyed chatting with so many of the BERT team. All of them are so committed and it is wonderful to see in a community which has been in existence for over ten years. A really outstanding example of how a community should function. Thank you also for the delicious tea which I could see was*

*appreciated by all concerned! The three young award winners were a delight to meet and to hear of their commitment to the cause, well done them!*

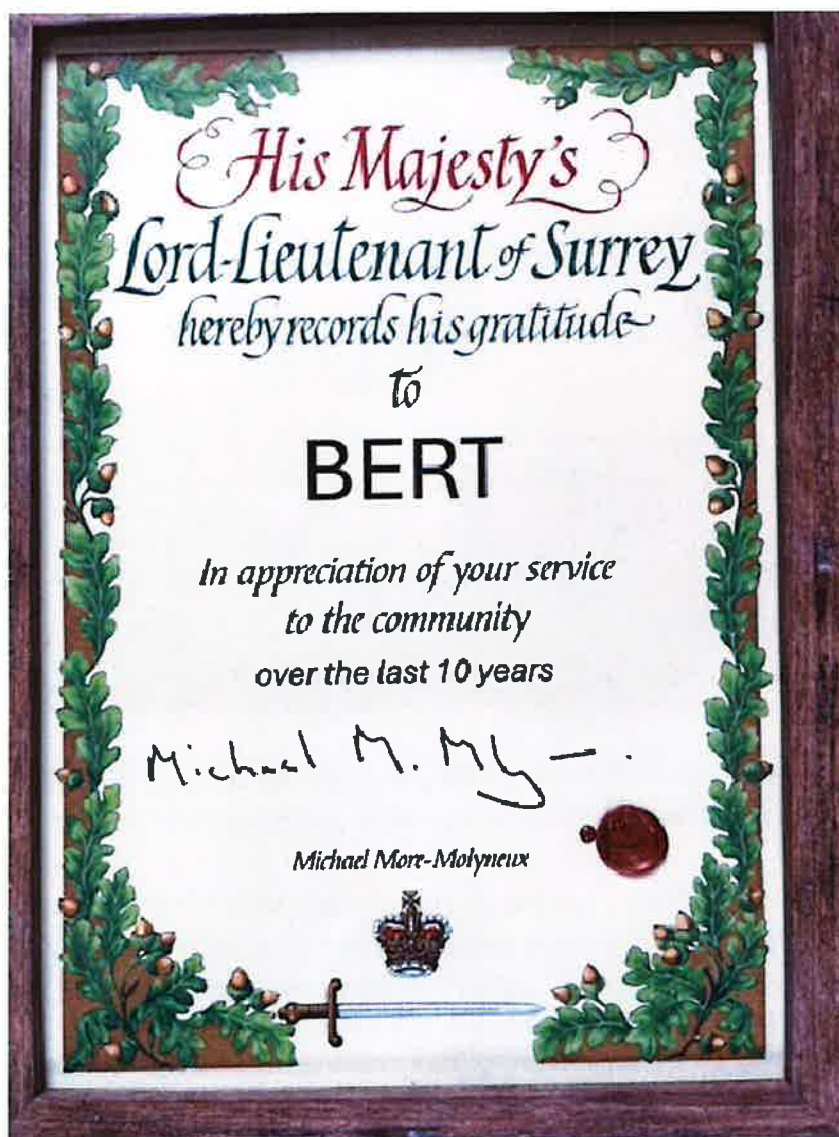
*In closing, Sarah was thrilled to receive her lovely bouquet of flowers. Our renewed thanks and appreciation for giving us such an enjoyable afternoon with you all. It was an afternoon we shall remember with great affection with a considerable time to come.*

*Sarah joins me in sending our best wishes,*

*Michael*

*Mr Michael More-Molyneux*

*HM Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey*



*The Lord Lieutenant presented his certificate of recognition for the work undertaken by BERT volunteers over the past ten years.*





*Impromptu inauguration of the new bench by the Rev Jonathan Willans*

**13 July 2024**

BERT set up at '10<sup>th</sup> anniversary' stall at the Brockham Victorian Fair which was well attended. The purpose was to raise awareness of BERT and recruit new volunteers. The event was a great success.







*The cutting of the cake by a BERT volunteer*



*Life President and joint founder of Bert Bob Bartlett*



**16 July 2024**

Happy Birthday, BERT- Community email: *As ever, BERT finds itself saying thank you to all who helped us and visited us at our stand at Brockham Village Fair on Saturday. We met many of our existing volunteers and welcomed new volunteers who have signed up to help in future.*

*Thank you to volunteer Victoria who cut the enormous cake to mark BERT's 10th birthday. And thank you for the donations from Two Many Cooks, the SPAR, and Chitty's the butchers, who donated towards the cost of the cake. No BERT funds were used. And finally, thanks to Putty Cakes (and coffee shop) on West Street in Dorking for making it yummy.*

*Organising the annual Brockham Village Fair takes an enormous amount of work and effort done by volunteers to help make Brockham the wonderful place it is to live – thank you very much for everything you do.*

*The BERT Trustees*

**21 July 2024**



BERT volunteers repaired the doors of the Red Barn where some BERT signage is kept. The barn is also used by other organisations to store large but not valuable artefacts and equipment.









### 3 September 2024

Craig Scott, BERT Chairman, attended a full day's training delivered by The Surrey Local Resilience Forum (SLRF) and hosted by Surrey County Council at their Reigate offices. The topic focussed on 'Emergency Assistant Centre Training'. Whilst there were some good learnings and stimulus to enhance BERT's own Village Response Plan, it proved BERT's existing plan is robust and comprehensive. The additional learnings will be applied to the 2025 review of the Village Response Plan.

15 September 2024

Over 40 BERT volunteers attended the annual ditch clearance working party. Ditches cleared included:

- Main drainage ditch in three sections, Middle Street Allotments to Pavilion via Oakdene and Warrenne Road
- Ditch north of Glenfield Road
- Wheelers Lane Blind Lane to the allotments
- Wheelers Lane ditch opposite Blind Lane
- Duke's Head path to the river bridge



*Over 40 volunteers took part*



*Tools ready for action*





*The chairman with team members*



*Duke of Edinburgh volunteers*





*Tea wagon*







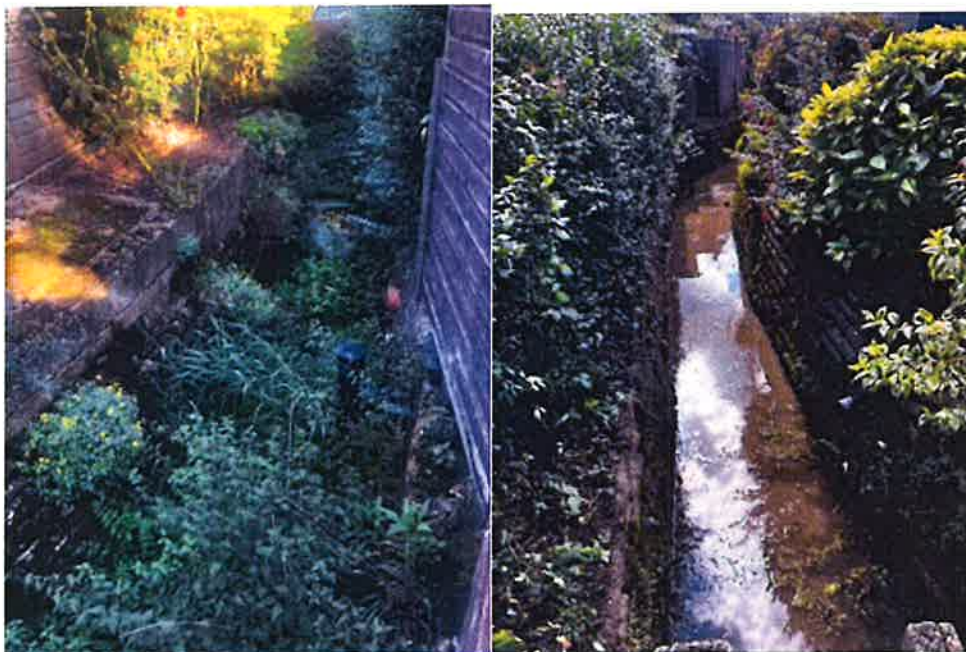
*Blind Lane off Wheelers Lane by the allotments*







*Oakdene Road main drainage ditch*







*Oakdene Road main drainage ditch*





*Glenfield Road path to Old School Lane*



*Main drainage ditch by pavilion*





**17 September 2024**

*Community email:*

*Thank You, BERT Volunteers*

*A huge thank you to the 40 plus (!) residents who came to help BERT's annual ditch clear this past weekend. As we had hoped, it did indeed turn out to be our biggest effort ever and we now have sparkly clean ditches in preparation for the winter.*

*Thank you everyone! We'll do it all again next year.*

*BERT Trustees*

**23 September 2024**

Following a period of heavy rain the following circulated on BERT community email:

***Monday, 23rd September, 5:00 pm***

- *Brockham bridge is clear, although water levels are still rising rapidly from the earlier rain.*
- *Flanchford bridge, Wonham Lane by the Dolphin, and Old School Lane each have water on the road. Although most traffic was recently able to cross, water levels are rising throughout the area. The water is already too deep for many cars at Wonham Mill.*
- *The footpath between the Grumpy Mole and the Bowls Club is well under water and unsafe for little or unsteady feet. Some folks may still be able to venture safely in Wellies.*
- *We have received no reports of property flooding, though additional rain is forecast for this evening and during the night.*

**Tuesday, 24th September, 7:30 am**

- *Brockham bridge is clear and water levels are dropping, with no more rain forecast for today.*
- *We don't have timely reporting on this morning's water levels at Wonham Lane, Betchworth bridge, or Flanchford bridge.*
- *The footpath between the Grumpy Mole and the Bowls Club is knee- to waist-deep (depending on where your knees and waist are).*
- *There are still no reports of property flooding or any problems with the recently cleared drainage ditches.*

## **12 October 2024**

The final event of the year celebrating BERT's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary was held on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> October in the form of 'BERT's Big Bash'. The evening was in the style of a harvest supper barn dance at the Village Hall. Tickets were sold at £20 per person and were deliberately kept low so not to be a barrier for those wanting to attend - it was never intended to be a fundraiser but rather an opportunity to say thank you to all of BERT's supporters and volunteers as well as marking BERT's birthday. A total of 100 guests attended the sold-out event. The hall was decorated and tables and chairs laid out the evening before.



The evening opened with a few words of welcome and thanks by BERT Chairman Craig Scott followed by an amusing and anecdotal speech by BERT's chaplain Doug Ross. A meal of beef chili was served followed by chocolate muffins and ice cream. The floor was then cleared to make space for dancing and a raucous evening of country dancing followed being led by the folk band Darcy Spice. BERT has received multiple messages of thanks for organising the evening.





14 October 2024

Ditch maintenance in Tweed Lane



After a period of heavy rain, BERT received a call for assistance at Wheelers Lane. BERT members responded.







**16 October 2024**

BERT Community email: *Your Reporting Works!*

*Just one day after many residents joined BERT in reporting a flooding problem in Wheelers Lane, a representative of Surrey Highways and Transport has reached out to let us know that:*

- *We have visited the site twice this week and seen the full extent of flooding.*
- *Today (Wednesday) we have a jetting lorry attending the site to hopefully clear the culvert under the road.*
- *This is a short-term fix and we will work on a more permanent solution to prevent regular flooding.*

*Clearly, as a community, we can effectively pressure local services to address issues that could otherwise turn serious. Our thanks to everyone who participated.*

*~BERT Trustees*



24 October 2024

**Community email: Surrey County Council - Flood Action Week**

*We all know how unpredictable British weather can be, and with autumn rains upon us, now is the perfect time to prepare for potential flooding. This week, we're encouraging residents to take simple steps to protect their homes and families. A little preparation can go a long way!*

*This reminder is especially important as we approach the one-year anniversary of Storm Babet, which caused widespread flooding across the UK. With the wettest 18 months on record leading up to February 2024, flood risks are higher than ever. In fact, flood alerts have already been issued this week in parts of Surrey.*

**Flood Preparedness Tips:**

1. **Sign Up for Flood Alerts:** *Stay in the know by signing up for free flood warnings through the Flood Warning Information Service. You'll get real-time updates via phone, email, or text, so you can act quickly if needed.*
2. **Make a Flood Plan:** *Having a flood plan helps everyone in your household know what to do if flooding happens. Think about what valuables you'd need to move to safety, how to turn off gas and electricity, and where to go if evacuation becomes necessary.*
3. **Pack a Flood Kit:** *A flood kit can be a lifesaver! Fill it with essentials like waterproof clothing, a battery-operated radio, bottled water, important documents, and any medications you might need. Store it somewhere easy to access.*
4. **Protect Your Home:** *If a flood warning is issued, move items like electronics and personal belongings to higher ground. You might also want to invest in flood barriers or sandbags to help keep water out.*



**2 November 2024.**

**BERT** is pleased to have contributed to the smooth running of the 2024 autumn Covid and flu vaccination clinics with Brockwood Medical Practice by providing volunteers to help marshal patients through Brockham surgery. BERT recruited and organised volunteers over five consecutive weekends from the 5<sup>th</sup> October to the 2<sup>nd</sup> November. BERT is tantalisingly close to having delivered 1,000 volunteer shifts since September 2000 with 953 shifts being completed since the Covid pandemic.



November 15 2024

BERT provided training to volunteers on the use of its inspection camera





### **20 November 2024:**

Craig Scott, BERT Chairman, was invited to speak at the National Consortium of Societal Resilience webinar on Wednesday, along with other leaders of community groups, Pang Valley Flood Forum in West Berkshire and the Flood Lowdham Action Group (FLAG) in Nottinghamshire. The event, titled, 'The Anatomy of Resilience', was attended by 350 audience members made up of council counsellors nationwide as well as new and prospective community resilience groups. The purpose of the talks were to share how these well-established community resilience groups were started, how they are resourced and managed and how they have become particularly effective at what they do to solve problems at a local level.

### **24 November 2024.**

The named storm BERT blew in from the west with a range of weather patterns across the UK including snow, strong winds and heavy rain which in many areas of the country led to flooding. Brockham had a great deal of rain and high winds for about 24 hours, but the ditches and culverts held and no significant difficulties have occurred within BERT's area of operation.

### **25 November 2024**

A call was received from a resident of Jubilee Terrace, Strood Green concerned that there was a blockage in a significant drain off the ditch to the south side of Tweed Lane. Two volunteers went to the site and met the informant. Four members of the team attended and established that the ditch was free flowing and the difficult task of drain manhole cover lifting was unnecessary. A member of BERT living close by said the water flows were not unusual following heavy rain. The informant was seen and thanked and agreed to contact SCC Highways should he have further concerns.

### **27 November 2024**

Community email on Storm Conall:

- *Following substantial volumes of rain through the night (as much as 16mm in some places), we are receiving reports of widespread 'flash' flooding where water is generally running off local fields faster than it can drain from the roads.*
- *On the bright side, virtually no rain is forecast for the rest of today.*
- *We are not aware of any major bridges being closed as yet, but the river levels are still rising very quickly.*
- *The footpath between the Grumpy Mole and the Bowls Club is well under water and unsafe for little or unsteady feet.*
- *Old School Lane is several feet under water near Felton's Farm and beginning to fill at the Coach Road junction.*
- *A25 and Old Reigate Road are both under water East of the road closure at Brockham Lane and farther along to Buckland.*

- *Although most ditches are flowing at speed, standing water in the roads (generally passable) has been reported at Brockham Row, Tanners Meadow, Kiln Lane at Nutwood Avenue, Wheelers Lane at Blind Lane. Wellhouse Lane at Wheelers Lane.*

**28 November 2025**

Community email: *BERT volunteers undertook a survey of the roads and bridges from 0630 and reported to residents on Facebook and email as follows.*

- *Watch out for ice! No reports yet, but the mercury is in the negatives.*
- *No rain forecast until Sunday.*
- *River levels are steadily falling.*
- *A25 Reigate Road is clear to Redhill.*
- *Brockham bridge is open.*
- *Footpath by the Bowls Club is closed.*
- *Old School Lane is closed by Felton's Farm and by Coach Road.*
- *Betchworth bridge has lots of water.*
- *Wonham Lane and Sandy Lane have lots of water.*
- *Wonham Mill is closed.*
- *Snowershill still closed due to a fallen tree.*

The Royal Oak pub on the green sought assistance of an electric pump. Two volunteers attended and by 1340 a pump was. In operation taking water from the cellar.





**7 December 2024**

Storm Darragh: report to BERT of a tree down Wellhouse Lane. Two volunteers attended and cleared the obstruction.



Report to BERT of tree blocking Root Hill. A volunteer attended and worked with the farmer to reopen the road.



**23 December 2024**

## Community Email How to Contact BERT

*With winter upon us, we are conscious that Brockham may experience wetter weather and possibly more storms. So you may be wondering who to call in the event of needing help.*

*In an emergency, call 999 first. If you need BERT's help urgently, please call BERT on 01302-462378. Even if no one picks up your call you can leave a voice message and that voice message will be emailed to ten people for immediate action. This is the fastest way to reach BERT.*

*If you want to contact BERT on a less urgent matter, simply reply to any email message you have received from BERT, or email us at [bert.brockham@gmail.com](mailto:bert.brockham@gmail.com), or message us on our Facebook page. These communication channels are not monitored 100% of the time, hence their being recommended for less urgent matters.*

*Please keep in mind that all of BERT's staff are volunteers. Whilst we always endeavour to help others, our volunteers may be away or working and unavailable or have to prioritise their own families or properties in times of need.*

*Thank you, **BERT Trustees***

**31 December 2024**

Community Email:

## **2024 Has Been a Big Year for BERT**

*Starting with call outs to manage flooding on the 4th of January due to Storm Henk, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Surrey's visit in June, going large at the Victorian Fair in July, the biggest ever annual village ditch clear in September, BERT's big Bash in October, the arrival of Storm BERT in November and, to bookend and close the year appropriately, call outs due to storm Darragh on the 7th of December.*

## **We Couldn't Have Asked for a Better Year...**

*... in which to celebrate and bring to an end the marking of BERT's 10th anniversary since our founding. There has not been a single month in 2024 where BERT has not been actively helping local residents.*

*And, of course, those same residents help us through donations, volunteering, and good wishes of appreciation and support.*

## **Thank You to Everyone Who Has Been Behind Us**

*We look forward to doing it all again in 2025.*

*A very happy and peaceful new year to you all.*

*~The BERT Trustees*



4 and 5 January 2025

Snow and heavy rain overnight and on into Sunday morning. Grill by church congested mainly leaves but the inevitable crisp packet. Two volunteers cleared the grills and increased considerably the water flow. In the ditches.



*The grill in Wheelers Lane was heavily congested with litter at the seat of the blockage*



5th January 2025

Community email:

- *Brockham bridge is open and, so far, completely clear of water.*
- *The water level is approximately 3.5 meters, rising about 0.4 meters per hour. With rain continuing through much of the evening and early morning, we anticipate closure before the morning rush.*
- *Betchworth bridge is impassable with several drivers apparently intent upon getting stuck there.*
- *Flanchford bridge is wet, but still passable.*
- *Wonham is fairly deep under water, and impassable for most, with one vehicle largely blocking the way.*
- *Old School Lane is now under water, though still (briefly) passable.*
- *Water at the smaller footbridge near the Bowls Club is waist deep.*
- *This afternoon and evening, BERT has deployed two pumps at a flooded residence on Middle Street. We are trying to determine the cause/source and hope to take preventive action if/when possible.*

26 January 2025

A small team worked on a drain in **Tweed Lane** that links with a further and larger system on the junction with Middle Street which has received significant attention in the past. Blockage was caused by nylon thread netting, large sticks and vegetation that were inhibiting flow.



About ten volunteers took part in an exercise at a secondary equipment storage area clearing space and tidying all manner of chunky items of equipment belonging to a range of local organisations. Surplus and worthless materials will go to the tip. An area has been set aside for storage of sandbags which of course will be available south of the river. A further store is being established to the north of the river. There are more photos available but in the interests of security it is best to be discreet with the location.





*Raised storage area for sandbags*

**27th January 2025**

Community email:

- *Brockham bridge is open and, so far, completely clear of water.*
- *The water level is less than 3.5 meters and the rise (recently 0.4 meters per hour) is beginning to slow. With rain expected on and off until 5 pm, a Brockham Bridge closure is uncertain but entirely possible.*
- *Betchworth bridge has water across the road along with one abandoned car.*
- *Flanchford bridge also has water across the road.*
- *Wonham is closed.*
- *Old School Lane is now under water, though still (briefly?) passable.*
- *The walking path near the Bowls Club is closed.*
- *So far, we have had no reports of residential property flooding.*

**9 February 2024**

A working group Wheelers Lane by Star Builders where ditch is very full of leaves. Farmer John Muggeridge made available a tractor bucket to collect the leaves which would be spread on the farm.



*Bucket from Bushbury Farm – also litter collected the length of Wheelers Lane.*





10 March 2025

Ann Went, BERT Trustee, presented at Manchester University on community resilience. The talk was very well received.



The organiser, Professor Duncan Shaw, was really pleased with Ann's contribution in delivering the 'ingredients for success'. Attendees referred to BERT as the 'five stars' community resilience organisation in the country.



There were representatives from various government organisations including Fire & Rescue, local resilience forums, volunteer organisations and businesses.

**30 March 2025**

BERT leaders and volunteers attended water safety training at the Surrey Fire and Rescue Services station in North Holmwood.

There was briefing on water safety and operating pumps, with practical exercises. It was emphasised that the role of BERT is not to enter water in attempts to save life. This is not what they are trained or equipped to do. However, there are simple safety rules for entering mostly surface water to assist people in distress.













Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

During 2024, BERT held a series of activities to celebrate its tenth anniversary and the contribution of its volunteers. This included the visit of the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, The stall at the Victorian Fair and BERT’s Big Bash event. BERT also held a series of working parties, including the annual ditch clearance event, which was attended by over 40 volunteers.

On page 16 of this report, we refer to Robert (Bob) Bartlett as BERT’s Life President. Bob, one of the founders of BERT, stepped down as trustee in January 2019. He was then appointed by the trustees as Life President. Bob continues to support BERT as a trusted advisor and takes part in many BERT activities.

BERT Chairman Craig Scott suddenly passed away on 14 February 2025 at the age of 56. Craig was the driving force behind the vaccination clinics volunteering activity, during the pandemic and beyond, and of BERT’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Craig was an accomplished leader and will be very much missed by all.

Michael (Mick) Went has kindly agreed to step in as interim chairman for the time being. The trustees are grateful for Mick’s support.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

As listed in Section C – *Objectives and activities* of this report.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity’s policy on reserves

Trustees continue to consider the optimal ‘save/spend’ approach to remain aligned with the objectives of CSC as detailed in its constitution.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None to report

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;

The principal sources of funds are donations made by local residents and supporters.

During the period April 24 to March 25 there were no grants received from government or local authority funded organisations.

Detailed information on receipts and payments is available in the Annual Accounts (CC16a).

- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

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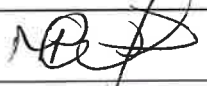
## Section F Other optional information

Further to your [requirement](#), we declare that there were no serious incidents to report.

## Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

|              |   |          |
|--------------|---|----------|
| Signature(s) |  | 19/01/25 |
| Full name(s) | Michael Philip Went   |          |

|                                     |                  |  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) | Interim Chairman |  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|--|





## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

Period start date  
01/04/2024

To

Period end  
31/03/2025

### Section A Receipts and payments

|   | Unrestricted funds<br>to the nearest<br>£ | Restricted funds<br>to the nearest £ | Endowment funds<br>to the nearest £ | Total funds<br>to the nearest<br>£ | Last year<br>to the nearest<br>£ |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>A1 Receipts</b>                                    |   |                                      |                                     |                                    |                                  |
| Donations   | 1,086                                     | -                                    | -                                   | 1,086                              | 2,317                            |
| Gift aid reclaimed                                    | 207                                       | -                                    | -                                   | 207                                | 230                              |
| Anniversary dinner                                    | 1,700                                     | -                                    | -                                   | 1,700                              | -                                |
| Village Fair teas                                     | 143                                       | -                                    | -                                   | 143                                | -                                |
| Other fund raising                                    | -   | -                                    | -                                   | -                                  | -                                |
| Bank deposit interest                                 | 687                                       | -                                    | -                                   | 687                                | 331                              |
|   | -   | -                                    | -                                   | -                                  | -                                |
| <b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>                | <b>3,823</b>                              | <b>-</b>                             | <b>-</b>                            | <b>3,823</b>                       | <b>2,878</b>                     |
| <b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>    |   |                                      |                                     |                                    |                                  |
| Sale surplus equipment                                | -   | -                                    | -                                   | -                                  | 500                              |
|   | -   | -                                    | -                                   | -                                  | -                                |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | <b>-</b>                                  | <b>-</b>                             | <b>-</b>                            | <b>-</b>                           | <b>500</b>                       |
| <b>Total receipts</b>                                 | <b>3,823</b>                              | <b>-</b>                             | <b>-</b>                            | <b>3,823</b>                       | <b>3,378</b>                     |
| <b>A3 Payments</b>                                    |   |                                      |                                     |                                    |                                  |
| Insurance   | 1,059                                     | -                                    | -                                   | 1,059                              | 1,001                            |
| General maintenance, fuel etc                         | 1,444                                     | -                                    | -                                   | 1,444                              | 318                              |
| Credit / Debit card fees                              | 35  | -                                    | -                                   | 35                                 | 32                               |
| Coronavirus support                                   | -   | -                                    | -                                   | -                                  | 332                              |
| Donation website admin fees                           | 216                                       | -                                    | -                                   | 216                                | 216                              |
| Bank charges  | 32  | -                                    | -                                   | 32                                 | 32                               |
| IT costs  | 346                                       | -                                    | -                                   | 346                                | 408                              |
| Anniversary dinner                                    | 1,700                                     | -                                    | -                                   | 1,700                              | -                                |
| Village Fair teas                                     | 143                                       | -                                    | -                                   | 143                                | -                                |
| Village Covid memorial bench                          | 700                                       | -                                    | -                                   | 700                                | -                                |
| Award presentation                                    | 454                                       | -                                    | -                                   | 454                                | -                                |
| Village fair stall costs                              | 201                                       | -                                    | -                                   | 201                                | -                                |
| Society Resilience Conference                         | 405                                       | -                                    | -                                   | 405                                | -                                |
|   | -   | -                                    | -                                   | -                                  | -                                |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | <b>6,735</b>                              | <b>-</b>                             | <b>-</b>                            | <b>6,735</b>                       | <b>2,339</b>                     |
| <b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b> |   |                                      |                                     |                                    |                                  |
| Tools   | 928                                       | -                                    | -                                   | 928                                | 960                              |
| Protective Clothing                                   | 406                                       | -                                    | -                                   | 406                                | 87                               |
| Flood alert equipment                                 | 299                                       | -                                    | -                                   | 299                                | -                                |
|   | -   | -                                    | -                                   | -                                  | -                                |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | <b>1,633</b>                              | <b>-</b>                             | <b>-</b>                            | <b>1,633</b>                       | <b>1,047</b>                     |
| <b>Total payments</b>                                 | <b>8,368</b>                              | <b>-</b>                             | <b>-</b>                            | <b>8,368</b>                       | <b>3,386</b>                     |
| <b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>                     | <b>(4,545)</b>                            | <b>-</b>                             | <b>-</b>                            | <b>(4,545)</b>                     | <b>(8)</b>                       |
| <b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>                     | <b>-</b>                                  | <b>-</b>                             | <b>-</b>                            | <b>-</b>                           | <b>-</b>                         |
| <b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>                    | <b>32,447</b>                             | <b>-</b>                             | <b>-</b>                            | <b>32,447</b>                      | <b>32,455</b>                    |
| <b>Cash funds this year end</b>                       | <b>27,902</b>                             | <b>-</b>                             | <b>-</b>                            | <b>27,902</b>                      | <b>32,447</b>                    |

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

Categories

### B1 Cash funds

|  | Unrestricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Restricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Endowment funds<br>to nearest £ |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bank   | 27,902                             | -                                | -                               |
| Petty Cash   | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|  | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
| <b>Total cash funds</b>                                | <b>27,902</b>                      | <b>-</b>                         | <b>-</b>                        |
| (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) |                                    |                                  |                                 |

### B2 Other monetary assets

| Details | Unrestricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Restricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Endowment funds<br>to nearest £ |
|---------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |

### B3 Investment assets

| Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
|         | -                           | -               | -                        |
|         | -                           | -               | -                        |
|         | -                           | -               | -                        |
|         | -                           | -               | -                        |
|         | -                           | -               | -                        |

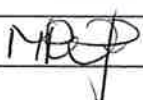
### B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

| Details                  | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Storage equipment        | Unrestricted                | -               | -                        |
| Drain scanning equipment | Unrestricted                | -               | -                        |
| Pumps and generators     | Unrestricted                | -               | -                        |
| Tools                    | Unrestricted                | -               | -                        |
| Safety equipment         | Unrestricted                | -               | -                        |
| Other equipment          | Unrestricted                | -               | -                        |
|                          |                             | -               | -                        |
|                          |                             | -               | -                        |
|                          |                             | -               | -                        |

### B5 Liabilities

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

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

| Signature   | Print Name   | Date of approval |
|---|--------------|------------------|
|  | MICHAEL WEST | 20/05/25         |