

# DURHAM BIRD CLUB

England & Wales · Charity number 1176232

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2017-12-12

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 41 St. Bedes Close  
Durham  
DH1 4AA

**Phone** 07906160538

**Email** [admin@durhambirdclub.org.uk](mailto:admin@durhambirdclub.org.uk)

**Website** <https://www.durhambirdclub.org.uk/>

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS(I) TO ADVANCE THE STUDY OF ORNITHOLOGY AND PUBLIC EDUCATION IN ORNITHOLOGY AND RELATED MATTERS, IN PARTICULAR, WORKING WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA COVERED BY DURHAM BIRD CLUB, THAT IS PRIMARILY THE AREA OF THE HISTORIC COUNTY OF DURHAM, BOUNDED BY THE RIVERS TEES AND TYNE, TOGETHER WITH THE FORMER STARTFORTH RURAL DISTRICT OF THE NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.(II) IN FURTHERANCE TO INITIATE RESEARCH ON THE BIRDS OF THE AREA AND TO PUBLISH THE RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH, TO HOLD MEETINGS FOR THE READINGS OF PAPERS, SHOWING OF FILMS, DISCUSSION OF RECORDS AND SIMILAR MATTERS AND TO CO-OPERATE IN NATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL ENQUIRIES. TO EDUCATE MEMBERS OF THE CLUB AND OF THE PUBLIC ABOUT BIRDS BY MEANS OF TALKS, OUTINGS, FIELDWORK AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES AND TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY OF BIRDS. TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION OF BIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS. TO WORK WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS SHARING SIMILAR AIMS.

**Activities:** To advance the study of ornithology and public education in ornithology and related matters, in particular, working within the geographic area covered by Durham Bird Club, that is primarily the area of the historic county of Durham, bounded by the Rivers Tees and Tyne, together with the former Startforth Rural District of the North Riding of Yorkshire.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Darlington
- Durham
- Gateshead
- Hartlepool
- South Tyneside
- Stockton-on-tees
- Sunderland

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£5,667	£5,224	-	-
2023-12-31	£5,778	£5,865	-	-
2022-12-31	£5,008	£5,818	-	-
2021-12-31	£5,098	£4,863	-	-
2020-12-31	£4,607	£5,324	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Arto Maatta		2025-10-15
DAVID LESLIE SOWERBUTTS		2017-12-12
Dr Brian Clasper		2025-10-15
Dr Veronica Howard		2024-09-11
JAQUELINE LOUISE HAMER		2023-08-02
MARK ANTHONY HARPER		2017-12-12
Peter Thomas Bell		2021-01-22
RICHARD COWEN		2023-08-02

**DURHAM BIRD CLUB**

England & Wales - Charity number 1176232

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# Accounts

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# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
<b>From</b>	01	01	2024	<b>To</b>	31	12	2024

## Section A Reference and administration details

**Charity name** Durham Bird Club

**Other names charity is known by**

**Registered charity number (if any)** 1176232

**Charity's principal address** Rose Cottage,

Old Quarrington

Durham

**Postcode**

DH6 5NN

### 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	Neil Parker	Chair (27 Aug to 31 Dec)		
2	Mark Harper	Treasurer		
3	David Sowerbutts			
4	Peter Bell			
5	Jackie Hamer			
6	Richard Cowen	Secretary		
7	Veronica Howard		11 Sept to 31 Dec	
8	Andrew Kinghorn	Chair	1 Jan to 16 July	
9	Tom Middleton		1 Jan to 27 Aug	
10	Michael Murphy		1 Jan to 27 Aug	
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### 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)

CIO

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

Elected at AGM by members  
Veronica Howard was co-opted by the Trustees on 11 September 2024

**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 Grants Policy mentioned in our 2023 Report was adopted

**Section C Objectives and activities**

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

(i) To advance the study of ornithology and public education in ornithology and related matters, in particular, working within the geographic area covered by Durham Bird Club, that is primarily the area of the historic county of Durham, bounded by the Rivers Tees and Tyne, together with the former Startforth Rural District of the North Riding of Yorkshire.  
(ii) In furtherance of this, to  
- initiate research on the birds of the area and to publish the results of such research, to hold meetings for the readings of papers,

showing of films, discussion of records and similar matters and to co-operate in national ornithological enquiries.

- educate members of the Club and of the public about birds by means of talks, outings, fieldwork and similar activities and to encourage public participation in the study of birds.
- promote the conservation of birds and their habitats.
- work with other organisations sharing similar aims.

During 2024, the Trustees have, in accordance with the statutory declaration, had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and

- 1) Three issues of *The Lek* were published and circulated to members. *The Lek* is also available for non-members, who are asked to make a donation.
- 2) Continued support was given to the Castle Lake Conservation Group to carry out conservation works at that site
- 3) Wrote letters where appropriate in respect of Planning issues
- 4) Maintained records for its area and produced the Annual Ornithological Report
- 5) Where possible, conducted surveys, mainly but not exclusively in conjunction with the British Trust for Ornithology
- 6) made active use of X/Twitter to disseminate information. It also has maintained two well-used WhatsApp groups and a Facebook Group, open, subject to approval, to non-members of the Club on application. The Club's website also provides a route for members of the public to seek and receive information.
- 7) Particularly through the Facebook Group, has engaged in a number of activities to enhance habitats and nesting facilities for many species of birds.
- 8) Led walks in conjunction with other organisations, in particular a Dawn Chorus walk with Natural England
- 9) Taken steps to erect an Osprey Platform which it is anticipated will be erected on a suitable site during 2025
- 10) Taken steps to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary during 2025

**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)**

**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.

The Trustees are grateful to the efforts of Susan Grey in producing *The Lek* and to Peter Bell and Neil Parker for producing the Annual Ornithological Report and to members who contributed articles or reports for both publications.

In addition, the Trustees are grateful to John Olley for continuing to carry out Conservation work particularly at Castle Lake and finding a suitable site for an Osprey platform. The Club is also grateful to members who have contributed to Social Media accounts.

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

The Charity has achieved a high standard with its publications of *The Lek* and the Annual Ornithological Report.

Its work to seek to protect habitats, particularly in relation to planning issues, has continued to be recognised by RSPB.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Trustees remain concerned that, while the Club's reserves are currently healthy, expenditure exceeds income. In order to help save costs, the number of issues of *The Lek* per year has stayed at 3 and members are encouraged to accept electronic versions. However, at this stage the matter is being kept under review and no further reductions in benefits are proposed.

### 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)	<i>R Cowen</i>	
Full name(s)	Richard Saywood Cowen	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	
Date	6 October 2025	

## **Treasurer Annual Report 2024**

The Club recorded a surplus in 2024 of £443 on total income of £5,667. This compares to a deficit of £87 in 2023.

The annual income from membership subscriptions decreased by £71 to £4,261. Although gift aid on membership fees and donations increased by £22 to £302.

Income from the sale of the Birds of Durham increased from £20 to £210, principally due 20 copies being sold to Durham Wildlife Trust. The income from sale of other publications was £165 less than in 2023, which was higher than normal due to a sale of second-hand books.

Donations of £298 were received in the year, which was £298 lower than in 2023 when an individual donation of £500 was received.

Interest on bank savings increased by £297 to £506 as a result of improved interest rates on the savings account. Other sources of income were broadly comparable with 2023.

Total expenditure for the year was £5,224 which was £641 less than in 2023. The main reason for this difference was administration costs, which were £752 less in 2024, this was a result of the 2023 accounts including postage for both the 2021 and 2022 Annual Reports, whereas the 2023 report was not posted out until 2025.

Maintenance costs of £146 were incurred at Castle Lake during 2024, there was no equivalent cost for 2023.

The majority of other expenditure was broadly in line with 2023.

**DURHAM BIRD CLUB**

England & Wales - Charity number 1176232

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# Accounts

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# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

<b>From</b>	Period start date			<b>To</b>	Period end date		
	01	01	2023		31	12	2023

## Section A Reference and administration details

**Charity name** Durham Bird Club

**Other names charity is known by**

**Registered charity number (if any)** 1176232

**Charity's principal address**

Rose Cottage,  
Old Quarrington  
Durham  
**Postcode** DH6 5NN

### 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	Andrew Kinghorn	Chair		
2	Mark Harper	Treasurer		
3	David Sowerbutts			
4	Michael Murphy			
5	Thomas Middleton			
6	Neil Parker			
7	Peter Bell			
8	Jackie Hamer		1 November 2023 to 31 December 2023	
9	Richard Cowen	Secretary	2 August 2023 to 31 December 2023	
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### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

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### 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)

CIO

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

Elected at AGM by members  
Jackie Hamer was co-opted by the Trustees on 1 November 2023.

### 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.

A Policy for distribution of Grants was proposed during 2023 but was not adopted until the beginning of 2024.

## Section C Objectives and activities

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

- (i) To advance the study of ornithology and public education in ornithology and related matters, in particular, working within the geographic area covered by Durham Bird Club, that is primarily the area of the historic county of Durham, bounded by the Rivers Tees and Tyne, together with the former Startforth Rural District of the North Riding of Yorkshire.
- (ii) In furtherance of this, to
- initiate research on the birds of the area and to publish the results

of such research, to hold meetings for the readings of papers, showing of films, discussion of records and similar matters and to co-operate in national ornithological enquiries.

- educate members of the Club and of the public about birds by means of talks, outings, fieldwork and similar activities and to encourage public participation in the study of birds.
- promote the conservation of birds and their habitats.
- work with other organisations sharing similar aims.

During 2023, the Club

- 1) issued three issues of *The Lek* were published and circulated to members. *The Lek* can also be purchased by the public.
- 2) Continued support was given to the Castle Lake Conservation Group to carry out conservation works at that site
- 3) Wrote letters where appropriate in respect of Planning issues
- 4) Maintained records for its area and produced the Annual Ornithological Report
- 5) Where possible, conducted surveys, mainly but not exclusively in conjunction with the British Trust for Ornithology
- 6) made active use of Twitter to disseminate information. It also has maintained two well-used WhatsApp groups and a Facebook Group, open, subject to approval, to non-members of the Club on application. The Club's website also provides a route for members of the public to seek and receive information.
- 7) Jointly with the Durham Group of RSPB, arranged talks for members of both organisations.
- 8) Particularly through the Facebook page, has engaged in a number of activities to enhance habitats and nesting facilities for many species of birds.
- 9) Led walks in conjunction with other organisations, such as the Seascapes Initiative organised by the Wildlife Trust.

**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)**

**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.

The Trustees are grateful to the efforts of Susan Grey in producing *The Lek* and to Peter Bell and Neil Parker for producing the Annual Ornithological Report and to members who contributed articles or reports for both publications.

In addition, the Trustees are grateful to John Olley for continuing to carry out Conservation work particularly at Castle Lake. The Club is also grateful to members who have contributed to Social Media accounts.

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

The Charity has achieved a high standard with its publications of *The Lek* and the Annual Ornithological Report.

Its work to seek to protect habitats, particularly in relation to planning issues, has continued to be recognised by RSPB.

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

The Trustees remain concerned that, while the Club's reserves are currently healthy, expenditure exceeds income. In order to help save costs, the number of issues of *The Lek* per year has stayed at 3 and members are encouraged to accept electronic versions. However, at this stage the matter is being kept under review and no further reductions in benefits are proposed.

**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

<b>Signature(s)</b>	R Cowen	
<b>Full name(s)</b>	Richard Saywood Cowen	
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Secretary	
<b>Date</b>	..... 2024	

## Treasurer Annual Report 2023

The Club recorded a deficit in 2023 of £87 on total income of £5,778. This compares to a deficit of £810 in 2022.

The annual income from membership subscriptions increased by £262, this increase was due to the removal of the reduced rate for over-65's. Gift aid on membership fees and donations increased by £46 to £280.

Following promotions to push sales of the Birds of Durham in the previous two years, income from the sale of the Birds of Durham decreased further with only 2 copies sold during the year bringing in £20 compared to £283 in 2022. Income from sales of other publications in 2022 was £202 compared to £166 in 2020.

Donations of £596 were received in the year, which was £489 higher than in 2022 and due to a one-off donation of £500 in recognition of survey work performed by a member.

Interest on bank savings increased by £112 to £209 as a result of improved interest rates on the savings account. Other sources of income were broadly comparable with 2022.

Total expenditure for the year was £5,865 which was £47 more than in 2022. This difference comprises of two main components, £949 postage costs for the 2021 and 2022 Annual Reports which both fell into 2023, whilst offsetting this in 2022 there was a £1,000 donation to Durham Wildlife Trust's Restoring the Durham Carr's project.

The cost of indoor meetings was £58 higher than in 2022 due to the use of more speakers that charged for talks in 2023. Maintenance and conservation costs for work at Caste Lake in 2022 of £236 did not recur in 2023. The majority of other expenditure was broadly in line with 2022.

Mark Harper  
3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

### **Bank Account Summary**

HSBC Current Acc.  
Virgin Money Building Society Acc.  
**Total cash Funds**

£  
2,447  
37,268  
**39,715**

**Receipts and Payments Summary – Year-ended 31 December 2023**

<b><u>Receipts</u></b>	<b><u>2023 (£)</u></b>	<b><u>2022 (£)</u></b>	<b><u>Diff (£)</u></b>
Subscriptions	4,332	4,070	262
Gift Aid	280	234	46
Publications	202	166	36
Birds of Durham	20	283	-263
Other Sales	59	28	31
Hide Keys	80	23	57
Interest	209	97	112
Donations and Bequests	<u>596</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>489</u>
<b>Total Receipts (a)</b>	<b><u>5,778</u></b>	<b><u>5,008</u></b>	<b><u>770</u></b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>			
Lek	1,490	1,405	85
Indoor Meetings	83	25	58
Annual Report	1,794	1,650	144
Maintenance	0	62	-62
Website	158	171	-13
Hide Keys	59	36	23
Insurance	496	496	0
Admin	1,715	799	916
Storage Costs	0	0	0
Conservation	0	174	-174
Donations to Conservation Groups	<u>70</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-930</u>
<b>Total Payments (b)</b>	<b><u>5,865</u></b>	<b><u>5818</u></b>	<b><u>47</u></b>
<b>Difference (a-b)</b>	<b><u>-87</u></b>	<b><u>-810</u></b>	<b><u>723</u></b>

**DURHAM BIRD CLUB**

England & Wales - Charity number 1176232

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# Accounts

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# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
<b>From</b>	01	01	2022	<b>To</b>	31	12	2022

## Section A Reference and administration details

**Charity name** Durham Bird Club

**Other names charity is known by**

**Registered charity number (if any)** 1176232

**Charity's principal address** Rose Cottage,

Old Quarrington

Durham

**Postcode**

DH6 5NN

### 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	Andrew Kinghorn	Chair		
2	Mark Harper	Treasurer		
3	David Sowerbutts			
4	Michael Murphy			
5	Thomas Middleton			
6	Neil Parker			
7	Peter Bell			
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### 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)	CIO
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected at AGM by members

### 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.

An amendment to the Constitution has been sought and agreed to remove a requirement that any trustee must stand down after serving 3 terms. The Board was concerned that, if that did not happen, there would be insufficient numbers to enable the Club to be governed as very few members wish to become trustees.

## Section C Objectives and activities

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

- (i) To advance the study of ornithology and public education in ornithology and related matters, in particular, working within the geographic area covered by Durham Bird Club, that is primarily the area of the historic county of Durham, bounded by the Rivers Tees and Tyne, together with the former Startforth Rural District of the North Riding of Yorkshire.
- (ii) In furtherance  
To initiate research on the birds of the area and to publish the results of such research, to hold meetings for the readings of papers, showing of films, discussion of records and similar matters and to co-operate in

national ornithological enquiries.  
To educate members of the Club and of the public about birds by means of talks, outings, fieldwork and similar activities and to encourage public participation in the study of birds.  
To promote the conservation of birds and their habitats.  
To work with other organisations sharing similar aims.

While Covid restrictions were lifted for 2022, there was still some residual impact. However, the Club was able to carry out or support the following matters

- 1) Three issues of *The Lek* were published and circulated to members. *The Lek* can also be purchased by the public.
- 2) Continued support was given to the Castle Lake Conservation Group to carry out conservation works at that site
- 3) Letters were written where appropriate in respect of Planning issues by Richard Cowen who has also acted as Secretary to the Club
- 4) The Club has maintained records for its area and produced the Annual Ornithological Report
- 5) Where possible, surveys have been conducted mainly in conjunction with the British Trust for Ornithology
- 6) The Club makes active use of Twitter to disseminate information. It also has two well-used WhatsApp groups and a Facebook Group, open, subject to approval, to non-members of the Club on application. The Club's website also provides a route for members of the public to seek and receive information.
- 7) A Zoom account was retained jointly with the Durham Group of RSPB and a number of talks for members of both organisations and others was arranged.
- 8) Particularly through the Facebook page, the Club has engaged in a number of activities to enhance habitats and nesting facilities for many species of birds.

**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)**

**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.

The Trustees are grateful to the efforts of Susan Grey in producing *The Lek* and to Peter Bell and Neil Parker for producing the Annual Ornithological Report and to members who contributed articles or reports for both publications.

In addition, the Trustees are grateful to John Olley for continuing to carry out Conservation work particularly at Castle Lake. The Club is also grateful to members who have contributed to Social Media accounts.

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

The Charity has achieved a high standard with its publications of *The Lek* and the Annual Ornithological Report.

Its work to seek to protect habitats, particularly in relation to planning issues, has continued to be recognised by RSPB.

## Section E Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Trustees remain concerned that, while the Club's reserves are currently healthy, expenditure exceeds income. In order to help save costs, the number of issues of *The Lek* per year has been reduced from 4 to 3 and members are encouraged to accept electronic versions. However, at this stage the matter is being kept under review and no further reductions in benefits are proposed.

### 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)	<i>R Cowen</i>	
Full name(s)	Richard Saywood Cowen	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	
Date	5 October 2023	

## **Treasurer Annual Report 2022**

The club recorded a deficit in 2022 of £810 on total income of £5,008. This compares to a surplus of £235 in 2021.

The annual income from membership subscriptions increased by £495, which follows a small increase in 2021, although included £190 of advance payments for 2023. Gift aid on membership fees and donations decreased by £14 to £234.

As expected income from the sale of the Birds of Durham decreased by £527 to £283, due to the sell off of our excess stock in 2021 which brought in £600. Income from sales of other publications in 2022 was £166 compared to £0 in 2020.

Donations of £107 were received in the year, which was £221 lower than in 2021. Other sources of income were broadly comparable with 2021.

Total expenditure for the year was £5,818 which was £955 more than in 2021. The main component of this decrease was a £1,000 donation to Durham Wildlife Trust's Restoring the Durham Carr's project.

The cost of indoor meetings was £120 lower than in 2021 due to the use of more speakers that charged for talks in 2021. Admin costs increased by £103 to £799, £82 of this increase was due to HSBC introducing monthly account fees and charges for banking each cheque. Due to the fore-mentioned disposal of the excess stock of the Birds of Durham the annual storage fee of £250 was last paid in 2021. Conservation costs of £174 relating to the purchase of trees for Castle Lake were incurred during the year, there were no equivalent costs in 2021. The majority of other expenditure was broadly in line with 2020.

Mark Harper  
5<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### **Bank Account Summary**

HSBC Current Acc.	<u>£</u> 2,744
Virgin Money Building Society Acc.	<u>37,058</u>
<b>Total cash Funds</b>	<b>39,802</b>

## Receipts and Payments Summary – Year-ended 31 December 2022

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>2022 (£)</u>	<u>2021 (£)</u>	<u>Diff (£)</u>
Subscriptions	4,070	3,575	495
Gift Aid	234	248	-14
Publications	166	0	166
Birds of Durham	283	810	-527
Other Sales	28	45	-17
Hide Keys	23	45	-22
Interest	97	49	48
Donations and Bequests	<u>107</u>	<u>326</u>	<u>-221</u>
<b>Total Receipts (a)</b>	<b>5,008</b>	<b>5,098</b>	<b>-90</b>
<u>Payments</u>			
Lek	1,405	1,414	-9
Indoor Meetings	25	145	-120
Annual Report	1,650	1,690	-40
Maintenance	62	26	36
Website	171	151	20
Hide Keys	36	0	36
Insurance	496	491	5
Admin	799	696	103
Storage Costs	0	250	-250
Conservation	174	0	174
Donations to Conservation Groups	<u>1,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,000</u>
<b>Total Payments (b)</b>	<b>5,818</b>	<b>4,863</b>	<b>955</b>
<b>Difference (a-b)</b>	<b><u>-810</u></b>	<b><u>235</u></b>	<b><u>-1,045</u></b>

**DURHAM BIRD CLUB**

England & Wales - Charity number 1176232

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# Accounts

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# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
<b>From</b>	01	01	2020	<b>To</b>	31	12	2020

## Section A Reference and administration details

**Charity name** Durham Bird Club

**Other names charity is known by**

**Registered charity number (if any)** 1176232

**Charity's principal address** Rose Cottage,

Old Quarrington

Durham

**Postcode**

DH6 5NN

### 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	Richard Cowen	Secretary		
2	Mark Harper	Treasurer		
3	David Sowerbutts			
4	Andrew Kinghorn	Chair		
5	Thomas Middleton			
6	Derek Lawrence			
7	Peter Bell		04/05/2021 to 31/12/2021	
8	Neil Parker		04/05/2021 to 31/12/2021	
9	Michael Murphy		04/05/2021 to 31/12/2021	
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### 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)	CIO
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected at AGM by members

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

<p>You <b>may choose</b> to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;</li> <li>• the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;</li> <li>• relationship with any related parties;</li> <li>• trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.</li> </ul>	<p>Following the adoption of Bye Laws at the AGM in 2021, no further policies have been made but the Board keeps under review the need either to amend existing Policies or making new ones.</p>
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**Section C Objectives and activities**

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

(i) To advance the study of ornithology and public education in ornithology and related matters, in particular, working within the geographic area covered by Durham Bird Club, that is primarily the area of the historic county of Durham, bounded by the Rivers Tees and Tyne, together with the former Startforth Rural District of the North Riding of Yorkshire.

(ii) In furtherance

To initiate research on the birds of the area and to publish the results of such research, to hold meetings for the readings of papers, showing of films, discussion of records and similar matters and to co-operate in national ornithological enquiries.

To educate members of the Club and of the public about birds by means of talks, outings, fieldwork and similar activities and to encourage public participation in the study of birds.

To promote the conservation of birds and their habitats.

To work with other organisations sharing similar aims.

**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)**

The Club's activities, like those of many other organisations, continued to be severely restricted during 2021 as a result of the Covid Crisis. However, albeit in a reduced way, the following was still managed

- 1) Three issues of *The Lek* were published and circulated to members
- 2) Continued support was given to the Castle Lake Conservation Group to carry out conservation works at that site
- 3) Letters were written where appropriate in respect of Planning issues
- 4) The Club has maintained records for its area and produced the Annual Ornithological Report
- 5) Where possible, surveys have been conducted mainly in conjunction with the British Trust for Ornithology
- 6) Social media contact with and between members was continued with Twitter and WhatsApp groups and the Club's Facebook page was revived.
- 7) A Zoom account was retained jointly with the Durham Group of RSPB and a number of talks for members of both organisations and others was arranged.
- 8) A discussion was started to review how the Club could better promote its objectives which will be continued during 2022

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

The Trustees are grateful to the efforts of Susan Grey in producing *The Lek* and to Peter Bell and Neil Parker for producing the Ornithological Annual Report and to members who contributed articles or reports for both publications.

In addition, the Trustees are grateful to John Olley for continuing to carry out Conservation work particularly at Castle Lake

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

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

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

The Charity has achieved a high standard with its publications of *The Lek* and the Annual Ornithological Report.

Its work to seek to protect habitats, particularly in relation to planning issues, has continued to be recognised by RSPB.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Trustees remain concerned that, while the Club's reserves are currently healthy, expenditure exceeds income. The matter was raised at the AGM in 2021 but, as that meeting was held on Zoom, it was felt inappropriate to make a formal decision. This however is one of the issues being considered for the future of the Club mentioned above and will be mentioned at the AGM in 2022

### 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)	<i>R Cowen</i>	
Full name(s)	Richard Saywood Cowen	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	
Date	16 May 2022	

## Durham Bird Club

Registered Charity No.1176232

### Treasurer Annual Report 2021

The club recorded a surplus in 2021 of £235 on total income of £5,098. This compares to a shortfall of £717 in 2020.

The annual income from membership subscriptions increased by £47 and follows a decrease of £415 in 2020, which is welcome following two years of declining subscription income. Gift aid on membership fees and donations decreased by £103 to £248, this was expected due to recovering some gift aid on 2019 membership fees during 2020.

During 2021 we took the decision to sell off the majority of our excess stock of the Birds of Durham, thereby realising income from the sale and stopping future storage costs from occurring. The sale of this excess stock brought in income of £600 and in addition to this a further £210 was received from other sales of the book. Overall income from sales of the Birds of Durham was £433 higher than in 2020.

Donations of £326 were received in the year, which was £240 higher than in 2020. Other sources of income were broadly comparable with 2020.

Total expenditure for the year was £4,863 which was £461 less than in 2020. The main component of this decrease was a fall in Admin costs of £524 this was due to the timing of the postage costs for the Annual Report, 2020 included the full postage costs of both the 2018 and 2019 reports, whereas the 2021 admin costs include only half of the postage for the 2020 report, the other half will fall into 2022. £145 was spent on speakers for the indoor meetings in 2021, whereas there were no such costs in 2020. The majority of other expenditure was broadly in line with 2020.

Whilst we made a small surplus in 2020 we can expect to receive far less income from sales of the Birds of Durham in future years, which will revert us to a shortfall. It is for this reason that we are proposing a change in the membership fee.

Mark Harper  
14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

#### **Bank Account Summary**

HSBC Current Acc.

£  
3,651

Virgin Money Building Society Acc.

36,962

**Total cash Funds**

**40,613**

## Receipts and Payments Summary – Year-ended 31 December 2021

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>2021 (£)</u>	<u>2020 (£)</u>	<u>Diff (£)</u>
Subscriptions	3,575	3,527	48
Gift Aid	248	351	-103
Publications	0	22	-22
Birds of Durham	810	377	433
Data Sales	0	0	0
Other Sales	45	45	0
Hide Keys	45	19	26
Interest	49	181	-132
Donations and Bequests	326	86	240
<b>Total Receipts (a)</b>	<b>5,098</b>	<b>4,607</b>	<b>490</b>
<u>Payments</u>			
Lek	1,414	1,470	-56
Indoor Meetings	145	0	145
Annual Report	1,690	1,695	-5
Maintenance	26	0	26
Website	151	151	0
Insurance	491	538	-47
Admin	696	1,219	-525
Storage Costs	250	250	0
Donations to Conservation Groups	0	0	0
<b>Total Payments (b)</b>	<b>4,863</b>	<b>5,324</b>	<b>-462</b>
<b>Difference (a-b)</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>-717</b>	<b>952</b>

**DURHAM BIRD CLUB**

England & Wales - Charity number 1176232

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# Accounts

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# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
<b>From</b>	01	01	2020	<b>To</b>	31	12	2020

## Section A Reference and administration details

**Charity name** Durham Bird Club

**Other names charity is known by**

**Registered charity number (if any)** 1176232

**Charity's principal address** Rose Cottage,

Old Quarrington

Durham

**Postcode**

DH6 5NN

### 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	Richard Cowen	Secretary and acting Chair		
2	Mark Harper	Treasurer		
3	David Sowerbutts			
4	Andrew Kinghorn			
5	Thomas Middleton			
6	Derek Lawrence			
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### 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)

CIO

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

Elected at AGM by members

### 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.

Owing to Lockdown restrictions during 2020 as a result of the Covid crisis, no further policies have been considered.

## Section C Objectives and activities

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

- (i) To advance the study of ornithology and public education in ornithology and related matters, in particular, working within the geographic area covered by Durham Bird Club, that is primarily the area of the historic county of Durham, bounded by the Rivers Tees and Tyne, together with the former Startforth Rural District of the North Riding of Yorkshire.
- (ii) In furtherance  
To initiate research on the birds of the area and to publish the results of such research, to hold meetings for the readings of papers, showing of

films, discussion of records and similar matters and to co-operate in national ornithological enquiries.  
To educate members of the Club and of the public about birds by means of talks, outings, fieldwork and similar activities and to encourage public participation in the study of birds.  
To promote the conservation of birds and their habitats.  
To work with other organisations sharing similar aims.

The Club's activities, like those of many other organisations, were severely restricted during 2020 as a result of the Covid Crisis. However, albeit in a reduced way, the following was still managed

- 1) Three issues of *The Lek* were published and circulated to members
- 2) Continued support was given to the Castle Lake Conservation Group to carry out conservation works at that site
- 3) Letters were written where appropriate in respect of Planning issues
- 4) The Club has maintained records for its area and produced the Annual Ornithological Report
- 5) Where possible, surveys have been conducted mainly in conjunction with the British Trust for Ornithology
- 6) A Zoom account was opened jointly with the Durham Group of RSPB and a number of talks for members of both organisations and others was arranged.

**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)**

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

The Trustees are grateful to the efforts of Susan Grey in producing *The Lek* and to Peter Bell for producing the Ornithological Annual Report.

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

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

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

The Charity has achieved a high standard with its publications of *The Lek* and the Annual Ornithological Report.

Its work to seek to protect habitats, particularly in relation to planning issues, has also been recognised by RSPB. Indeed, the Secretary was also asked by an officer of the RSPB if he would discuss a planning situation with a member of an organisation in another area.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Trustees remain concerned that, while the Club's reserves are currently healthy, expenditure exceeds income. Unfortunately, it was not possible to discuss this during 2020 because of the restrictions and an online AGM was not quorate. Although, if current expenditure and income remain the same, there are up to 7 or more year's worth of reserves, this is an issue that will be reported to the 2021 AGM to determine what members wish to do about it.

### 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)	<i>R Cowen</i>	
Full name(s)	Richard Saywood Cowen	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	
Date	..... 2021	

## Durham Bird Club

Registered Charity No.1176232

### Treasurer Annual Report 2020

The club recorded a shortfall in 2020 of £717 on total income of £4,607. This compares to a shortfall of £2,484 in 2019.

The annual income from membership decreased by £415 and follows a decrease of £702 in 2019, which is concerning following two years of stable membership income. Gift aid on membership increased by £188 to £351, this followed an effort to obtain gift aid forms in the name of DBC CIO and in addition to enabling the recovery of gift aid on 2020 membership contributions also allowed backdated recovery of membership contribution in 2019.

A reduction in the sales price of the Birds of Durham generated a significantly higher number of sales, but at the reduced price overall income was down by £89. The DBC committee took the decision to cease sales of data, as the effort to provide the required data was felt to be much in comparison to the small amount that environmental consultancies were prepared to pay for the data, as a result income from this source decrease from £90 to £0. Decreases in interest rates resulted in a decrease of £93 income on the club's savings. Other sources of income were broadly comparable with 2019.

Total expenditure for the year was £5,324 which was £2,227 less than in 2019. The key components of this were reductions in printing of the Lek (£745), the Annual Report (£400) and admin costs (£488), these resulted from the reductions in membership requiring less copies to be printed and posted, combining the postage of the annual report and an edition of the Lek and a negotiated discount on printing costs. One off costs incurred in 2019 of maintenance £441 and Donations £100 did not recur in 2020.

As noted in the 2019 Treasurer Annual Report, unless we take action to further reduce costs then the Club will continue to incur losses of this magnitude every year.

Mark Harper  
22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

#### **Bank Account Summary**

HSBC Current Acc.

£  
3,465

Virgin Money Building Society Acc.

36,913

**Total cash Funds**

**40,378**