

**Lavell's Wetland Trust**

**Charity Number: 1176960**

**LWT c/o Dinton Pastures Country Park, Davis Street, Hurst, Reading, RG10 0TH**

**Trustees Annual Report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

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

Lavell's Wetland Trust's (LWT) aims and objectives are to enhance, protect and preserve the natural habitats, fauna and flora in the Loddon Valley for the benefit of the public and to advance public education and interest in the conservation of the countryside and wildlife

**Type of governing document**

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) association model constitution filed with the Charity Commission.

**How the charity is constituted**

CIO consisting of approximately 450 members.

**Trustees and Committee Members for the period covered by this report**

<b>Chair:</b>	Jane Campbell
<b>Secretary:</b>	Angela Gunn
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Phil Kinch
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Les Blundell
<b>Chief Visionary Officer:</b>	Fraser Cottington
<b>Trustees:</b>	Renton Righelato, Ron Bryant
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Peter Scudamore, Bob Bennett

**Trustee selection methods**

Volunteer trustees with appropriate skills are sought from the membership and nominated by the management committee or by individual members

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects**

We undertake volunteer work parties attended by members of the CIO, members of the public, and those in programmes such as the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. These take place at least monthly in order to maintain and improve the Lea Farm Lake reserve and the conservation areas within Dinton Pastures Country Park.

Further "one-off" work parties are arranged for local schools, scout groups, corporate bodies and others to encourage a wider understanding of nature and introduce more people to conservation and a healthy lifestyle.

We undertake monthly guided walks, open to the public, to identify the birdlife and other fauna that can be seen at Lavell's Lake LNR, Dinton Pastures Country Park and Lea Farm.

We provide a website to inform the public about Lavell's Lake & Lea Farm Lake, its wildlife and facilities and our work and events. This includes a history of bird recordings at the site that is publicly available for conservation, research or other purposes.

We undertake larger improvement projects either using the funds of the charity or external resources, or a combination of the two.

We wish to recognise the great contribution that members of the CIO, members of the public and members of other organisations make through their efforts during the year. We could not achieve our objectives without the financial support of our annually subscribing members, the efforts and expertise of members of the committee and other volunteers. The help and support of Dinton Pastures Countryside Service (DPCS) is invaluable.

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

#### ***Lea Farm Lake***

Lea Farm Lake was gifted to LWT in April by one of our trustees. We were able to complete most of the excavation and landscaping improvements to the wetland habitat at the site, which has been possible thanks to a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) with funding provided from Network Rail. This is part of LWT's vision for a protected wetland corridor along the lower Loddon Valley, with three wetland habitats in the middle of the Loddon Gravel Pits Biodiversity Opportunity Area. LWT's site at Lea Farm Lake is establishing a high value habitat link between Dinton Pastures to the south and Sandford Country Park and the Hurst and Twyford Lakes area to the north. DPCS partners LWT in the project, which will enhance the connectivity between Dinton Pastures and Lea Farm Local Wildlife Sites.

#### ***Volunteer work parties***

We were able to hold 9 work parties in 2020 (7 were regular monthly work parties, 5 of the monthly work parties were cancelled; 3 due to Covid and 2 due to flooding) but we were able to hold 2 extra work parties. Attendance ranged from 8 to 36 with an average of 19 volunteers with an average of 1 new volunteer per work party. Volunteers worked to prepare the ground for the excavation of the reedbed site and to replant and secure the site.

#### ***Publicity and engagement with the public***

The LWT hide at Lea Farm Lake was closed for part of the year due to the Covid lockdown but, when restrictions allowed, it was re-opened in a Covid-safe way with limited access using a booking system. We were able to maintain interest in the Trust through news items on our website and social media, articles in the publication RG10 and the Hurst Village Society Newsletter.

The website has been updated and now includes information posted by members on our Facebook page. The wildlife section has been expanded in particular for butterflies and dragonflies. Reported sightings include; Brown Argus and Purple Emperor butterflies, grass snakes, water voles and lots of insects. Our major project for the year was the habitat improvement at Lea Farm Lake and a videolog of the work was made available on our website. Before the start of the excavation work an odonata survey was carried out and the results added to the Lavell's webpage.

The Dawn Chorus walk had to be cancelled this year but we were able to hold 2 monthly bird walks. Others were cancelled due to Covid, flooding or weather conditions. Before the start of lockdown, a group of scouts took part in one of our work parties.

Despite the impact of Covid restrictions, membership has remained steady, with a number of renewals and new subscriptions following some unusual wildlife sightings, while membership of our popular WhatsApp bird news service has increased.

We have benefitted from a substantial legacy from a local family towards a new hide at Lea Farm Lake, overlooking the new expanded reedbeds, for which we are extremely grateful. Our members have also made numerous, generous donations towards this new project including through a GoFundMe campaign.

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

The charity maintains a reserve of £9,000 for emergency work and unforeseen events. Taking on Lea Farm Lake has meant a significant increase in the assets LWT has to replace and maintain. The trustees have therefore decided to build up an asset management fund by setting aside £1,500 each year, starting from 2021. This fund will be used to cover the costs of planned replacements and repairs to our major assets.

#### **Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature: 

Name: JANE CAMPBELL

Position: CHAIR

Date: 2nd AUG 2021

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31st December 2020

	<u>2020</u>			<u>2019</u>	
	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	
	£	(Lea Farm new hide) £		£	
<b>Receipts</b>					
Annual Subscriptions	3,107.78		3,107.78	2,870.00	
Interest earned	44.71		44.71	40.24	
Gift Aid Tax Refunds	823.44	528.75	1,352.19	271.25	
Donations	1,627.06	18,144.97	19,772.03	1,074.10	
Bird Seed Donations	0.00		0.00	80.00	
Birdline Subscriptions	370.00		370.00	304.00	
Bird Walks	18.00		18.00	51.00	
Grants & legacies	760.00		760.00	275.00	
Reading Lottery	79.00		79.00	0.00	
Other income	0.00		0.00	190.00	
Network Rail grant	35,871.16		35,871.16	0.00	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>42,701.15</b>	<b>18,673.72</b>	<b>61,374.87</b>	<b>5,155.59</b>	
<b>Payments</b>					
Paypal fees	82.83		82.83	81.88	
TCV Affiliation and Insurance	330.26		330.26	330.26	
Bird Seed + Feeders	147.99		147.99	580.94	
Office Expenses	76.82		76.82	34.08	
Tools & other work party costs	748.77		748.77	46.85	
Website improvements	200.00		200.00	0.00	
Web site registration	50.36		50.36	27.01	
Web Site Hosting	55.47		55.47	99.37	
AGM expenses	0.00		0.00	100.00	
CROW Hedgelaying	0.00		0.00	180.00	
Lavell's Lake Project costs	0.00		0.00	636.26	
Network Rail Project costs	33,144.17		33,144.17	2,739.98	
Lea Farm Lake transfer costs	2,263.80		2,263.80	660.00	
Other costs	70.98		70.98	91.75	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>37,171.45</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>37,171.45</b>	<b>5,608.38</b>	
<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>5,529.70</b>	<b>18,673.72</b>	<b>24,203.42</b>	<b>-452.79</b>	
<b>Cash Funds at last year end</b>	<b>29,186.12</b>		<b>29,186.12</b>	<b>29,638.91</b>	
<b>Total cash funds at this year end</b>	<b>34,715.82</b>	<b>18,673.72</b>	<b>53,389.54</b>	<b>29,186.12</b>	
<b>Statement of Assets and Liabilities</b>					
<b>Cash funds</b>					
Balance at HSBC Wokingham 31st December			48,333.73	25,703.55	
less unrepresented cheques			-797.00	-2,115.91	
plus cheque banked but not credited at 31st December				10.00	
National Savings Bank Investment Account			5,633.19	5,588.48	
Paypal			219.62	0.00	
Cash / cheques in Hand			0.00	0.00	
VirginMoneyGiving			0.00	0.00	
Facebook			0.00	0.00	
<b>Total cash funds</b>			<b>53,389.54</b>	<b>29,186.12</b>	
<b>Other monetary assets</b>					
outstanding Gift Aid claims – estimated	800.00		800.00	750.00	
refund of fee by Wokingham BC			0.00	460.00	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
<b>Assets belonging to LWT</b>					
Lea Farm Lake nature reserve					
Lea Farm hide					
Fencing and gates at Lea Farm Lake					
Boat					
Wildlife camera and charger					
Brush cutter and various hand tools					
Events marquee					

  
Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Independent Examiner



***Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Lavell's Wetland Trust***

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Lavell's Wetland Trust for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

***Responsibilities and basis of report***

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act').


I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

***Independent examiner's statement***

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Name: Delia Allott FCCA

Name of firm: Two Rivers Accounting Services Limited

Relevant professional qualification or body: ACCA

Address: 38 Eton Wick Road, Eton Wick, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 6JL

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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