
BRITISH HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(Registered Charity No. 205666)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

**Trustees' Annual Report and Unaudited
Receipts and Payments Accounts**
for the year ended 31 December 2023

BRITISH HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Reference and administrative details

Charity Name: British Herpetological Society

Registered Charity Number: 205666

Principal address: The British Herpetological Society
11, Strathmore Place
Montrose, Angus
DD10 8LQ
United Kingdom

Trustees

Dr Gerardo Garcia (President)
Mark Hollowell (Chair)
Michael Henry Wise (Treasurer)
Trevor Andrew Rose (Secretary)
Dr Gail Austen (Finance Officer)
Dr Simon Townson (Head of International Conservation and Captive Breeding Projects)
Dr Steven Allain (UK Conservation Officer)
Jennie Shea (Education and YH Officer)
Dr Christopher Gleed-Owen (Research Officer)
Katharine Mitchell (Website and Communications Officer)
Paul Eversfield (Meetings organiser)
Dr Richard Hodges (Herpetological Bulletin Editor)
Suzanne Simpson (NatterJack Editor)
Alexia Hesten (Trade Officer)
Maria Filipou
Catherine Whatley
Stephen Copley
Vince Goodall

Bankers

National Westminster Bank PLC,
Leytonstone Branch,
694 High Road,
Leytonstone, E11 4TZ

Independent examiner

Charles Ssempijja, FCA
NfP Accountants Ltd
3rd Floor, 86-90 Paul Street, London EC2A 4NE

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The Trustees have taken advantage of the smaller charities exemption under Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011, and have prepared these accounts on a Receipts and Payments basis. Consequently, the charities reporting guidance and requirements under "Accounting and reporting by charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)" are applied to only the Trustees' Annual Report.

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objectives of the charity set out in its governing document:

The promotion of the study and protection of amphibians and reptiles in particular through scientific research, captive breeding and husbandry, conservation and fieldwork and education.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objectives:

Publications

The society produces and distributes regular herpetological publications to its members, who include both individuals and institutions in the UK and overseas. Membership is open to all and membership fees are modest. The society's publications also benefit the herpetological community at large by providing a platform for the publication of high-quality scientific research and disseminating new ideas and practices.

Meetings and Events

The Society organises and attends herpetological meetings, including both scientific meetings and meetings aimed at the lay enthusiast. The society also attends non-herpetological events with a view to educating the public about herpetofauna.

Grants

The Society makes grants for scientific research, conservation work, the protection and creation of reptile and amphibian habitats, conservation-related captive breeding activities, and the education of the public.

Herpetological Library

The Society owns a varied collection of herpetological books which provide useful reference information for herpetologists and other zoologists.

Public Benefit

The Society's Council of Trustees have borne in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit while planning the Society's activities for the year. The Trustees consider that the Society's activities benefit the herpetological community in particular by providing services to it, and that they benefit the general public both by protecting British and other herpetofauna and by funding and facilitating scientific research.

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Policy on grant making

Grants made by the Society must be approved by the Council of Trustees, after due consideration of each application's merits. Progress in achieving the objectives of these grants is monitored by an allocated member of the Council of Trustees and reported to Council.

Contribution made by volunteers

The Society is run by unpaid volunteers (the Council of Trustees). Volunteers who are not members of the Council of Trustees also contribute to the Society's activities, including its conservation activities, the maintenance and running of the library, and attendance at events. Volunteers are entitled to claim expenses incurred in the course of these activities, subject to pre-approval by Council for substantial items. The Treasurer and Secretary are each entitled to claim an honorarium of £250 per annum, to compensate for the space taken up in their homes by the Society's records; the Treasurer and Secretary waived there honoraria this year. The Natterjack Editor also received an honorarium of £600 during the year, to reflect the hard work involved in producing the NatterJack.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

- Continued to produce the Herpetological Journal and Herpetological Bulletin
- Continued to produce and sell amphibian ladders, which prevent amphibians from drowning in gully pots
- Awarded £1,500 of research grants to students
- Awarded £4,000 for international conservation projects
- Launched an initiative to collate species location records from BHS publication articles and submit the data to the NBN Atlas
- Launched a project to digitise the entire run of the historic British Journal of Herpetology
- Supported major events that encourage knowledge sharing and learning opportunities, including the ARC-BHS joint scientific meeting, Venom Day, the BHS/AHH annual conference, the European Congress of Herpetology, and the BHS and Thames & Chiltern Herpetological Group Joint Meeting.

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Financial Review

Financial summary

In total the Society secured £32,433 (prior year: £46,764) of funding in the year, ending the year with total funds of £189,773 (prior year: £200,748), which is above its reserves requirement. Of the total funds at year end, £48,834 (prior year: £49,826) was restricted and £140,939 (prior year: £150,922) was unrestricted. The Trustees consider that the excess of current reserves over requirement is acceptable in order to eliminate concerns about the Society's ability to continue its activities in the short and medium term. The Trustees have been concerned about the Society's long-term viability as there had been a fall in members in recent years. However, the Trustees have been addressing this threat in recent three years through a number of different strategies and are pleased to report another overall increase for 2023, marking 6 years of steady increase in annual membership.

Reserves and reserves policy

The Trustees consider that the Society's current level of reserves is adequate, as its unrestricted funds are sufficient for two years' non-discretionary expenditure (i.e. Memberships). The Society's policy is to hold sufficient unrestricted reserves to meet some 2 years of non-discretionary reserves. The Trustees consider that this is sufficient to enable the Society to discharge its obligations in the event of unexpected difficulties.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Principal funding sources

The Society's principal source of funds is the subscription fees paid by its membership. These are supplemented by bequests, and profits from trading activities such as the sale of amphibian ladders and herpetological books.

Investment policy

The Society's current policy is to hold the bulk of its funds in cash. The Council of Trustees has reviewed this policy and considered it prudent to continue at present, bearing in mind the significant uncertainty currently affecting both the UK and the global economy and the potential that it may need to release substantial funds for conservation land purchases in the near future.

Risk management

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The principal financial risk facing the Charity is a fall in membership numbers and receipts to an unsustainable level; the Trustees believe the risk is largely from the threat of long-term societal changes. The matter of membership recruitment remains uppermost in their priorities and strategies previously employed will continue to be maintained and evolved.

The trustees are continuing to mitigate this risk by developing other sources of income such as amphibian ladder sales, book sales, events income, and open access publishing fees. Additionally, active efforts are in progress to expand the Society's online footprint and engagement across all spheres of activity with the objective of encouraging and building membership.

The Society also holds an insurance policy designed to protect it from catastrophic loss, however the Trustees believe the risk of such an event is very low.

The first key reputational risk facing the Charity is the danger of inadvertently disseminating known falsehoods in its scientific publications. This risk is addressed by means of the peer review process, which seeks to ensure that the society only publishes material of acceptable quality.

The second key reputational risk facing the Charity is the danger of inadvertently promoting bad practise, in terms of either conservation or animal welfare. This risk is addressed by the expertise of the Society's board of Trustees, which includes eminent herpetologists, and by the society's funding model, whereby funds are raised directly from the public, thus ensuring it is not beholden to commercial or other concerns.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of the charity's trusts:

Type of governing document:	Constitution dated March 2015
How the charity is constituted:	Registered charity (unincorporated)
Trustee selection methods:	Trustees may be temporarily co-opted by Council. All appointments are confirmed by a vote of the Society's members at the AGM.
Related parties:	The trustees and their close connections are considered to be the only related parties of the charity.

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

M H Wise

Full name(s)

Michael Henry Wise

Position (e.g. Secretary,
Chair, etc.)

Treasurer

Date

12/11/2024

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

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Independent examiner's report on the accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the
trustees/ members of

Charity Name

British Herpetological Society

On accounts for the
year ended

31 December 2023

Charity no (if any)

205666

Set out on pages

10-12

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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**Independent
examiner's
statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

12 November 2024

Name:

Charles Ssempijja

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or
body (if any):**

FCA, ICAEW

Address:

3rd Floor, 86-90 Paul Street, EC2A 4NE

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Section B	Disclosure
	<p>Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.(E.g. accounting records have not been kept in accordance with s132 of the Charities' Act 2011 and those accounts do not comply with the requirements of the 2008 Regulations setting out the form and content of charity accounts; any material expenditure or action which appears not to be in accordance with the trusts of the charity; any failure to be provided with information and explanations by any past or present trustee, officer or employee; and any material consistency between the accounts and the trustees' annual report.)</p>
<p>Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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	CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	Charity Name		No (if any)		CC16a
		British Herpetological Society		205666		
		Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from		Period start date	To	Period end date		
		01/01/2023		31/12/2023		
Section A Receipts and payments						
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year	
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	
A1 Receipts						
Amphibian ladders	10	-	-	10	590	
Books	128	-	-	128	258	
Conservation	-	-	-	-	160	
Events	10,392	-	-	10,392	9,612	
Finance	1,306	-	-	1,306	218	
Legacies	-	508	-	508	-	
Memberships	20,089	-	-	20,089	22,091	
Recycle4charity	-	-	-	-	-	
Open Access publishing fees	-	-	-	-	281	
Research	-	-	-	-	13,553	
Other	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	31,925	508	-	32,433	46,764	
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	
Total receipts	31,925	508	-	32,433	46,764	

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	CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	Charity Name	No (if any)		CC16a
		British Herpetological Society		205666	
		Receipts and payments accounts			
For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date		
	01/01/2023		31/12/2023		
A3 Payments					
Admin	2,838	-	-	2,838	1,854
Advocacy	500	-	-	500	500
Amphibian ladders	30	-	-	30	160
Books	12	-	-	12	126
Conservation grants	4,018	-	-	4,018	2,182
Covid-19	-	-	-	-	-
Events	14,955	-	-	14,955	7,943
IT	2,102	-	-	2,102	1,466
Memberships expenditure	15,952	-	-	15,952	13,101
Research	1,500	1,500	-	3,000	1,504
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	41,908	1,500	-	43,408	28,835
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	41,908	1,500	-	43,408	28,835
Net of receipts/(payments)	(9,983)	(992)	-	(10,975)	17,929
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	150,921	49,827	-	200,748	182,819
Cash funds this year end	140,938	48,835	-	189,773	200,748

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 <div>CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES</div>	Charity Name British Herpetological Society		No (if any) 205666	CC16a	
	Receipts and payments accounts				
	For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2023	To		Period end date 31/12/2023

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF cash Ed Comm	2,170	-	-
	CAF cash main	814	-	-
	CAF gold main	65,859	-	-
	Nat West main	37,023	48,835	-
	Paypal	32,144	-	-
	Membership cards petty cash	30	-	-
	Treasurer's petty cash	76	-	-
	Ed Comm Santander	1,735	-	-
	Ed Comm petty cash	985	-	-
	Secretary petty cash	103	-	-
	Total cash funds	140,938	48,835	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
	Gift Aid claims outstanding:	5,642	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Santander shares	Land Fund (restricted)	-	1,879
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		General (unrestricted)	-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Independent Examiner's fee	General (unrestricted)	600	Less than 1 year

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	M H Wise	MH Wise	12/11/2024