



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
From	01	01	2023	To	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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20				

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

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)

<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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.
<p>During 2023, the Club</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) issued three issues of <i>The Lek</i> were published and circulated to members. <i>The Lek</i> 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.

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

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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)	R Cowen	
Full name(s)	Richard Saywood Cowen	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	
Date 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
3rd 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

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>2023 (£)</u>	<u>2022 (£)</u>	<u>Diff (£)</u>
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	596	107	489
Total Receipts (a)	5,778	5,008	770
<u>Payments</u>			
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	70	1,000	-930
Total Payments (b)	5,865	5818	47
Difference (a-b)	-87	-810	723